

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Truci Abrahams, Baby Oliver Barker, Angela Barrett, Miss Terry Bennett, Sandra Bourke, Arlene Bowman, Angela Bromfield, Geoff Brown, Gerry Cook, Irene de Freitas, Conor Dempsey, Anthony Doherty, Don Dourado, Trish Gardner, Betty Halliday, Doris Harriss, Joan Hayes, Bernie Hauser, Annie Keenan, Rory McCreesh, Frank McDermott, Margaret McDonnell, Mary McKay, Roger Machin, Camille Malone, Audrey McDonnell, Jutta Menzies, Dr. Douglas Murphy, Betty Norton, Dympna O'Donnell, Liam O'Sullivan, Evaritia (Linda Palmer's Mother), Lily Reding, Joan Reynolds, Jean-Yves de Sainte-Croix de la Sabliere, Debbie Smythe, Madelaine Sydric, Astrid Turner, Maria Vaughan, Rita Watkins & David Underwood.

Anniv: Desmond Hand, Mary Wynne, Augustinho de Freitas, Virginia Crook, May Tudisca, Judy Gilmartin, Kathleen Murchan & James Murchan

Lately Dead: Juliana Morrisroe, David Robinson, Michael Carroll (Phillipa March's dad), Lucy (Lucia) Nye, Joan Reynolds & Moby Lalani

Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.

CHURCH CLEANING

Thursday 28th December
Kathleen Mahoney, Jack Edwards, Emily Hannon, Kathy Howes & Iwona Moreno

CHRISTMAS CHURCH CLEANING

An early reminder that it is the big clean of our church on Friday, 22nd December from 10.30am. Please put a note in your diaries. We are all very busy at this time of year but if we get a good crowd it will take no time at all. Please try to spare half an hour of your time. Thank you.

MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE PILGRIMAGES 2018

7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle service from €279 per person. Book any flight - any time & we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service. Call us for further info on 01 4434510 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com

TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

There are vacancies for two temporary teacher positions at Trinity from Jan 2018. Teacher of Psychology & Sociology
Teacher of RE
Please review the school website for full details <http://fc.tchs.uk.net>

SUNDAY MASSES

St. Thomas'
1st Mass Sat. 6pm; 8.30am;
10am (Children's Liturgy)
11.30am
Chigwell Convent
10am
St. James URC
(Buckhurst Hill)
9am (Children's Liturgy)

WEEKDAY MASSES

St. Thomas'
10am
Chigwell Convent
9.30am
Saturday 10am
(1st Weds of the month)
No morning Mass
Trinity High School
8.20am on Lower Site.

SATURDAY

CONFESSIONS
St. Thomas'
10.30am - 11.30am
5.00pm - 5.45pm
Chigwell Convent
After 10am Mass
BAPTISMS
1st and 3rd Sundays
Of the month



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Parish Office: 020 8504 1686

Email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org



Friary: 020 8504 1844

Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org



**3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT
Cycle B**

17th DECEMBER 2017



This is Gaudete Sunday from the Latin meaning 'Rejoice'

Joy is one of the signs of God's kingdom; the coming of Christ brings that joy to save and refresh us in body and soul.

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

The prophet speaks in the person of Christ, the anointed one of the Spirit. Later Jesus applies this verse to himself.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul prays that the whole of our being, spirit, soul and body, may be healed and saved.

Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

John the Baptist testifies to the divinity of Christ, describing himself as the one who makes way for "the Lord".

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

My soul rejoices in my God

Your offerings at the Christmas Masses will be for the community

WHITE SUNDAY

Many wisely opted not to risk venturing on the icy roads last Sunday. Still many of you came. Well done. Though fewer than usual came to the afternoon ecumenical service still we mustered a reasonable congregation and choirs and all sang with conviction. It was an encouraging expression of the goodwill that now exists among the 8 churches represented. It remains to translate that into shared action.

RECONCILIATION

Monday's service of Reconciliation proved less compelling. There were 7 priests and 8 penitents. One for the record book. If you wish to receive the sacrament during this week please just come and ask. It is no trouble to one or another of us in the Friary to come down and hear your confession. Our purpose as friars is to bring reconciliation and spiritual counsel to any ready to receive it. We are always ready to do this service for you.

MISS CURTIS

finishes her service to St Anthony's school and our families this week. There have been many and heartfelt expressions of appreciation and thanks for her dedication and the quality of her leadership. We wish her well and will remember her in our prayers.

FUNERALS

Sadly many of our long-standing parishioners have gone to God this past week. We will celebrate their funerals as follows:

Monday 10 am Michael Carroll body to the church on Sunday afternoon at 5pm
Tuesday 10 am Lucia Nye
Tuesday 1.15 pm Moby Lalani.
Friday 5th Jan 2018 Joan Reynolds at 10am

May they enjoy the vision of God they have long desired.

CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY

With the 25th following hard on Sunday some are wondering how to arrange their weekend devotions. I follow Pope Francis' advice when he says "Do not expect me to give all the answers. Use your own gifts". This is a good test to see how much we have learned from our autumn discussions. If you are a *tram* you will, without reflection, follow the rails: Mass on Sunday and Mass on Christmas day are both obligations. If you are a *trolley-bus* you will reflect on the huge power love and generosity coming from above, and make up your own mind on how to respond to this. Simple? Hmm...

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Calling all readers, Ministers of Communion, Ushers & Sacristans.

Many thanks to those who signed-up last weekend, however due to the adverse weather conditions the response was very poor. We still need more volunteers for all the masses on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day. If you can help, please add your name to the lists at the back of church (on left as you leave)

CHRISTMASS MASS TIMES

A flyer showing details of Christmas and New Year mass times is available at the back of church. Please take a copy for your reference

IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE A BRIEF COMMENTARY ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY'S READING, PLEASE EMAIL: ALANMAIR63@GMAIL.COM

PARISH OFFICE HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS

The office will close on Fri 22nd Dec at 1.30pm and reopen on Tues 2nd at 9.30am

TO ALL USING THE BECKET CENTRE

Please note that we are regularly testing the FIRE ALARM on a Wednesday around 11am. The alarm will usually sound for about one minute to test that all is working well. The alarm sounding for a time longer than this or at other times should be treated as indication of fire and evacuation of the building commenced.

REPOSITORY

Stand up liturgical calendars are now in, together with 2018 Brentwood Diocesan Year Book. A lovely selection of Christmas Cards are also still available.

IN TOUCH MAGAZINE

The Christmas edition of the parish magazine will be on sale this week, with a Christmas Message from Fr Austin and lovely articles from Trinity pupils.

DIOCESAN RENEWAL & RESTRUCTURING

Last weekend and this you receive a synopsis of the Diocesan plan. "Nothing changed at Woodford" is a comment heard more than a few times about the Restructuring part. Emphatically: this is not the case. The Diocese will flourish or shrivel to the extent that we renew our faith and practice. Priests and people must change considerably to become the church of Pope Francis and Vatican II. We have been nibbling at this task in the past year and made some progress. Much more remains to be done. On that agenda we will launch again as 2018 comes in. Please collect a summary of this most important Diocesan document. Available at all Masses this weekend. Feel free to comment

ON THE WEB

As you will have seen from last week's newsletter we have a brand new and vibrant website! You can find it here: www.stthomaswoodford.org

We want this to be our hub of communication and would invite you to go there to find the latest parish newsletters. You can also sign up to receive them by email which will help us to cut down the amount that we need to print.

From the Home page you can download Advent and Christmas service times and also view the latest news. Also if you have something to publicise let us know.

You can reach us at webadmin@stthomaswoodford.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

IT/COMMS TEAM

NANNY WANTED

I am looking for a nanny to drop and pick up two girls from St Antony's Primary School, Woodford, Monday - Friday. If you are interested please contact Agatha on 07405 438585

RAFFLE

We still have a number of unclaimed raffle prizes. Please see list below and come into the parish office to P claim your prize:

White 97 Ari 07956129269
Yellow 59 Brian 07758288729
Blue 115 Alex 02085043371
White 61 Helen Bordman
Blue 287 Meera 07887808566
White 115 Flowers 02085278358
White 28 Laura Higgins
White 103 Jo 02085565691
Blue 166 Helen 07780670608
Pink 7 Lynn