

**PRAY FOR
THE SICK**



Lately dead: Moira Bissett

May she rest in peace

Anniversaries:

Thomas Taylor, Iris Witchell, William Curran, Teresa Judge, Alan Norris, Irene Stephens, Eilish Whitaker, Charles Wilkinson, William Jones, Emma Mulhern, Alfred Nash, Pauline White, James Griffin, Brenda O'Rourke, Mary Pearson, Murial Pells, Eileen Smith, Jonathan Wingate-Whyte, Anastasia Barfoot, Patrick Donovan, Olga Machado, Beatrice Cafon, Anne Harris, Elizabeth Meredith, Jacqueline Collett, Boniface (Hans) Kruger OFM, Wilfred DeSouza.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2023

Our favourite foods are under threat from climate change and unfair trade. But making the simple switch to Fairtrade means more farmers better able to take on the climate crisis and protect the future of food.

So with Fairtrade Fortnight beginning on Monday 27th let's come together to convince more people to make that switch.

And come and join us after 10am Mass on Wednesday 8th March in the William Scott room for a cup of organic Fairtrade tea or filter coffee to celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight.

Mass Timetable

The masses on Saturday evening and Sunday at St Thomas' are live streamed

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

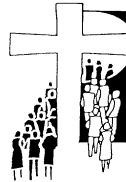
10am Chigwell Convent

WEEKDAY MASSES

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

Each Friday in Lent

we conduct the Way of the Cross at 7.30pm commencing on 24th February.



CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 10.30 to 11am
and
5.15 to 5.45 pm

BAPTISMS

1st and 3rd Sundays
of the month

Church Car Park

When using the Church car park please park in the lined parking spaces only .

Please do not double park in front of the Church building.



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Woodford Green
A FAIRTRADE PARISH



Parish Office: 020 8504 1686 Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org
Friary: 020 8504 1688 Facebook: @STOCWoodford
Email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org Twitter: @STOCWoodford

**First Sunday of Lent (A)
26th February 2023**

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

The challenge of Lent is to let go of our pride, entrusting ourselves entirely to Jesus. He has shown us the way to overcome temptation and walk the path of eternal life.

First Reading Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Adam and Eve yield to temptation in the garden of Eden.

Second Reading Romans 5:12-19

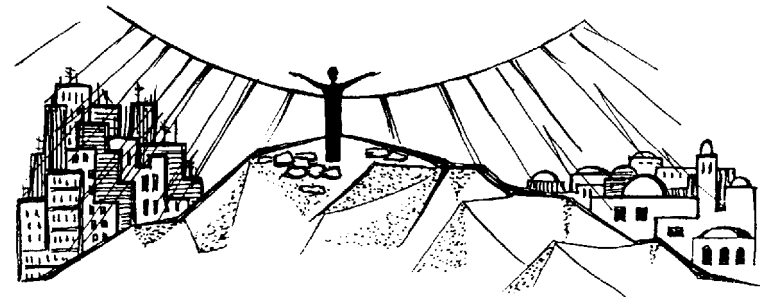
Jesus' gift of divine life more than outweighs the loss suffered by Adam when he fell.

Gospel Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus sees off Satan in the wilderness and shows us how to walk in the path of life.

Responsorial Psalm

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned



Lay people are not guests and priests are not bosses

Pope Francis

He was addressing a 3-day conference on Family and life. It is the theme of Bishop Alan's recent letter and my reflection last week on how it affects us. Pope Francis' intervention will be on our parish website for 2 weeks. There is no escape from the major changes outlined in the Diocesan Vision. We can take control of how we will organise ourselves, or suffer an imposed plan. It is over to you. But the clock is ticking.

Some good news

This afternoon 12 people each with a sponsor will go to meet Bishop Alan in the Cathedral. There they will share with similar groups – ours very likely the largest – of newcomers wishing to join our church. It must take great courage to want to join our church at present. But undaunted these have formed a happy group meeting each Wednesday evening for many months. At the Easter Vigil eight will receive baptism and the rest be received into full communion of our church. Pray for them. Welcome them to join ASAP in all our activities. And not just the washing-up.

Lent

- **Parish Retreat**

4th March 1 - 6pm Becket Centre
All welcome

- **Mass Readings**

All the readings for the Masses of Lent, with a short commentary by Fr Adrian Graffy, can be found on www.whatgoodnews.org Click on 'Scripture Readings' and then 'Lent Readings'.

- **Chigwell Covent**

Holy Hour each Sunday during lent between **3 & 4pm**. All Parishioners invited

- **CAFOD**

Family Fast Day **3rd March**, envelopes are available at the back of Church

Children's liturgy?

Quite a few have asked when we will resume the Children's liturgy. You are right to ask for this. The readings and homily of the mass that fit adults are no use to younger children. Yet they need to hear Jesus' words and actions in a way they can understand. Many of the books and colouring you bring may be good to keep them quiet. They do nothing for what are your children's needs.

So we are looking for volunteers who will do some simple teaching. Surely it is what you are doing daily at home with your own children. You know the levels and means of communication that work. If you do not feel up to doing the teaching we still need you. We need others to give supporting care. Safeguarding regulations are strict. We follow them to the letter. There is a ratio of children to adults. That means that if we have 20 children we need 4–adults duly cleared for safety. Now it is unfair to expect anyone to do it every Sunday. The plan is to establish a rota so that each provides the service only once a month. So initially we are looking for at least 20 who will offer their services once a month, faithfully.

I have to put it to you squarely. Do you come to mass expecting everything to be provided for you? Or do you come as part of the family, ready and willing to take your share of the tasks and services? I have no doubt that if you are in the latter category you will feel much happier and all will benefit.

Two-thirds of a priest

This puzzled some in last weeks newsletter. In the Diocesan Plan there are only to be two priests to serve Wanstead, South Woodford and SToC. You can do the sums.



Mass Intentions

Sunday 26th February

8.30 Bill Green RIP
10 Michael & Bridget McLoughlin RIP
11.30 Denis & Remona Armstrong

Monday 27th February

Eileen & Bridget Ruddy RIP
Fr David Melly RIP

Tuesday 28th February

Marie Murphy surgery
Euphemia Mastroddi RIP

Wednesday 1st March

1st March Anthony Williams anniversary
John Potter RIP
Funeral 11.30 William Green

Thursday 2nd March

Olga Machado anniversary
Mary Spillane anniversary
Trinity intentions

Friday 3rd March

Stanley Jones RIP
Anne O'Brien RIP

Saturday 4th March

10 Myles O'Mallen
6 Kathy Howes ill

Sunday 5th March

8.30 Moira Whelan RIP
10 Moira Bissett RIP
11.30 Mavis March RIP



Church Cleaning

Thursday - 9.00 am 2nd March

Sue Mansbridge, Jackie John
Mary Charter, Srimathie Cruz
Margaret Parkinson

5 A Side Football for the over 40s

We are looking for players to join us on a Wednesday evening at 9-10pm for a friendly game of 5-a-side football in Woodford. It will keep you fit, or get you fit! If you are interested, please text Reinhard on 07766600567.

Baptism Congratulations

Congratulations to the following Children were baptised in St Thomas' in February
Arlo Thambi, Louis Hayes, Santiago Kosiorek & Arlo Tubridy

Parish table tennis club

Children (9 – 13 years) from our parish are invited to join the table tennis club which takes place on Wednesdays between 4-5pm in the Scout Meeting Hut. Parents must stay for the duration of the session with the children. There is a £2 charge per child. If you are interested, please email tania@stthomaswoodford.org to reserve a place.

BCYS Quiz Night

James Chung and a Parishioner from Our Lady of Lourdes will be hosting a quiz night in the Becket Centre on April 1st to raise money to travel to World Youth Day with the BCYS in August. Entrance £5 per person, tables of 8-10. Please contact 07478 868 871 to book