

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Lately dead:

◇ **Cathy Mair**

Cathy's Funeral will take place on 3rd October at 11am

May she rest in peace

Anniversaries:

Seamus Hanley, Sister Carmel Ronayne, Annie Horton, John Martin, Rita Willcocks, Violet Mulligan, John O'Halloran, Anne O'Mahoney, John Potter, Patrick Murphy, Rita Roudette, Maria Ferrillo, Leonard Harris, Sister Rufina Nealon, Michael Power, Agnes Ramsden.

Trinity School Applications

Fr Michael Copps will be available to sign **certificates of practice** on the following dates and times:

29th September 3.30 to 5pm
30th September 3.30 to 5pm &
 7 to 8pm
1st October 3.30 to 5pm

No need to book, just come along. There will be more dates offered in October if needed.

Davenant School Applications

If you are applying to Davenant please provide a photo with details on the back of your family name & mass attendance that you have entered on your application to Davenant.

SUNDAY MASSES

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

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

Retiring Collection

There will be a retiring collection this weekend for Education Sunday

There will be a retiring collection next weekend for Evangelii Gaudium Day

Children Liturgy

We're delighted to announce that our Children's Liturgy is starting up again for school children in Reception to Year 2. **From Sunday 5th October (term time)**, during the 10am Mass, the children will be invited to gather together for their own special time of prayer, stories, and activities to help them understand the Gospel in a fun and age-appropriate way.



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Parish Office: 020 8504 1686

Friary: 020 8504 1688

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Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org

Facebook: @STOCWoodford

Twitter: @STOCWoodford



Served by the Franciscans

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Education Sunday (C)) 14th September

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

On this Education Sunday we celebrate the work of all educators; all those who work, teach and learn in our schools and colleges. We gather today giving thanks for all that we ourselves have learnt and received and we re-commit ourselves to pass on the Gospel of Christ to all we meet.

First Reading Numbers 21:4b-9

God tells Moses to mount a bronze serpent on a pole and says that anyone who is bitten and looks at it will live. This anticipates Christ on the cross. Jesus will later say that just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

Second Reading Philippians 2:6-11

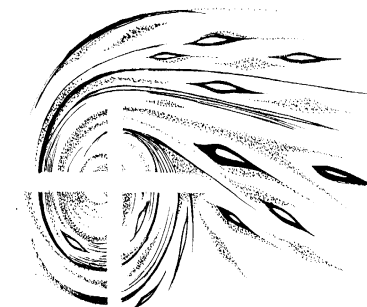
Although Jesus is the Son of God, he humbled himself for our sake, taking on our humanity and choosing death on the cross.

Gospel John 3:13-17

On the cross Jesus shows us the depth of his love.

Responsorial Psalm

Never forget the deeds of the Lord!



Today the pattern of Sundays in Ordinary Time is broken with this Feast.

In fact, this day starts a mini-Passiontide with the feasts of Our Lady of Sorrows on Monday and the Stigmata of St Francis on Wednesday.

The cross of Jesus is key to our faith as Pope Francis points out:-

On 14 September the Church celebrates the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Some non-Christian person might ask: why “exalt” the Cross? We can respond that we do not exalt *any* cross whatsoever or *all* crosses: we exalt *the Cross of Jesus*, because in it God’s love for humanity was fully revealed. That’s what the Gospel of John reminds us of in today’s liturgy: “God so loved the world that He gave his only Son” (3:16). The Father “gave” the Son to save us, and this resulted in the death of Jesus, and his death on the Cross.

Why? Why was the Cross necessary?

Because of the gravity of the evil which enslaved us. The Cross of Jesus expresses both things: all the negative forces of evil, and all of the gentle omnipotence of God’s mercy. The Cross would seem to decree Christ’s failure, but in reality it signals His victory. On Calvary, those who mocked him said to him, “If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross” (cf. Mt 27:40). But the opposite was true: it was precisely because Jesus was the Son of God, that He was there, on the Cross, faithful to the end to the loving plan of the Father. And for this very reason God “exalted” Jesus (Phil 2:9), conferring universal kingship on Him.

When we look to the Cross where Jesus was nailed, we contemplate the sign of love, of the infinite love of God for each of us and the source of our salvation. The mercy of God, which embraces the whole world, springs from the Cross. Through the Cross of Christ the Evil One is overcome, death is defeated, life is given to us, hope is restored. This is important: through the Cross of Christ hope is restored to us.

The Cross of Jesus is our one true hope! That is why the Church “exalts” the Holy Cross, and why we Christians bless ourselves with the sign of the cross. That is, we don’t exalt crosses, but the glorious Cross of Christ, the sign of God’s immense love, the sign of our salvation and path toward the Resurrection. This is our hope.

While we contemplate and celebrate the Holy Cross, we think with emotion of so many of our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted and killed because of their faith in Christ. This happens especially wherever religious freedom is still not guaranteed or fully realized. It happens, however, even in countries and areas which, in principle, protect freedom and human rights but where, in practice, believers, and especially Christians, encounter restrictions and discrimination. So today we remember them and pray for them in a special way.

On Calvary, there at the foot of the Cross, was the Virgin Mary (cf. Jn 19:25-27). She is Our Lady of Sorrows, whom we shall celebrate tomorrow in the liturgy. To her I entrust the present and the future of the Church, so that we may all always be able to discover and welcome the message of love and salvation of the Cross of Christ.



Mass Intentions

Sunday 14th September

8.30 Cathy Mair RIP

10 Ian Cully RIP

11.30 Dr Maurice Murrell RIP

Monday 15th September

Sheamus Hanley

Moirá Feeney RIP

Funeral 11.30 Michael Barrett

Tuesday 16th September

Mary O'Connor RIP month's mind

Stella & Charles McKay RIP

Anthony Gaughan anniversary

Wednesday 17th September

John Martin anniversary

Elsie Vi Scott RIP

Funeral 12.30 Peter Perera

Thursday 18th September

John Potter anniversary

Elizabeth & Michael Bergin anniversary

Vi Mulligan RIP

Friday 19th September

Intention Margaret Griffin

Saturday 20th September

10 Mary Prendergast RIP

6 Stella Correya anniversary

Sunday 21st September

8.30 John Sweeney RIP

10 Gerald & Michelle Jacob anniversary

11.30 Bernadette Timmons RIP

Church Cleaning

Saturday 20th September 10.30am

Rosie O'Connor & Charmaine Turrell

Henrietta Suite renovation

Tenders have been received and evaluated and the PPC has approved that we proceed quickly with the renovation, which is very much as agreed in principle after parish consultations late last year. Details can be found on the website under the Becket Centre tab.

Yoga Course

7 week Yoga course for all Fitness levels and abilities. Starting 8th September. Every Monday, Wednesday and Fridays
Contact Claudia on 07973 122 322
Or soulfullyyogaandfitness.com to find out more.

Beavers

Should you wish your child to join Beavers, you need to ensure that you have put their name on the waiting list. Beavers start at 6 years old and then move on to Cubs when they are 8. They meet on a Monday night for 1 hour from 6.15pm at the Scout hut alongside the Becket Centre. An application form can be obtained by emailing the beaver leader paulineelkin616@gmail.com

Stretch Class Henrietta Suite

Free chair based stretch class is available to all parishioners after 10am Mass on Friday **19th September**. For more information please contact Claudia on 07973122322.