

Lately dead:

Jude Tidmarsh, Barbara Leppert, Antonio Santagata

Funeral:

Antonio Santagata will be welcomed into Church on Tuesday, 31st March at 5pm. The funeral will take place on Wednesday, 1st April at 11.30am

ANNIVERSARIES:

Brenda O'Rourke, Sister Sheila O'Rourke, Philip Parchment, Mary Pearson, Murial Pells, Georgia Perera, Margaret Pfeiffer, Ferruccio Pieropan, Mary Quaine, Sister Gemma Rafferty, Julian Roja-Figueiredo, Mary Ryder, James Saunders, Sister Priscilla Sheehan, Agnes Simmons, Eileen Smith, Mary Snares, Jocelyn Sonderskov, Kathleen Stokes, Catherine Tague, Laura Telford, Jessie Turner,

St James United Reformed Church in Palmerston Road, Buckhurst Hill is closing on Easter Sunday. It was a much valued mass centre for the local Catholic community for many years. A service of celebration will be held on Sunday 29th March at 2.30pm. If you would like to attend please contact Peter Minoletti (07772547412) to assist with numbers

LENTEN LUNCHES

This Friday will be the last Friday of Lenten lunches. Homemade soup, French bread and tea/coffee will be served between 12.15 and 1.30pm in the Becket Centre, all for just £5. Please do come and join us. The money that we raise goes to Mary's Meals, a charity that feeds school children in some of the poorest countries in the world.

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

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 10.30 to 11am
and
5.15 to 5.45 pm

BAPTISMS

1st and 3rd Sundays
of the month

St Vincent De Paul Society

Are you in urgent need – financial or other?
Call us on 07547 491067 and leave a message. We will call you back

UNDER 5's

St Thomas under 5's group is running every Tuesday & Wednesday morning at 9.30am—11am term time only.

Second Collection

SVP second collection will take place after all Masses this coming weekend on the 21st & 22nd March

Furniture Disposal

In the tent by the scout hut there are tables, folding tables and chairs that are no longer in use. If anyone can make use of this furniture, please arrange directly with the Parish Office



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Parish Office: 020 8504 1686
Friary: 020 8504 1688



Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org
Facebook: @STOCWoodford
Twitter: @STOCWoodford



Served by the Franciscans

Email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)
SUNDAY, 22ND MARCH 2026**

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

Jesus once again reveals himself as having power, this time with the raising of Lazarus, power over life and death. As he called Lazarus out of the tomb, he calls us to leave behind all that impedes us accepting the life he offers us.

First Reading Ezekiel 37:12-14

With the Lord's gift of his Spirit, we shall live.

Responsorial Psalm:

With the LORD there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption

Second Reading Romans 8:8-11

The Spirit of God who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you.



THE RAISING OF LAZARUS

The last offering from the Gospels of Sundays before Holy Week is the raising of Lazarus. It indicates to us the wonderful message of Easter that with Christ we also will be raised to new life after our death. Let's hear Pope Benedict's reflection on this good news.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In our Lenten journey we have reached the Fifth Sunday, characterized by the Gospel of the resurrection of Lazarus (Jn 11: 1-45). It concerns the last "sign" fulfilled by Jesus, after which the chief priests convened the Sanhedrin and deliberated killing him, and decided to kill the same Lazarus who was living proof of the divinity of Christ, the Lord of life and death. Actually, this Gospel passage shows Jesus as true Man and true God. First of all, the Evangelist insists on his friendship with Lazarus and his sisters, Martha and Mary. He emphasizes that "Jesus loved" them (Jn 11: 5), and this is why he wanted to accomplish the great wonder. "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him out of sleep" (Jn 11: 11), he tells his disciples, expressing God's viewpoint on physical death with the metaphor of sleep. God sees it exactly as sleep, from which he can awaken us. Jesus has shown an absolute power regarding this death, seen when he gives life back to the widow of Nain's young son (cf. Lk 7: 11-17) and to the 12 year-old girl (cf. Mk 5: 35-43). Precisely concerning her he said: "The child is not dead but sleeping" (Mk 5: 39), attracting the derision of those present. But in truth it is exactly like this: bodily death is a sleep from which God can awaken us at any moment.

This lordship over death does not impede Jesus from feeling sincere "com-passion" for the sorrow of detachment. Seeing Martha and Mary and those who had come to console them weeping, Jesus "was deeply moved in spirit and troubled", and lastly, "wept" (Jn 11: 33, 35). Christ's heart is divine-human: in him God and man meet perfectly, without separation and without confusion. He is the image, or rather, the incarnation of God who is love, mercy, paternal and maternal tenderness, of God who is Life. Therefore, he solemnly declared to Martha: "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die". And he adds, "Do you believe this?" (Jn 11: 25-26).

It is a question that Jesus addresses to each one of us: a question that certainly rises above us, rises above our capacity to understand, and it asks us to entrust ourselves to him as he entrusted himself to the Father. Martha's response is exemplary: "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world" (Jn 11: 27). Yes, O Lord! We also believe, notwithstanding our doubts and darkness; we believe in you because you have the words of eternal life. We want to believe in you, who give us a trustworthy hope of life beyond life, of authentic and full life in your Kingdom of light and peace.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Stations of the cross will take place every Friday during Lent at **7.30pm** until the 27th March. We will make this journey and would like you to join us.

Easter donations to the Friars

Gift Aid envelopes will be available at the back of the church for those who wish to make a donation to the Friars. Please use the envelopes if you would like to Gift Aid your donation. Thank you for your generosity.

Franciscan life: Invitation

The Franciscan Community invite enquiries from single Catholic people aged 18-40 years pondering a possible vocation in the religious and/or priestly life, and Franciscan life; (website: www.friar.org). If interested and need guidance, please talk to one of the Friars or contact *Br Dónal ofm* via email - brdonalofm@yahoo.co.uk

Parish Office

The Parish office will be **closed** on Good Friday, 3rd April and Easter Monday, 6th April

In Touch Magazine

If anyone would like a copy of these magazines produced in this parish over a number of years, please contact Patricia on 020 850 42017.



Mass Intentions 22nd—28th March

Sunday 22nd March

8.30am - Paddy & Phil Callanan RIP

10am - Peter Bourdillon

11.30am - John Burnham anniversary

Monday 23rd March

Mike Butterworth anniversary

Mick Loughlin RIP

Tuesday 24th March

Agnes Caughan intention

In memory of Brian Correya

Wednesday 25th March

Deceased & living of Fernando & Gomez families

Andy Dillon

Thursday 26th March

Sr Mary Slaven RIP

Theresa Croll intention

Friday 27th March

Tehere 2 years old RIP

Anne Ross

Jude Tidmarsh RIP

Saturday 28th March

10am - Maureen De Silva anniversary

Kitty Fitzpatrick anniversary

6pm - Ita Doyle RIP

Sunday 29th March

8.30am - CWL special mass

10am - Sam Chandradasa RIP

11.30am - Kevin O'Sullivan

Margaret Mary Brown RIP

Church Cleaning

Saturday, 28th March at 10.30am

Rosie O'Connor, Charmaine Turnell

Royal Osteoporosis Society

is hosting an informal event in the Becket Centre on the **26th of March**, 1-3pm.

Karen Smith will attend as our guest speaker

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine & Co. Mayo

Led by Bishop Alan Williams

Monday 15th June 2026 to Friday 19th June 2026. 4 nights in Knock House Hotel, with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Visit Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre. Price £799.00 per person
Contact: Patricia Tel: 01268 762 278 Mob: 07740 175 557

Donations for the Homeless

Your response has been overwhelming for donations to the homeless. Thank you for your generosity and kindness, it really will make **all** the difference to those in need. No more donations until further notice

Parish Social

Parish Social with Cash BINGO on Saturday **28th March in the Becket Centre**. Entrance fee £2.00 and Bingo books £3.00 each for 7 games. CASH only please. Doors open 7.30pm eyes down 8.00pm

(feel free to come along straight after the 6pm mass). All welcome! Please bring your own drinks and nibbles.

FRIARY TENNIS CLUB

Save the date

Quiz Night Saturday, **2nd May**

VACANCY

St Mary's Catholic School

Experienced KS2 Class Teacher. Closing Date 13th April 2026. Candidates must be supportive of our Catholic ethos. For further information & application forms visit <http://www.stmaryschingford.com>. For any further information please contact Mrs Sharkey, School Office on **0208 529 4723** or email: jsharkey7.320@lgflmail.org