

LATELY DECEASED

Alvira Giovann De-Paul, Mary King,
Karen Maureen Harwood, Mario Inzani

ANNIVERSARIES:

Robert Barrett, Maria Ferrillo, Leonard Harris, Sister Rufina Nealon, Michael Power, Agnes Ramsden, Kathleen McVeigh, Elizabeth Perks, Thomas Crusz, Marie Pillay, John Bermingham, Mary Todd, John Burgess, Hannah Hayday, Luciano Pesci, Derek Pyner, Anthony Caprice, Suzanna Intze, Christina Kerr, James McDonnell, Joseph Fernandes, Anthony Grant

Woodford Musical Circle Concert,

Saturday 26 September, 7.30pm—9.30pm.
Chingford URC, 2b Buxton Road, Chingford
E4 7DP, Entrance: £5 cash inc refreshments

Beavers

Should you wish your child to join Beavers, you need to ensure that you have put their name on the waiting list. Beavers start at 6 years old and then move on to Cubs when they are 8. They meet on a Monday night for 1 hour from 6.15pm at the Scout hut alongside the Becket Centre. An application form can be obtained by emailing the beaver leader paulineelkin616@gmail.com

****CHRISTMAS FAYRE**** (provisionally)
Saturday 28th November IF this is to go ahead, we really need more helpers. There are a wide range of jobs to do, both on the day and beforehand. If you might be able to assist, do contact the Parish Office in the next few days.



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 10.30am - 11am & 5.15pm - 5.45 pm

BAPTISMS

1st and 3rd Sundays
of the month

BAPTISM COURSE DATES

23rd and 30th September.
Parents are required to attend both dates to complete the course. To register please visit the parish website and complete the baptism course application form.

Second Collection
Catholic Education Service
Raised just over £340.

Second Collection
Evangelii Gaudium Day
There will be a second collection on Sunday,
20th September after mass

St Margaret's Canning Town

The parish of St Margaret's Canning Town, wish to invite any former parishioners to the 150th Anniversary Mass to be celebrated in the grounds of St Helens School, Falcon Street, E13 entrance, on Saturday 26th September mass begins at 12 noon. Seating is limited so if you would like to sit we would advise bring a chair.

OPEN EVENING

Holy Family Catholic School & 6th Form
Wednesday, 30th September at 6.00pm



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



TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

SUNDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER 2026

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

In today's Gospel parable of the workers in the vineyard, we hear the Good News that God's justice is concerned above all with mercy and compassion. God does not treat us according to what we deserve, but according to our need – and we all share the same desperate need for his love and forgiveness in our life.

First Reading Isaiah 55:6-9

Isaiah calls us to repentance, emphasising that God's thoughts and ways are so far above our human ways, especially in God's generous capacity to forgive.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 145 (144)

The Lord is close to all who call him.

Second Reading Philippians 1:20-24, 27

Paul wishes to magnify Christ, stating, 'For me life is Christ, and to die is gain,' while emphasising the need for continued, faithful service.

Gospel Matthew 20:1-16

The parable of the landowner highlights God's grace and generosity, challenging our notions of what is fair and proper.



GOD WANTS TO BE GENEROUS TO ALL COMERS

Today's page from the Gospel (see Mt 20:1-16) recounts the parable of the workers called to put in a day's work by the owner of the vineyard. Through this narrative, Jesus shows us the surprising way God acts, represented by two of the owner's attitudes: the call and the reward. First of all, the call. Five times the owner of the vineyard goes out and calls [people] to work for him: at six, at nine, at twelve, at three and at five in the afternoon. The image of this owner, who goes out numerous times to look for day labourers for his vineyard, is touching. That owner represents God who calls everyone and calls always, at any hour. Even today, God acts this way: He continues to call anyone, at whatever hour, to invite them to work in His Kingdom. This is God's style, which in our turn we are called to receive and to imitate. He does not stay shut in within His world, but "goes out": God always goes out, in search of us; He is not closed up – God goes out. He continually seeks out people, because He does not want anyone to be excluded from His loving plan. Our communities are also called to go out to the various types of "boundaries" that there might be, to offer everyone the word of salvation that Jesus came to bring. It means being open to horizons in life that offer hope to those stationed on the existential peripheries, who have not yet experienced, or have lost, the strength and the light that comes with meeting Christ. The Church needs to be like God: always going out; and when the Church does not go out, it becomes sick with the many evils we have in the Church. And why are these illnesses in the Church? Because she does not go out. It is true that when someone goes out there is the danger of getting into an accident. But it is better a Church that gets into accidents because it goes out to proclaim the Gospel, than a Church that is sick because it stays in. God always goes out because He is a Father, because He loves. The Church must do the same: always going out. The owner's second attitude, representing God's, is his way of compensating the workers. How does God pay? The owner agrees to "one denarius" (v. 2) with the first workers he hired in the morning. Instead, to those he hired later, he says: "Whatever is right I will give you" (v. 4). At the end of the day, the owner of the vineyard orders that everyone be given the same pay, that is, one denarius. Those who had worked since morning are outraged and complain against the owner, but he insists

he wants to give the maximum pay to everyone, even to those who arrived last (vv. 8-15). God always pays the maximum amount: He does not pay halfway. He pays everything. In this way, it is understood that Jesus is not speaking about work and just wages – that is another problem – but about the Kingdom of God and the goodness of the heavenly Father who goes out continually to invite, and He pays everyone the maximum amount. In fact, God behaves like this: He does not look at the time and at the results, but at the availability, He looks at the generosity with which we put ourselves at His service. His way of acting is more than just, in the sense that it goes beyond justice and is manifested in Grace. Everything is Grace. Our salvation is Grace. Our holiness is Grace. Giving us Grace, He bestows on us more than what we merit. And so, those who reason using human logic, that is, the logic of the merits acquired through one's own greatness, from being first, find themselves last. "But, I have worked a lot, I have done so much in the Church, I have helped a lot and they pay me the same as this person who arrived last...". Let's remember who was the first canonized saint in the Church: the Good Thief. He "stole" Paradise at the last minute of his life: this is Grace. This is what God is like, even with us. Instead, those who seek thinking of their own merits, fail; those who humbly entrust themselves to the Father's mercy, from being last – like the Good Thief – find themselves first (see v. 16). May Mary Most Holy help us to feel every day the joy and wonder of being called by God to work for Him, in His field which is the world, in His vineyard which is the Church. And to have as our only recompense His love, friendship with Jesus.

'The Priests' return to the Brentwood Diocese!

BCCS invite you to a weekend of musical celebration. Choose from a Gala Dinner or Charity Luncheon, both held at a stunning Grade II listed Georgian manor house. 9th-10th October at The Lawn, Rochford - for full details and to purchase tickets, please visit www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events-campaigns/, www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events-campaigns/ or contact Julie Abbott 07912277413 / jabbott@bccs.org.uk



Mass Intentions 20th - 27th September

Sunday 20th September

8.30am - Deceased of Fitzpatrick & Burke families

10am - Gabriel Amodio RIP

11.30am - Rosa Fitzpatrick RIP

Chigwell - Rita Dourado birthday

Monday 21st September

Elizabeth & Michael Bergin anniversary

Frank & Johanna Costello wed anniversary

Mary Buckley RIP

Tuesday 22nd September

Funeral 10am - Gabriel Amodio

Antony Grant RIP

Wednesday 23rd September

Bridie Linnane RIP

Leon Menzies

Rosa Fitzpatrick RIP

Thursday 24th September

Mary Sheehan anniversary

Chigwell - Sr Bridget McCourt RIP

Friday 25th September

Canisius R Mariampillai RIP

John Norden

Saturday 26th September

10am - Maureen Thomas RIP

6pm - Joseph Motha anniversary

Sunday 27th September

8.30am - Maria & Jan Gaweł RIP

10am - Marysia Golascewska anniversary

11.30am - Bridie Linnane RIP

Chigwell - Michael Kilkenny

Church Cleaning

Thursday 24th September at 09.00am

Sue Mansbridge, Jackie John, Mary Charter,
Srimathie Cruz, Margaret Parkinson,
Chelsea Chaplin

**** Certificates of Practice ****

Trinity School Applications 2026

Father Michael Copps will be available to sign **certificate of practice** on the following dates and times:

29th September : 3.30pm to 5.00pm

7.00pm to 8.00pm

30th September : 3.30pm to 5.00pm

1st October : 3.30pm to 5pm

No need to book, just come along. There will be more dates offered in October if needed.

Davenant School Applications

If you are applying to Davenant please provide a photo with details on the back of your family name & mass attendance that you have entered on your application to Davenant

FEAST OF ST FRANCIS

This year, the Feast of St Francis occurs on a Sunday. In our church the Mass is of the Feast not of the Sunday. We will have a little program of celebration starting on Friday, 2nd October. At 7.30pm., there will be a Holy Hour in the small chapel consisting of a short talk on Franciscan Spirituality followed by a Q&A session. We will meditate on what we have learnt and have additional readings from the Life of Francis to keep our minds working. On Saturday 3rd October we will celebrate the Transitus, or Passing of Francis. The Transitus is a traditional Franciscan ceremony. The Sunday will be the Feast of St Francis: his passing into the glory of heaven.

VACANCY

The Ursuline Academy Ilford is looking to recruit a **Subject Lead: Economics & Business Studies** **From: 1 January 2027**
Closing Date: Monday 28th September 2026
Noon. Please see website for further details www.uai.org.uk/joining-us/come-work-at-uai