

ANNIVERSARIES:

Bernadine Deberry, Gabriela Demeterova, Leonard Archer, Patricia Coffey, Patrick Gilligan, Frederick Talbot, Giovanna Clifford, Guy Gois, Bernadette Mace, John Morrill, Phyllis Friend, Brian Howes, Michael Ryan, Alice Day, Mark Fletcher, Angelo Francescotti, Angela Francescotti, Arthur Morris, Merry Zeppa, Patricia Connolly, Fr John Berchmans Dockery, Sister O'Conner, Marion Page, Ruth Vaz, Suzanna Intze-Trak

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 need more helpers! There are a wide range of jobs to do, both on the day and beforehand. If you can help, please contact the Parish Office by **Friday, 4th October**

Friends in Faith Wellbeing Course, on Fridays at 7.30pm. 25th September, 9th, 23rd October, 6th, 20th November, 4th, 18th December in the Henrietta Suite. All welcome!



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

Second Collection Evangelii Gaudium Day

Last week's second collection raised **£477.00**
Thank you to everyone for their kind generosity.

***Second Collection 3rd & 4th October ***
CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeal this Harvest
Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours experiencing shortages of food and safe water. Your gift can support children to stay in school by helping communities and schools provide nourishing meals, improve access to water and grow food in school gardens. CAFOD envelopes will be at the back of the church **next** weekend, or you can donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call [0303 303 3030](tel:03033033030).

**** FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT **** **21 September - 4 October 2026**

Choosing Fairtrade products helps farmers earn decent living, send children to school, empower women in business and help protect the planet. Just look for the FAIRTRADE mark.



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](https://www.facebook.com/STOCWoodford)

Twitter: [@STOCWoodford](https://twitter.com/STOCWoodford)



TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

SUNDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER 2026

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

God doesn't condemn us for doing the wrong thing. Instead, God offers us a second chance and lovingly waits for us to turn back to him.

First Reading Ezekiel 18:25-28

When a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life.

Responsorial Psalm

Remember your compassion, O LORD

Second Reading Philippians 2:1-11

Jesus, being found in human form, humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Gospel Matthew 21:28-32

A repentant sinner who turns to God is more pleasing to him than a hypocrite who only pretends to be righteous.



POPE BENEDICT'S REFLECTION ON THE TWO SONS PARABLE

In the Gospel, Jesus recounts the parable of the two sons invited by their father to work in the vineyard. The first son responded: "I will not go", but afterward he repented and went." The other son said to the father: "I go, sir," but did not go." When asked by Jesus which of the two sons did the father's will, those listening rightly respond: "the first" (Mt 21:29-31). The message of the parable is clear: it is not words that matter, but deeds, deeds of conversion and faith. As we heard, Jesus directs this message to the chief priests and elders of the people of Israel, that is, to the religious experts of his people. At first they say "yes" to God's will, but their piety becomes routine and God no longer matters to them. For this reason they find the message of John the Baptist and the message of Jesus disturbing. The Lord concludes his parable with harsh words: "Truly, the tax collectors and the harlots go into the Kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the harlots believed him, and even when you saw it, you did not afterward repent and believe him" (Mt 21:32). Translated into the language of the present day, this statement might sound something like this: agnostics, who are constantly exercised by the question of God, those who long for a pure heart but suffer on account of their sin, are closer to the Kingdom of God than believers whose life of faith is "routine" and who regard the Church merely as an institution, without letting it touch their hearts, or letting the faith touch their hearts. These words should make all of us stop and reflect, in fact they should disturb us. However, this is by no means to suggest that everyone who lives in the Church and works for her should be considered far from Jesus and the Kingdom of God. Absolutely not! On the contrary, this is a time to offer a word of profound gratitude to the many co-workers, employees and volunteers, without whom life in the parishes and in the entire Church would be hard to imagine... In the first place, such service requires objective and professional Poexpertise. But in the spirit of Jesus' teaching something more is needed – an open heart that allows itself to be touched by the love of Christ, and thus gives to our neighbour, who needs us, something more than a technical service: it gives love, in which the other person is able to see Christ, the loving God.

So let us ask ourselves, in the light of today's Gospel, how is my personal relationship with God: in prayer, in participation at Sunday Mass, in exploring my faith through meditation on sacred Scripture and study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church? Dear friends, in the last analysis, the renewal of the Church will only come about through openness to conversion and through renewed faith.

**** 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 have texts for readers that should be picked up from the sacristy today. We will have a little program of celebration starting on **Friday, 2nd October at 7.30 pm**, 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 then meditate on what we have learnt and have additional readings from the Life of Francis to keep our minds working. On **Saturday 3rd October at 4.30pm—5.30pm**, we will celebrate the Transitus, or Passing of Francis. The Transitus is a traditional Franciscan ceremony remembering the death of Francis. The Sunday will be the Feast of St Francis: his passing into the glory of heaven.

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

**** The Call To Be Human ****

Four talks given by Fr Martin Boland at Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead on Wednesday: 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th October. Admission is free—for further details please visit www.ourladyoflourdeswanstead.com



Mass Intentions

27th September to 4th October

Sunday 27th September

8.30am - Maria & Jan Gawel RIP
10am - Marysia Golascewska anniversary
11.30am - Bridie Linnane RIP
Chigwell - Mary Kilkenny

Monday 28th September

Nora Griffin RIP
Rosa Fitzpatrick RIP

Tuesday 29th September

Mr Deevey RIP
Helen Nation RIP

Wednesday 30th September

Lazar Miranda RIP
Bridie Linnane RIP
Mrs Sandra Rowell RIP

Thursday 1st October

Teddy Rosario anniversary
Meyler family

Friday 2nd October

Ona-Magliona Kabisailine for peace
R Mathew thanksgiving

Saturday 3rd October

10am - Ruth Vaz anniversary
6pm - Jessie McKay intention

Sunday 4th October

8.30am - Mina Antonioni
10am - Kathleen Ruddy RIP
11.30am - Gabriel Amodio RIP
Chigwell - Michael Kilkenny

Church Cleaning

Saturday, 3rd October at 10.30am
Kathleen Mahoney, Bernie Siggins,
Riannon Blackwell

**** 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 5.00pm

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

Davenant Foundation School Applications

If you are applying to Davenant Foundation school please provide a photo with details on the back with your family name & regular mass you attend and have entered on your application. This can also be sent to the Parish office at Parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org

**** OPEN EVENING ****

TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Thursday, 8th October 5.00pm—8.00pm.

Trinity Catholic High School invites Year 5 and Year 6 families to their open evening. Visitors are welcome to tour the school, meet staff and students and find out more about life at Trinity. All are welcome!

The Ursuline Academy Ilford is looking to recruit a **School Administrator From:** ASAP
Closing Date: Friday 2nd October 2026
Noon Please see website for further details
www.uai.org.uk/joining-us/come-work-at-uai

Jesuit Refugee Service UK

The **World Day of Migrants and Refugees** is on Sunday 27th September inviting us to pray for and accompany people who have been forced to leave their homes in search of safety, dignity and hope.