

**PRAY FOR
THE SICK**



Anniversaries:

Mary Butler, Stanley Desborough,
Sister Priscilla Sheehan, Irene Boyle,
Frank Fuscoe, Pauline Walker, Carmel
Cork, Elsie Gerrett, Isabella Kingswood,
Margaret Pfeiffer, Mary Ryder, Agnes
Simmons, Eileen Went, Patrick
Mahoney, Sister Brigid Nugent, Fr
Benedict O'Halloran O.F.M., Nancy
Cunningham, Irene De Freitas, Cecilia
Fernandez, Leslie Harriss, Ellen
McMurdoch, Georgia Perera, Billy Yip,
Annie Bartley, Joan Collins, Gerald
Vassallo, Winnie Wilcox, Sister Lucille
Gicquel, Nancy Glynn, Marie Ketteridge,
Mary Lee, Sister Sheila O'Rourke,
Gabriel Arcanjo Noronha

Parish Shop

Please visit us after Sunday masses as
we have a supply of Easter Cards and
Children's colouring books etc..

Free Korean Facial Demo Experience

Limited Availability. Please contact
Gemma - 07805475490 for details.

SUNDAY MASSES

1st Mass: 6pm Saturday;
8.30am; 10am & 11.30am Sunday
(The 11.30am Mass is recorded)

Join us for tea/coffee after Sunday
Mass in the Becket Centre



10am Chigwell Convent

WEEKDAY MASSES

10am St Thomas'
9.30am Chigwell Convent except on
Saturday's when mass takes place at
10am

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 10.30 to 11am
and
5.15 to 5.45 pm

BAPTISMS

1st and 3rd Sundays
of the month

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

7.30pm at

St Thomas's

on Fridays in
Lent.



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Parish Office: 020 8504 1686

Friary: 020 8504 1688

Email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org



Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org

Facebook: @STOCWoodford

Twitter: @STOCWoodford



**Fourth Sunday in Lent (B)
10th March 2024**

Please note the nearest Fire Exit to you whilst you are in the Church

On this *Laetare Sunday*, we rejoice in the light that has come into the world through the Son of God, and in the grace through which we have been saved.

First Reading 2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

God's persistent love and mercy in the face of rejection are revealed.

Second Reading Ephesians 2:4-10

Through grace, not by our own efforts, we have been saved, so that we may live the good life God has always meant us to live.

Gospel John 3:14-21

Christ is the light of the world, come not to condemn but to save, and those who live by the truth come into that light.

Responsorial Psalm

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!



THE SON OF MAN MUST BE LIFTED UP

Outside some hospitals, you sometimes see a serpent wrapped round a pole. This is an image in Greek mythology but it also appears in the Bible and a reference to this is made in the Gospel today. 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert.' What is the significance of the serpent? Pope Francis explains that the serpent is the first animal mentioned in the Book of Genesis where it is described as being the 'most subtle' of the animals. Moses raised a fiery serpent on a pole in the story in Genesis and when the people looked at the serpent they were healed. The serpent outside hospitals is an image of healing.

Jesus goes on to say that the Son of Man must be lifted up. The serpent as well as being a symbol of healing is also a symbol of evil as in the story of the fall of Adam, tempted by the serpent. Jesus in a discussion with the Jewish doctors of the law says, 'You will die in your sins unless you believe that I am he.' God in the Book of Exodus when asked by Moses for His name says, 'I am who I am.' Jesus goes on to say that 'when I am lifted up you will know that I am he.' Jesus is saying that when He is lifted up on the cross, then we will see who He is, namely the Son of God showing His love for His people.

St Paul adds another consideration to the lifting up of Jesus on the Cross. In the letter to the Philippians he says, 'His state was divine yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death on a cross.'

Paul adds another even more amazing statement about Jesus, 'he became sin.' Using the image of sin i.e. the serpent, he became the serpent. Pope Francis comments, 'The Son of man, who like a serpent 'became sin', is lifted up in order to save us". These thoughts are hard to follow but if we are patient with them they add to our appreciation of what lengths Christ went to in order to save us.

Easter Triduum

Readers, Ministers of Communion, Ushers & Sacristans: If you will be attending any of the services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday; please add your name to the lists located at the back of the church.

Maundy Thursday Washing of the Feet

We are looking for up to 6 volunteers (male or female). If you would like to take part, please add your name to the list at the back of the church.

Easter Family Arts & Craft afternoon

Come along to our Parish Easter themed afternoon on
Sunday 24th March at 13:30 - 15:30.

There will be arts and crafts to do for children of all ages, and a treat to take home from the Easter Bunny!

Tickets £7 per child are on sale from the parish office. Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by an adult.



Mass Intentions

Sunday 10th March
8.30 Valerie Shearmur RIP
10 Mary Ryder anniversary
11.30 James Dillon anniversary
Liz Browne anniversary

Monday 11th March
Brendan Molloy RIP
Malcolm Abeydeera sick

Tuesday 12th March
Monica Stubbs RIP
Kieran Feehan RIP
Angela Carneiro RIP

Wednesday 13th March
C.W.L
Sherva Cooray RIP
Ed & Cath Andrews intentions

Thursday 14th March
Mick Cusack RIP

Funeral 11.30 Valerie Shearmur

Friday 15th March
Joe Leonard RIP
Pat Molloy RIP

Saturday 16th March
10 Carl Knights RIP
6 Albertina d'Cruz RIP

Sunday 17th March
8.30 Catherine & Jeremiah Fitzpatrick
10 Stanley Desborough anniversary
11.30 Mary Spillane anniversary

Church Cleaning
Saturday 16th March at 10.30am
Bernie Siggins, Rachel Woolf &
Kathleen Mahoney

Trinity Vacancies

Please visit the school's website
www.tchs.org.uk/about-us/employment/ for job information.

Companions meeting

The next meeting of the Companions of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary will be at 2.00pm on Monday 11th March 2024 at Chigwell Convent. New members are welcome to join.

Support with Synodality

The synodality lectures at Brentwood Cathedral are being recorded and will be available on the diocesan website. Due to an embargo, Fr Timothy Radcliffe's talk will not be available until the 15 March but Fr Jan Nowotnik's lecture can be found here: [Fr Jan Nowotnik gives Lenten lecture at Brentwood Cathedral - Brentwood Diocese \(dioceseofbrentwood.net\)](#)

Find out more about developing synodal practice at the local level here: [Synodality - opening up the conversation - Brentwood Diocese \(dioceseofbrentwood.net\)](#)

CAFOD's Big Lent Walk 2024

Challenge yourself and take on The Big Lent Walk! Raise money to help people as they overcome poverty. Find out more here: walk.cafod.org.uk/about

Tennis Club Quiz

In the Becket Centre on Saturday 23rd March, 7pm for 7:30 start, £8 per ticket. Please email ftcwoodford@gmail.com for tickets or questions. There is a licensed bar as usual for this great quiz, and supper can be provided.