

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Anniversaries:

Sarah Clark, Kathleen Flowers, Martin Kivineen, Lubica Moody, Alice Connell, Margaret Anning, Bryan Arkell, Joanna Furlong, Lily Causley, Barbara Cox, Letitia Featherstone, Clare Jones, Inge Prince, Mary Copping, Ernestine Grabowski, Mrs Taker, Angela Brincat, William Nolan.

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

Tutor

Tutoring for KS3, KS4 and KS5 by a recently graduated physics bachelor and former Davenant student. DBS checked. If you are interested call or text: 07533885808 Nicolas.

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

Retiring Collection

There will be a retiring collection for
Youth Sunday this weekend

St Thomas' - Alpha course Commences 9th January

Alpha is a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment. A leaflet is available at the back of Church.



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Parish Office: 020 8504 1686

Friary: 020 8504 1688

Email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org



Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org

Facebook: @STOCWoodford

Twitter: @STOCWoodford



Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (C) 23rd November 2025

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

As we gather together we rejoice that, in Jesus, we have a king who has done everything necessary for us to live in his kingdom. We are created, loved, cared for and watched over by a perfect king who is the good shepherd to his sheep.

First Reading 2 Samuel 5:1-3

David is anointed King over Israel. God tells him that he will be the shepherd of God's people.

Second Reading Colossians 1:12-20

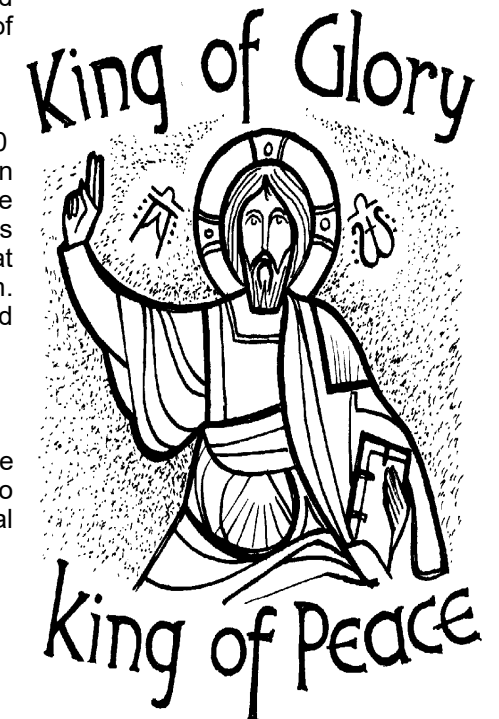
Paul writes that God, our Father in heaven, has enabled us to live in the kingdom of his son, Jesus. Paul proclaims that Jesus is God and that all created things exist because of him. He proclaims that they also are fulfilled in Jesus united in peace with God.

Gospel Luke 23:35-43

Jesus is crucified as the "King of the Jews". One of his final actions is to offer hope through saving the criminal crucified beside him.

Responsorial Psalm

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.



THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING.

This feast marks the end of the Church's year and is also Youth Sunday. Young people will speak to us at Mass today and will outline their activities for the coming year. Below you will find an extract from his message to young people.

Friends, therefore witnesses

Christian witness arises from friendship with the Lord, who was crucified and rose for the salvation of all. This witness is not to be confused with ideological propaganda, for it is an authentic principle of interior transformation and social awareness. Jesus chose to call his disciples "friends." He made known to them the Kingdom of God, asked them to remain with him, to become his community, and sent them to proclaim the Gospel (cf. *Jn* 15:15, 27). So when Jesus tells us, "Be witnesses," he is assuring us that he considers us as his friends. He alone fully knows who we are and why we are here; young people, he knows your heart, your indignation in the face of discrimination and injustice, your desire for truth and beauty, for joy and peace. Through his friendship, he listens to you, motivates you, and guides you, calling each of you to a new life.

The gaze of Jesus, who always wants nothing but our good, precedes us (cf. *Mk* 10:21). He does not want us to be servants, nor "activists" of a political party; he calls us to be with him as friends, so that our lives may be renewed. And witness arises spontaneously from the joyful newness of this friendship. It is a unique friendship that grants us communion with God, a faithful friendship that helps us discover our dignity and that of others, an eternal friendship that not even death can destroy, because the risen and crucified Lord is its source. Let us consider the message the Apostle John gives us at the end of the fourth Gospel: "This is the disciple who is bearing witness to these things, and who has written these things; and we know that his testimony is true" (*Jn* 21:24).

The entire preceding account is summarized as a "testimony," full of gratitude and wonder, from a disciple who never reveals his name, but calls himself "the disciple whom Jesus loved." This title reflects a relationship: it is not the name of an individual, but the testimony of a personal bond with Christ. That is what really matters to John: being a disciple of the Lord and feeling loved by him. We understand, then, that Christian witness is the fruit of a relationship of faith and love with Jesus, in whom we find the salvation of our lives. What the Apostle John writes also refers to you, dear young people. You are invited by Christ to follow him and sit beside him, to listen to his heart and share closely in his life! Each one of you is a "beloved disciple" for him, and from this love comes the joy of witness.

Another courageous witness to the Gospel is the Precursor of Jesus, John the Baptist, who came "to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him" (*Jn* 1:7). Although he enjoyed great fame among the people, he knew well that he was only a "voice" pointing to the Savior when he exclaimed, "Behold, the Lamb of God" (*Jn* 1:36). His example reminds us that true witnesses do not seek to occupy the center stage, nor to bind their followers to themselves. True witnesses are humble and inwardly free, above all from themselves, that is, from the pretense of being the center of attention. Therefore, they are free to listen, to understand, and also to speak the truth to everyone, even in the presence of those who are powerful. From John the Baptist, we learn that Christian witness is neither a proclamation of ourselves nor a celebration of our spiritual, intellectual or moral abilities. True witness is recognizing and pointing to Jesus when he appears, as he is the only one who saves us. John recognized him among sinners, immersed in common humanity. To that end, Pope Francis insisted so often that if we do not go beyond ourselves and our comfort zones, if we do not go to the poor and those who feel excluded from the Kingdom of God, we cannot encounter Christ and bear witness to him. We lose the sweet joy of being evangelized and of evangelizing.

Dear friends, I invite each of you to continue to individuate Jesus' friends and witnesses in the Bible. As you read the Gospel, you will find that they all discovered the true meaning of life through their living relationship with Christ. Indeed, our deepest questions are not heard or answered by endlessly scrolling on our cell phones, which captures our attention but leaves us with tired minds and empty hearts. This search will not take us far if we keep it closed within ourselves or in narrow confinements. The fulfilment of our authentic desires always comes through going beyond ourselves.

Mass Intentions

Sunday 23rd November

8.30 Marco Casali
10 Sally & Norman Picton anniversary
11.30 Maria Grant birthday

Monday 24th November

Mike & Michall Lobo RIP
Mary Passa birthday
Joan Keane

Tuesday 25th November

Angela Lloyd anniversary
The Yootarajah family
Donald Raecke anniversary
Funeral 12 noon Jean Claude Le Bon

Wednesday 26th November

Iona Constatin
Mary McKay
Doreen & Stuart Ritchie RIP

Thursday 27th November

Laura Cannon & Rory Maguire
Charlie Lynn RIP

Funeral 12 noon Trevor Barnham

Friday 28th November

Alice & Marshall De Souza anniversary
Ann Dawkins RIP
Delia Martin 100 years old

Saturday 29th November

10 Relatives & friends of Murphy and Costello families RIP
6 In memory Angela Brincat RIP

Sunday 30th November

8.30 Dorothy Hetherington anniversary
10 Cathy Mair RIP
11.30 Fr Austin McCormack RIP

Church Cleaning Saturday 29th November at 10.30am

Rhiannon Blackwell, Bernie Siggins & Kathleen Mahoney

Changes to the Parish Office

On 24th November we welcome Suzanne (Suzie) Wright as our new Parish Office & Site Manager.

Refreshments after 10am mass, Wednesday 26th November

As a Fairtrade certified parish, St Thomas uses and promotes Fairtrade products. Come and join us upstairs in the William Scott room after 10am mass and help us celebrate over 30 years of the Fairtrade mark in the UK with a cup of Fairtrade tea or filter coffee, incl decaf. There will also be Christmas cards for sale from CAFOD and BCCS.

Advent Ecumenical Service 7th December at 4.30pm

Do come along and enjoy this service of music and readings at St. Thomas's. It's a truly ecumenical occasion, with our own choir and the choirs of All Saints and St. Mary's, South Woodford, combining to help us prepare for the great feast of Christ's coming.

Christmas Fayre

Donations of costume jewelry and home made cakes for the brownie stall sought. Also items for the for home produce stall such as cakes, jam, breads would be appreciated.

Please bring on the day to Trinity Schools