

Austin, ofm

Thank you so much for the tremendous co-operation for the Holy Week ceremonies. Every area of need was visited by generous volunteers. I am sorry we could not comfortably accommodate the huge numbers attending the 10am and 11.30am Masses on Easter Day (over 900 recorded at each Mass).

No. NO! Thomas' heart could not accept it. He wanted it too much. He could not bear to believe it. Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.

This is exactly in character for Thomas. These tough words are really a protection for a heart that would break in two if it were taken in by another false hope. "The only way I would believe such nonsense is if you give me absolute proof." Jesus gave it. Thomas had always belonged to Jesus. Yes he was cynical, but when he got the practical proof he needed, he sank to the ground in heart-moving surrender. "My Lord and my God."

CURIOUS ABOUT THE FRANCISCAN WAY OF LIFE?

Feel called to the Religious Life?

Find out more by joining us for a Come and See weekend here at our Friary in Woodford. The weekend begins 6.00pm on Friday 9th May and finishes after lunch on Sunday, 11th May. Contact Br. Antony Jukes O.F.M. at vocations@friar.org.

There are bookmarks with a quote and image of Pope Francis available from the back of the church. Also booklets for Praying for Vocations.

CHURCH CLEANING

Thursday 9am 1st May Cathie Fitch, Michael & Rose Doherty, Rosanna Baker, Leah Bettis Sheila French.

IN TOUCH

Issue 2, the summer issue for 2014 of the parish magazine, is due out at the end of June. Please submit articles, letters and reports on parish events by Friday, 6th June at the latest. If articles and letters particularly, are submitted in hard copy please see that the address as well as the name or at least a 'phone number of the author is provided. Would David Emerson please provide the editor with his contact details?

TELCO EVENTS

There are two forthcoming TELCO events which you are invited to:-

The Annual Mass in Honour of Migrants;

Monday Bank Holiday, 5th May 10.30am to 12noon Westminster Cathedral, Victoria Street.

This Mass honours the key role that migrants play in the economy and civil society of London and is celebrated as the "Mass of the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker". It is organised by the Justice and Peace Groups of the Dioceses of Westminster, Southwark and Brentwood. Since its inception in 2005 this annual Mass has been extremely well attended by parishioners of St. Thomas'.

One of the highlights of these Masses has been the amazing procession of banners, drummers, traditions and children which starts the celebration. The theme for this year's Mass is "The role that migrants play in supporting the UK's Social Care programme". If you can, please join us at this joyful and unique Mass.

Redbridge Local Election Assembly

To be held at The Salvation Army in Clements Road on May 6th at 7pm. More details to follow next week.

There are five Telco member institutions in Redbridge and over the last twelve months we have been working on establishing priority issues of shared concern for the forthcoming local elections. The issues identified are: housing, living wage, local safety on the streets, and social care. These issues will be given to the leaders of the main political parties in advance of the assembly and on the 6th May the politicians will be given the opportunity to tell us how they are going to address them. If you are interested in local politics and or any of the issues, please come along to a lively and interesting debate. For more details see the notice at the back of the church.

FLORISTRY SKILLS?

We are looking for people with floristry or flower arranging skills to join a rota for church flowers. If you would like to become involved in this ministry please contact the parish office. To date we have had only one enquiry. Due to lack of cover there may be weekends when there will be no pedestal arrangement i.e. 10th May & 17th May.

BCCS CHARITY GOLF DAY

Monday, 23rd June 2014

At the Rayleigh Club, Hullbridge. Tickets are £45 per person and include Bacon rolls, tea/coffee on arrival, 18 hole Stableford Competition, Golfers' lunch. Places are limited to 80 players so please book early in order to avoid disappointment. Contact Julie Abbott 01268 784544/07912277413 jabbot@bccs.org.uk.

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER

St. Vincent's Catholic Primary School, Dagenham for September. Contact 020 8270 6695. Closing date 8th May. Visits are warmly welcomed.

CWL

Wednesday, 7th May at 8pm in the William Scott Room.

MOTHERS PRAYER GROUP

After the 10.00am Mass on Tuesday, 7th May in the Francis Room.

CHIGWELL CONVENT

Companions in Prayer. Next meeting is on Monday, 12th May at 2pm. All welcome.

WELCOME

We welcome into the parish community Patrick Thomas Noonan and Elizabeth Rose Bergh who were baptised on Easter Sunday in St. Thomas'.

"CARDS ON THE TABLE"

Dragon Theatre Company (formerly St. Cedd's Players) proudly present Agatha Christie's "Cards on the Table". A hand of cards becomes a game of murder in this intriguing mystery from one of the world's foremost crime writers. Tickets £7, £5 concessions. Box Office 07960676180. At St. George's Church Hall, Woodford Avenue, Gants Hill on 3rd, 9th and 10th May.



NEW TO THE PARISH?

If you are new to the parish please register with the parish office. If you have moved within the parish please let us know so that we can keep our records up to date. Grateful thanks.

VACANCY

Headteacher St. Pius X Primary School, Chelmsford required a.s.a.p. Further details contact 01276 674149 or vthorpe@eteach.com

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick:- Phil Archer, Ellen Armstrong, Mary Barnes, Moira Bisset, Teresa Bonaventure, Irene Bradbury, Angela & Kerry Bromfield, Janet Canty, Donald Dourado, Bernie Doyle, Mary Duffy, Michael Durcan, Harold Elston, Alan Farmer, Ray Finney, Fr. Jim Fitzpatrick, Philomena Freeman, Irene & Carter de Freitas, Nora Gaiger, Martin Garnar, Ollie Gaynor, Judy & John Gilmartin, Kathleen Gissane, Michael Glynn, Joan Green, Pat Greene, Lyndsy Greck, Doris Harriss, Christine Hewstone, Maureen Howlin, Desmond Kavanagh, Sophie Jordan, Phyllis & Geraldine Kelly, Fr. Austin Kinsella O.F.M., Claire Lauren, Nora Lucey, Patrick McGurk, Mary McKay, Gloria McQueen, Roger Machin, Hannah Martin, Paul Mason, Sadie Meade, Jutta Menzies, Kay Meyler, Jean Morgan. Trisha Morgan-Smith, Maureen Moss, Miriam Mullally, Maureen Noden, Betty Norton, Anthony O'Boyle, Mary O'Boyle, Joanne O'Boyle, Fr. Con O'Connell O.F.M., Paul O'Donnell, Mick O'Hara, Una O'Mally, Janet Pinfold, Anneli Prowse, Ram Ramsey, Jacky Rott, Debbie Smythe, Karen Spencer, Carmel Sweeney, Mary Sullivan, Lan Anh Ta, Christine Thurston, Teresa Warnock, Terry Wauer, Monica Worsfold.

And for all the sick and housebound of the parish

Lately Dead. Mrs Casey, Ray Stokes.

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.

FIRE HAZARD

Please do not put candles anywhere else other than the candle holders. If St. Anthony's candle holder is full there is a box for you to put the candles in. They will be lit for you when there is room. Only use the candles provided for sale. Grateful thanks.

NO JUMBLE PLEASE

We ask parishioners not to leave jumble on the Friary doorstep or church porch. We do not have storage for these things. It will be advertised in the newsletter when we need jumble to be left—**PLEASE PLEASE** do not leave sacks at any other time. We would be grateful for your co-operation with this matter.

VOCATIONS WEEKEND FOR WOMEN

23rd—25th May Broadstairs, Kent.

The weekend is organised by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) There will be input from the FCJ sisters on different aspects of vowed life, and time for prayer, reflection and discussion with other young women who are also considering a vocation to religious life. It's an opportunity to live community life for a weekend and meet some sisters!

Contact Sr. Lynne FCJ at lynnefcj@hotmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org

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



St Thomas of Canterbury

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

Served by the Franciscans



A FAIRTRADE PARISH

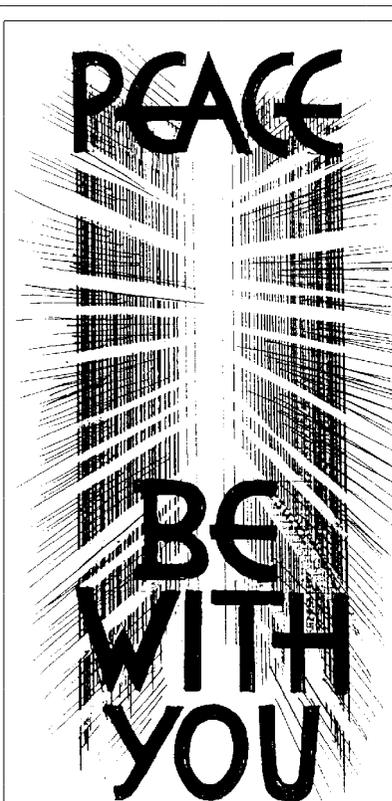
Tel: 020 8504 1686 Fax: 020 8504 1844



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

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER CYCLE A

27TH APRIL 2014



We gather—just as the very first group of Christians—to meet the risen Christ in his word, in his sacrament and in his community. Aware of the Lord's presence in our midst, let us raise our voices in praise of the God of life.

First Reading

(Acts 2:42-47)

The first Christian community continues to grow, united in mind and heart.

Second Reading

(1 Peter 1:3-9)

The resurrection of Jesus fills us with a joy that is indescribable.

Gospel

(John 20:19-31)

The risen Lord appears to the apostles and gives them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good
For his love has no end.