

## PRAY FOR THE SICK



**Lately Dead:** Anna Powley

### Anniversaries:

Margaret Sizer, Anthony Burke, Anna Wynne, Brother Damian Glenny (OFM), Pauline O'Shea, Charles Collins, David Driscoll, William Wright, Paul Zupan, Stephanie Walsh.

### St Thomas' Opening times

- Monday** Evening Mass at 7pm
- Tuesday** Private prayer 10 to 12 noon
- Wednesday** Mass at 10am
- Thursday** Private prayer 2 to 4pm
- Friday** Evening Mass at 7pm
- Saturday** Mass at 10am  
Private prayer 11 to 12 noon
- Sunday** 10am **streamed** mass only

## Vacancies

- **Caritas Diocese of Brentwood – Development Officer.**

If you are passionate about supporting local volunteers, and have strong experience in training and networking in the charitable sector, this could be your perfect job! Please visit <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/news/developmentofficer/> for the Job Description and full details of this significant new role, which will help enhance our Gospel mandate to serve and recognise Christ in the poor, and in those on the edges. The deadline to apply is October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020 and the start date is January 2021.

- **Midday assistant—St Mary's Catholic school Chingford**

Please visit the school website for more information

### Church Donations

- **On-line donations**

Thank you to those parishioners who have used the Diocese of Brentwood on-line donation website. It is very thoughtful of you to think of your Church in these challenging times. For those who maybe interested the site can be found at

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=woodford%20green>

- **By Standing order**

Contact the parish office for details



**ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY**  
Woodford Green  
A FAIRTRADE PARISH



Parish Office: 020 8504 1686  
Friary: 020 8504 1688



Website: [www.stthomaswoodford.org](http://www.stthomaswoodford.org)  
Facebook: @STOCWoodford  
Twitter: @STOCWoodford

Email: [parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org](mailto:parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org)

## 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle A) Sunday 12th July 2020

The parables contain the heart of Jesus' teaching on the nature of faith. They also reflect the experience of the early Church under persecution. Faith is a gift given in different measure to each one, but God values every sign of faith, however small.

### First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-11

God's word is powerful and comes to us as both challenge and gift.

### Second Reading

Romans 8:18-23

Paul speaks of the fruits of the resurrection for the human race and the whole of creation.

### Gospel

Matthew 13:1-23

The parable of the sower illustrates the mystery of faith as it works in the heart of each individual. If we give God an inch, God gives us a mile.



## Lockdown easing ? !

I think we are surprised, some very concerned, at the extent that social distancing is being disregarded. We are certainly not of that mind. As a return to meeting in church and celebrating mass and the sacraments is now permitted our concern is to make all totally safe at all times. We are carefully complying with all the instructions, both those from government and from the bishops. You have seen how the church is liberally decorated with No Admission tape. Every second bench is kept free so that everyone is a least two metres distant from another. Stewards are at hand to help you keep within the regulated distances and routines, and to sterilise any place which someone has occupied. Things change very quickly but this is where we are the moment:

### Streamed Mass

We are having difficulty with the technology for the streamed mass each Sunday. Paul has made heroic efforts to achieve a very good transmission of both vision and sound but gremlins plagued us for the past two Sundays. We hope streamed mass will continue and are working to get new equipment in place.

### Mass with you present

We continue this week with mass with you present on Monday and Friday at 7pm, Wednesday and Saturday at 10 am. Between 20 and 30 came to one or other of these. All were well spaced out. Friars stayed on the sanctuary and you in the nave of the church. Holy Communion was given with the greatest care to avoid any contamination. You who came were delighted. We look forward to being able to engage more, but understand and respect your concerns about staying safe from infection

## “Life cycle ceremonies”

We can now have baptisms, funerals and weddings in church. Strict conditions are laid down by government and our bishops’ instructions comply with these.

### • Baptisms

30 families are waiting to baptise their new treasure. Deacon Matthew and we are ready to provide the sacrament for one family at a time. The number attending the ceremony has to be restricted and we will ask you to inform us in advance of the number you wish to take part. We have discussed carefully how we will maintain social distancing throughout the ceremony. If you wish to arrange a date please phone the parish office and you will receive more details of what is possible.

### • Funerals

These are now permitted in church. As for all events in church no singing is allowed. We have been conducting funerals in cemeteries throughout the lockdown. Given the restrictions many families have found it better to have a funeral service in the cemetery. We have to discuss with each family how best to provide the consolations of catholic practice for them in these conditions.

### • Weddings

Practically all those booked have been postponed for a time when a more liberal social gathering and celebration is possible. One brave couple have decided that the sacrament is more important than the manner of celebrating that prevails today, and will marry here in August. Well done!

### • First Communion and Confirmation

Here we come to the big problem. More than 100 children are ready. How can we give them the meeting with Jesus to which they so look forward? We are working on this. Similarly with the sacrament of confirmation for which 70 young people are waiting. We hope to have some suggestions for you soon.

### Mass Intentions

#### **Sunday 12th July**

People of parish  
Stubbings family thanks

#### **Monday 13th July**

Funeral John Baker  
Astrid Turner RIP

#### **Tuesday 14th July**

Ophelia Nazareth anniv

#### **Wednesday 15th July**

Sonya Malone  
Peter Hayes RIP

#### **Thursday 16th July**

Donald Dourado & family  
Trinity intentions

#### **Friday 17th July**

Dermot RIP  
Ann Butler in memory

#### **Saturday 18th July**

O'Connor family

#### **Sunday 19th July**

People of parish  
Olive Priest RIP



Join us for  
Mass on-line  
live this  
Sunday at  
10am

### CLT

While all attention has been focussed on covid19, some have still kept up their insistence on providing affordable housing. For several years our parish Telco team has put pressure on those making major housing decisions. Recently Redbridge were given planning permission for building the first batch of Community Land Trust houses. I quote Redbridge Council press release:

“Each CLT home will be sold to a local resident at prices linked to local incomes, meaning they will be approximately half the cost of similar homes on the open market. Then, when those residents move on, the homes will be sold at a price again linked to local incomes, guaranteeing their affordability for generations to come.

“The idea came from local residents being fed up of seeing local people being priced out of the neighbourhood they call home, and having to leave their friends, family and community for good.” That action is you. Years ago many of you gave £1 each to CLT.

Well done.