

ADVENT

Advent has two messages for us. First, it isn't the time for make-believe, as if we are preparing for the coming of Christ all over again; we are celebrating not simply the birth of Christ but the birthday; the time when God came to be with us by giving us someone to love—a helpless baby, lying in a manger. But this is also a challenge asking us to remember that this is how he is to be found always. Wherever there is anyone in need of care, love and affection, that is where we will find him. In these austere times there are many who are struggling, and having to make choices between eating and heating—The Advent challenge is to find time to stop, and notice. God's presence always results in a heightened sensitivity to the needs of others. Mother Teresa said that all that was needed to lift a baby from a dustbin was a pair of hands—not quite—we need also the grace/sensitivity to stop and notice the baby. Let this be our Advent challenge—to stop, to notice, to respond and especially to enjoy.

Austin O.F.M.

ECUMENICAL ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Sunday, 8th December at 4.30pm with the choirs of All Saints Church and Loyola School, followed by refreshments in the Becket Centre. All welcome. Donations of mince pies would be appreciated.



WALK WITH ME

A Journey of Prayer for Advent. Booklets are available at the back of the church—price £1.

REPOSITORY

Christmas cards, candles etc., are available now. Don't delay.

ST. ANTONY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL RECEPTION APPLICATIONS

For those children whose dates of birth fall between 1st Sept 2009 and 31st August 2010. Applications are made on line www.redbridge.gov.uk.

The parish office requires completed Forms A & B, together with copy of child's baptism certificate and non-returnable family photo. Closing date is 15th January 2014.



CHURCH CLEANING

Thursday 9am 5th December Pat Bell, Lisa Ford, Amanda Rae, Melanie Miller, Emily Hannon.

LOYOLA PREP SCHOOL BUCKHURST HILL

Require Finance Assistant 3 days a week 8.15am till 4.15pm. Term Time only (35 weeks), plus 3 inset days.

The Finance Assistant is required to have use and knowledge of computerised accounting packages and Microsoft packages. Must have good organisational and communication skills. Candidates must also be flexible in their approach to work and have the ability to work well on an individual basis as well as part of a team. Applicant must be willing to undergo child protection screening, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure and Barring Service. Closing date 2nd Dec. Interview date 9th Dec. For application pack email finance@loyola.essex.sch.uk.

ASSISI LUNCH

Christmas Lunch, Friday, 6th December in the Becket Centre.

RAINBOWS

If you desire for your daughter to join a Rainbow Unit and she is 3 or under we would recommend that you apply using the following website to register your interest. <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/getinvolved/volunteer/registeryourinterest.aspx>.

A Leader will contact you and will answer any questions you might have.

HOLY FAMILY

Lay Associates of the Holy Family meeting at Maureen's house on Monday, 2nd December at 7.30pm. Please bring phase III booklet with you.

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP

Tuesday, 3rd December in the Francis Room after the 10am Mass.

CWL

Wednesday, 4th December social evening in the William Scott Room at 8pm.

ADVENT RETREAT AT ABBOTSWICK

A weekend retreat in preparation for Christmas led by Sr. Gabriela and Sr. Theresa from the resident Community of Our Lady of Walsingham at Abbotswick Diocesan House of Prayer, Brentwood. This retreat is open to all adults and booking is essential. Please call 01277 373959.

WHIPPS CROSS HOSPITAL

If you, a family member or a friend would like to see a Catholic Chaplain or receive Holy Communion whilst receiving treatment at Whipps Cross University Hospital, please contact the Catholic Chaplains at St. George's Walthamstow 020 8520 5877 or Whipps Cross Chaplaincy Team 020 8535 6988.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE

Some young people of our parish who travelled to Lourdes this summer will be speaking at all Masses this weekend on behalf of the BCYS's annual appeal and the work they do in our Diocese.

WELCOME

We welcome into the parish community Harvie Woods, Devonte Joshua James-Osei, Scarlet Elizabeth Anthony, James Bonnington-Carter who are being baptised this weekend in St. Thomas'.

1ST COMMUNION

Catechists are reminded of the Catechists' Meeting on Wednesday, 4th December to cover Sessions 4 and 5 8pm in the Assisi Room.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR LIFE

On Sat. 7th December, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. You can pray a rosary (or an extra one) and fast on bread and water, or offer whatever you can. For more information see www.goodcounselnet.co.uk/Prayer-and-Fasting-Days.html

NEW TO THE PARISH?

Please register with the parish office. Open 9.30am—1.30pm. Mon—Fri.

SACRED HEART COMPANIONS

Will have their monthly meeting on Monday 2nd December at 2pm in the main chapel of Chigwell Convent.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Carols for all ages South West Essex Choir Sat. 14th Dec. 7pm at Holy Trinity Church, Hermon Hill, S. Woodford. Tkts £10 Under 18's £3 Contact 020 8554 2830.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick:- Phil Archer, Ellen Armstrong, Mary Barnes, Alice Binder, Moira Bisset, Angela & Kerry Bromfield, Liz Channer, Chris Callow, Elsie Carey, Claire, David Clancy, Violet Clark, Sue Crail, Kathie Crowley, Chanelle Conway, Alan Cornish, Noreen Coyle, Kate Crowley, Mary Cullis, Siobhan Davids, Tomoko Dawson, Karen Davies, Donald Dourado, Mary Duffy, Francoise Duprey, Michael Durcan, Harold Elston, Alan Farmer, Ray Finney, Fr. Jim Fitzpatrick, Irene & Carter de Freitas, Nora Gaiger, Martin Garnar, Judy & John Gilmartin, Kathleen Gissane, Joan Green, Pat Greene, Amelia Halfyard, Doris Harriss, Rowland Hill, Veronica Hutchison, Stephen Jannece, Derek Jones, Laura Kennedy, Fr. Austin Kinsella O.F.M., Jacqui Lebaz, Lauren, Daniel Lucey, Fr. Austin McCormack O.F.M., Dennis McMullen, Mary McKay, Anne McShea, James McTierwal, Ron Mallett, Hannah Martin, Paul Mason, Sadie Meade, Jutta Menzies, Kathleen Meyler, Pat Meyler, Maureen Noden, Anthony O'Boyle, Mary O'Boyle, Joanne O'Boyle, Mary O'Connor, Katie O'Neil, Lucy Owen, Lily Reding, Mark Pateman, Anneli Prowse, Jacky Rott, Ann Rowley, Sandra Sifflett, Debbie Smythe, Karen Spencer, Carmel Sweeney, Mary Taylor, Alfi Thompson, Eileen Vallely, Terry Wauer, Monica Worsfold.

And for all the sick and housebound of the parish.

Lately Dead:- Elio de Pol, Veronica Carroll, Angela O'Donnell, Richard White Snr.

Anniv: Zucconi Costantina, Lena Tyson

David and Phil Archer would like to express their grateful thanks to family, friends and parishioners for all their loving support and prayers over the past few months. David is now home from hospital and on the mend.

MATHS TUITION

Trinity Maths/Further Maths AS student (A* at GCSE) available to tutor from KS1—GCSE level. DBS cleared. Contact Brendan 020 8504 1708.

2014 LOURDES BY AIR St. Helen's Parish

Please join us 21st April—25th April. Full board. 4* Hotel. Very close to Sanctuaries. Price £520 includes flights and hotel. Full spiritual programme led by Fr. Joseph Whisstock. Please telephone Sue on 07979 746707 for further details. £100 deposit secures place. Atol protected.

PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Monday, 16th December 7.30pm 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



St Thomas of Canterbury

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

Served by the Franciscans



A FAIRTRADE PARISH

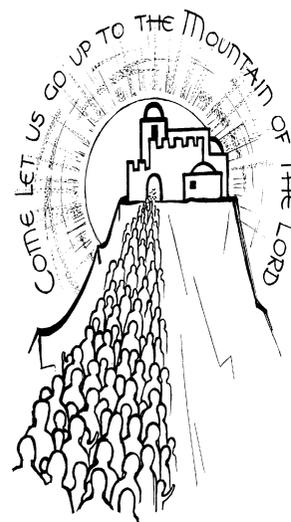
Tel: 020 8504 1686 Fax: 020 8504 1844



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

1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT CYCLE A

1st DECEMBER 2013



A new season and a new liturgical year begin today, and immediately our focus is on the coming of Christ—but not in the past, which we celebrate at Christmas; rather, in the present, and in the future.

First Reading (Isaiah 2:1-5)

Isaiah's transforming vision of a lasting peace, crafted from former causes of destruction.

Second Reading (Romans 13:11-14)

Salvation is not just about the future. It is near, it is already at hand.

Gospel

(Matthew 24:37-44)

Stay awake, preparing for the coming of the Son of Man.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

***I rejoiced when I hear them say:
"Let us go to God's house."***