

Sometimes we are moved by seeing from a distance just a single candle in a window. Somehow it says home and safety. Compare that with a room full of powerful lights, every nook and cranny getting equal, unheeding illumination, lots of it, no shades of grey. The wrinkles and imperfections of a human face might want to run and hide.

Kind light pardons our imperfections and gives us a sympathetic glow. Jesus is that type of light. He did not come as overhead brilliance from which no flawed, fumbling thing could escape, but as a forgiver of souls, a quiet warmth.

God's sign is simplicity. God's sign is the baby. God's sign is that he makes himself small for us. This is how he reigns. He does not come with power and outward splendour. He comes as a baby—defenceless and in need of our help. He does not want to overwhelm us with his strength. He takes away our fear of his greatness. He asks for our love: so he makes himself a child.

Austin O.F.M.

BBC SONGS OF PRAISE

Are looking for a church family to take part in some filming over the Summer. Interested families need to contact Amy Ryninks from Songs of Praise as soon as possible amy.ryninks@bbbc.co.uk or 01613358427. Please give your full name, contact details and a brief description and if possible a photograph of your family.

TUESDAY CLUB

It's "Poetry" on the 28th: your favourites, whether comical or serious (but there is a new Pam Ayres book!) See you all in the Becket Centre at 2pm for culture and refreshments.

10.00AM TEA ROTAS

Are available from the back of the church.

ADMISSIONS TO ST ANTONY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY

Children whose date of birth is between 1.9.2010 and 31.8.2011. Application forms are now available at the school office for the Nursery for the school year 2014/2015. Those children born between 1.9.2011 and 31.12.2011 may also apply to start in January 2015 if there are vacancies. Either call into the office or telephone after 1.30pm on 020 8504 4706. The forms are also available on the website www.st-antony.net. Please note, these enquiries will only be dealt with in the afternoons. Closing date for receipt of forms is mid-day on Monday, 24th February 2014.



CHURCH CLEANING

Thursday 9am 30th January
Pat Bell, Lisa Ford, Amanda Rae, Melanie Miller, Emily Hannon.

PILGRIMAGE

Spend a week in Medjugorje this Easter, 16th—23rd April only £499. Price includes return flights with British Airways from London Gatwick, coach transfers to Medjugorje, half board accommodation and experienced guide. For more information please contact Jonathan on 01423 546175.

DOMESTIC CLEANER REQUIRED

Tuesday and Thursday 9am—12noon for general cleaning. This will include changing beds and some ironing. High standards of cleaning are essential, as are a good level of English and timekeeping. Please call Kirsten on 07768872797 for more information. Please be prepared to provide references.

ROSARY PROCESSION

The Franciscan Friars of the Renewal will lead a Rosary Procession Prayer Vigil from St. Thomas of Canterbury Church on Sat. 8th Feb. 2014. The day will start with 9am Mass and the procession will leave St. Thomas' at 9.45am to Marie Stopes abortion centre in Russell Road, Buckhurst Hill, where we will pray 15 decades of the Rosary and sing hymns while counsellors are offering help to those seeking abortion and also post-abortion help to those who have already had an abortion. We return at approx. 12noon for refreshments in the Clare Room. Please do your best to join us. Full details on poster displayed in church porch.

15th UNIT WOODFORD BROWNIES

Are looking for a 3rd adult Leader and an additional young leader. Meetings are every Tuesday 6.30pm—8pm in the Becket Centre. Please contact Rachael on 07949 739549 or Fiona on 07834 731324 if you are interested.

LOYOLA PREPARATORY SCHOOL Palmerston Road, Buckhurst Hill (Boys aged 3—11)

Open Afternoon Wednesday, 26th February 2014 1.15pm—2.45p.m.
For further information www.loyola.essex.sch.uk

SACRED HEARTS COMPANION

Will have their monthly meeting on Monday, 3rd February at 2pm in Chigwell Convent. All new members are welcome.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP EVENING

At SION Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, will take place this month on Sunday, 26th Jan. 2014 7.30pm—9pm. Everyone welcome.

NANNY REQUIRED

Afternoon and evening work 4 days a week. For further information please 'phone 07769328745.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

If you have a relative or friend living alone or in a nursing home who would like a visit please call us on 07754 100149 or contact us via the parish office.

SVP

There will be an SVP Collection after all Masses this weekend.

CHIGWELL SISTERS

Nearly New & Jumble Sale

Saturday, 22nd February at 2pm in the Becket Centre. Please leave your donations in the porch.

FRANCISCAN MISSIONS

The parishioners at Buckhurst Hill have collected £41.60 for the missions and this is being sent to the F.M.U. Office in Glasgow.

MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

We urgently need new Ministers of Communion to distribute Holy Communion at Mass and, also, if possible, to the sick and the housebound in your neighbourhood.

There is a course beginning 10th February in this Deanery. It is for four Monday evenings. Please let us know today or tomorrow if you are able to carry out this work which combines charity and sacramentality.

The number of times you are called upon will be negotiable. Forms (yellow) are available at the back of the church.

WELCOME

We welcome into the parish community Eva Rose Wright who was baptised in St. Thomas' last weekend.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick:- Phil Archer, Ellen Armstrong, Mary Barnes, Alice Binder, Moira Bisset, Angela & Kerry Bromfield, Siobhan Davids, 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, Pat Greene, Lyndsy Greck, Amelia Halfyard, Doris Harriss, Constantin Ioana, Geraldine Kelly, Phyllis Kelly, Fr. Austin Kinsella O.F.M., Nora Lucey, Mary McKay, Anne McShea, Hannah Martin, Paul Mason, Sadie Meade, Jutta Menzies, Kay Meyler, Pat Meyler, Jean Morgan. Maureen Noden, Anthony O'Boyle, Mary O'Boyle, Joanne O'Boyle, Janet Pinfold, Debbie Smythe, Karen Spencer, Carmel Sweeney, Mary Sullivan, Mary Taylor, Teresa Warnock, Terry Wauer, Monica Worsfold.

And for all the sick and housebound of the parish.

Lately Dead:- Eileen Devlin (County Tyrone), Barbara Gois, Daniel Lucey, Robert Perdeaux, Armando Nazareth (Olga Machado's Uncle), Irene Nazareth (Olga Machado's Aunt)

Anniv: Victor Van Boolean, Mrs Kathleen Meyler, Paul Poulter, Patrick & Elizabeth Turbitt,

Barbara Gois' Requiem will be on Monday, 27th January 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

CALLING ALL MUMS & DADS

Staff and Friends of St. Antony's School to help fundraise for the school by running or sponsoring someone who is going to run 13.1 miles on 9th March 2014 at Roding Valley Half Marathon. Anyone happy to join the St. Antony's running team please contact:-

Aine Wood at ainewood@btinternet.org or sign up at <http://www.rvhm.org.uk/>.

If running isn't for you, you can always sponsor those who are at <http://www.justgiving.com/StAntonysSchool>.

HOUSE BLESSING

If you would like to have your house blessed, please contact the parish office for details.

ASSISI LUNCH

Friday, 31st January in the Becket Centre.

1ST COMMUNION

Wednesday, 29th January 8pm in the Assisi Room Catechists' Meeting to prepare three sessions on Reconciliation.

ST. THOMAS' BADMINTON CLUB

Come and get fit in 2014 and join us between 8pm and 10pm Thursday evenings in Trinity School. For details please phone Liz 07759 410304.



St Thomas of Canterbury

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

Served by the Franciscans



A FAIRTRADE PARISH

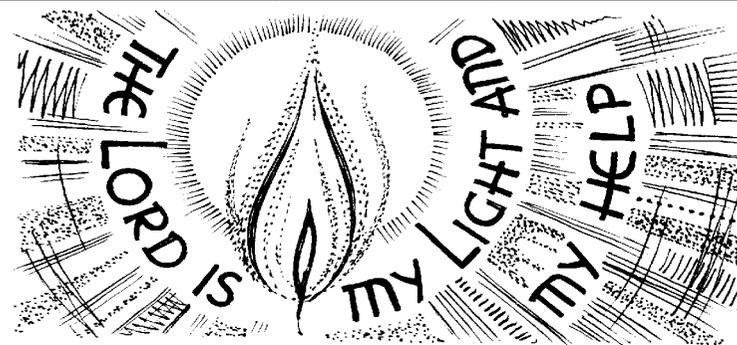


Tel: 020 8504 1686 Fax: 020 8504 1844

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR CYCLE A

26TH JANUARY 2014



In the Gospel Jesus says to his disciples, "Follow me." Let us prepare ourselves to hear the Lord speaking to us today.

First Reading (Isaiah 8:23-9:3)

The prophet speaks of a light to enlighten the people

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 1:10-13. 17)

Paul appeals to his readers to be united in mind and heart—acting otherwise would rob the cross of Christ of its power.

Gospel (Matthew 4:12-23)

Jesus says to his first disciples, "Follow me" and immediately they follow him.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM The Lord is my light and my help.