

FAMILY FAST DAY

I hope you managed to do a little self-denial this week and with profit to the needy in today's retiring collection. Why **CAFOD**? Big fund-raisers are under scrutiny, and criticised that they spend too much on themselves and admin. The value of **CAFOD** lies in their having people and contacts on the ground where money is being spent. So we can have confidence that our money is reaching the right people. Still we can nudge them about the need to keep admin costs to the minimum: tell them not to send out so many begging letters for one.

Please put your Family Fast Envelope in the basket at the back of church.

BISHOP ALAN'S LETTER

I hope you have had time to read the leaflet you were given last Sunday. It requires us to respond. I shall be glad to receive your comments.

PROPER CONDITIONS FOR CARERS

St. Antony's children made a big impact in Ilford last week. They told Redbridge Council the standard of care they wish their grandparents to receive. Others of our Telco Group also made telling presentations so that the Council is being pushed hard to promote proper contracts, pay and terms for all care-workers. The Council listened and set up further meetings to act on it. Well done and thank you. You are doing precisely the work on which Pope Francis is so insistent by his words and example.

LENT LUNCHES

In the Becket Centre on Tuesdays in Lent. 12.15pm—1.30pm in aid of Mary's Meals (an organisation which provides meals for school children in crisis-stricken countries). Home Made Soup and French Bread £3. Everyone is welcome.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Each Friday we engage in this devotion. After the 10am Mass it is led by a volunteer of the parish community. The friars will generally lead the evening devotion at 8pm.

REPOSITORY

Now that Lent is here we would like to draw your attention to the Repository stock of books which will be a help to children of all ages in understanding the season as we approach Easter. We have, of course, a good selection of Easter Cards.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE

Father Quentin will be available on Wednesday 24th February in the Becket Centre from 7pm for approx an hour. There are no individual appointments just pop along.

JOURNEY OF FAITH

Three of our journey companions, plus one 5 week old catechumen, were welcomed into the family of the Diocese last Sunday afternoon by the Bishop. We will be there for their baptism and reception on Easter Saturday and I hope many will come for the vigil service. Just three, plus two infants are taking the big step this year. But through the weeks a large number of born Catholics have joined in the discussions each Monday. They are each aware they need to learn more of our faith and eager to do so. It brings a depth and quality to life that is much needed. The journey goes on, and anyone can join in at any time.

TUESDAY CLUB

23rd February in the Becket Centre at 2pm. Chair Yoga. All welcome.

MERCY

On Tuesday we will meet in the Becket Centre at 8pm to deepen the theme Fr. Austin started last Tuesday. Some questions to start thoughts rolling: Does this talk of mercy do anything to help my needs? Can it do anything to meet the disillusion with the church in those who have given up? Do I really need to be persuaded of God's mercy for me, or is it about something slightly different? Come and tell us what you really think.

TELCO

On 28th April 2016, just one week before we elect the New Mayor of London, 6,000 organised voters will gather at the Copper Box in Stratford for the London Citizens' Mayoral Accountability Assembly. St. Thomas of Canterbury parishioners can play a significant role by attending the Mayoral Election on the 28th April. Coach Transport will be provided. Tickets for the Assembly: call Angela Meyler 020 8504 2138 or Bernie Harris 077 54477532/

The coach leaves St. Thomas' at 5pm prompt. Don't miss it!!

The Sisters in Chigwell would like to thank most sincerely all who gave so generously of their:-

- Time in setting up and working at the Nearly New/Jumble Sale
- Talent—Organisational skills and expertise
- Treasure—goods donated and money of those who came to buy.

The amount realised for our missions was approximately £1,200. Mass will be said for your intentions.

BIBLE SHARING

Due to other Parish Lenten Services, the Bible sharing group will not meet until Thursday, 7th April at 7.30pm.

EAST LONDON THREE

FAITHS FORUM

On Thursday, 10th March at 8pm, Bishop Alan Williams will be speaking in St. Anne Line Parish Hall, Grove Crescent, South Woodford E18 2JR ON "Spirituality and High Places". All welcome. Light refreshments afterwards.

SAINSBURYS VOUCHERS

Once again the Mother and Toddler Group are collecting Sainsburys vouchers and would appreciate your help. Please hand them into the parish office. Thank you.

ORGAN

There is an organ in the cloister which would be grateful for a new home. If you are interested, please contact the parish office.

SOUP RUN FOR THE HOMELESS AND NEEDY



We are up London again next Wednesday, 24th Feb and would be grateful to receive sandwiches, fruit, biscuits, cakes, sweets and toiletries.

No clothes please as our cupboards are still full. Items can be left in the Becket Centre between 6.30pm—7.30pm on Wed. evening or in the parish office during opening hours.

We are also looking for more helpers for the kitchen between 6.30pm and 8pm and for additional people to come up to London with us from 7.30pm until late if you can help please 'phone Ray 07770 797250.

CATHOLIC FELLOWSHIP QUIZ

Sat. 5th March 7.30pm at Trinity Catholic High School Upper Site. Tickets £10 per person. 8 people per table. Includes Ploughmans Supper, Bring your own drinks and glasses.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick:- Mike Angelo, Baby Oliver Barker, Betty Bere, Angela & Kerry Bromfield, Liz Browne, Genevieve Campbell, Eustage Chesley, Claire, Ann Carmody, (Kieran's Mum), Mike Crutchlow, Bernadette Clancy, Carmel Cork, Claver D'Souza, Don Dourado, Laurie Durrant, Maureen Halford, Thomas Hefferman, Joan Farrelly, Maurice Flynn, Irene & Carter de Freitas, Karen Gallagher, Trish Gardner, Mary Grisdale, Cynthia Gregory, Catherine Heagney, John Harris, Doris Harriss, S. Kuntz, Lauren, Chris Lavin, Mary McKay, Roger Machin, Camille Malone, Bridie McCoy, Claudia McNulty, Jutta Menzies, Pat Morgan, Miriam Mullally, Frances Piller, Dr Courtney Price, Anneli Prowse, Lily Reding, Dermot Ryle, Edward Shearer, Joshua Smikle, Jane Spring, Melda Tierney, Pauline Tuite, Astrid Turner, Mary Quaine, Kath Vaughan, Evi Maria Vogel.

Anniversaries Annie Greene, Andrew La Marque, Gerard Mooney, Alexandrina Da Conceicao Pereira,

Lately Dead Stephen Garrett (husband of Anne and Father of Luke, Sanchia and Alice), Debbie Gavin, Paul McDonnell (Brother of Audrey), Aida Mary Testro, Breda Walsh, Freda Ware, Mario Zeppa, We extend the sympathy of the parish to Merry Zeppa, Sue Musiu and family on the death of Mario who died last week.

Mario's remains will be received into St. Thomas' on Tues at 5pm. His Requiem will take place on Wed. at 10am in St. Thomas'.

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

Paul McDonnell's Requiem will take place on 3rd March at 11am at Chigwell Convent. May he rest in peace.

Rosa Fitzpatrick is most grateful to all parishioners and friends for their Masses, cards and prayers said after her recent operation. A Mass will be said for your intentions.

CHURCH CLEANING

Friday 9am 26th Feb. Margaret Chung, Jennifer Sorrell, Christabel Wijeweera, Francesca Cushion, Liz Atkinson.

WORKS OF MERCY

Come and join us in prayer every Sat. between 7.45am—11.30am. We will be opposite Marie Stopes Abortion Centre, 88 Russell Road, Buckhurst Hill. Please ring 07960650517 first in case of change in schedule.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

The SVP are trying to help a family find a 2 bedroom property to rent in the local area, preferably situated on the ground floor or on one level. Please contact 07754 100149 if you can help.

ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT SCHOOL, WANSTEAD

Requires a Mid-day Assistant. 7.5 hrs per week, term time only. Closing date Mon. 29th Feb. Contact 020 8989 4700 or enquiries@stjosephsconventschoo.co.uk.



St Thomas of Canterbury

557/559 High Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0RB

Served by the Franciscans



A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Tel: 020 8504 1686 Fax: 020 8504 1844



Email: parishoffice@friar.org Web: www.stthomaswoodford.org

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT CYCLE C

21st FEBRUARY 2016



The mysteries of life surround us. If we live by faith, love, the greatest of all mysteries, is the bright cloud that keeps us safe, for without faith, life is a darkness.

First Reading (Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18)

Human beings make covenants out of mistrust.
God makes a covenant out of love.

Second Reading (Philippians 3:17-4:1)

We are measured by the standards of heaven, our true home, not the standards of the earth.

Gospel (Luke 9:28-36)

We are perfected not just by our own love but by the love of others. Christ is perfect because he is the perfectly beloved.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *The Lord is my light and my help*