



ANNIVERSARIES:

Dennis Curran, Josseline Heal, Margaret(Greta) O'Donnell, Christopher Bell, Carol Bullman, Catherine Dunbar, Thomas Keating, Stanisoaus Bell, Sandra Dimmock, Giuseppina Verney, Patricia Boutall, Antoinette Cox, Eileen Hodgkinson, James Leahy, James Quill, Maureen Regan, Maria Gouveia, James Sullivan, Terrance Voisey, Dorothy Craft, Jhassan El'Haddad, Terrence Hill, Louis MacPherson, Peter Murphy, Lydia Pittard; Dr Cajetan Emeka Ume

Ingatestone Hall

BCCS invites you to join them on an exclusive, personal tour of Ingatestone Hall, conducted by the Petre family on **Thursday 3rd September, 11:00-15:30**. Entry is £25 per person - book online today: www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events-campaigns/ Please note, due to the age of the building, there is no disabled access to the upper floor, and some of the lower floor and grounds are uneven and thus not suitable for those who have mobility issues.

BCCS Gala Dinner & Summer Luncheon

Fr. Eugene O'Hagan and Fr. Martin O'Hagan invite you to join them at a one-off charity weekend, hosted by and in support of the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. 9th-10th October at The Lawn, Rochford. For full details and to purchase tickets, please visit www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events-campaigns/ or contact Julie Abbott 07912 277 413

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

Baptism Course Dates

The next baptism course will run in September. There will be **NO** baptism course in August

Baptism Congratulations

To the following children who were baptized at St Thomas in **July**: Jesse Paul Bramley; Birdie Rose Heaney; Cecilia Louise Davis; Jasper Paul O'Doherty; Winnie Ellen Lewis; Lily-Louise Elizabeth Spencer,

Parish Council Meeting

Will take place on Monday, 10th August at 7.30pm

Scared Heart of Jesus and Mary

Next meeting will take place on 10th August at Chigwell convent at 2pm

SVP Summer Raffle tickets on sale - 1st prize £5000!

Members of the SVP will be selling raffle tickets after all masses weekend of 5th & 6th September. SVP members, staff & volunteers provide friendship, practical help and daily support to people in need in the community. Every ticket we sell makes a difference supporting SVP's work locally & nationwide.



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

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Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org

Facebook: @STOCWoodford

Twitter: @STOCWoodford



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

SUNDAY 2ND AUGUST 2026

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

Today's Gospel offers us the classic story of Jesus feeding the five thousand. We come to celebrate the Eucharist together that we too may be fed on the bread of life.

First Reading ISAIAH 55:1-3

The Lord provides nourishment for all who turn to him.

Responsorial Psalm: PSALM

145 (144)

You open your hand and fulfil us,
O Lord.

Second Reading ROMANS

8:35. 37-39

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel

They all ate and were satisfied.



This is the final newsletter to be published before the summer holidays. The next newsletter will be produced on Sunday 6th September 2026.

We wish you all a safe, restful summer holiday.

GOD CAN DO A LOT WITH A LITTLE

The Gospel of this Sunday's liturgy recounts the famous episode of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, with which Jesus feeds about five thousand people who came to hear him (cf. *Jn* 6:1-15). It is interesting to see how this miracle takes place: Jesus does not create the loaves and fishes from nothing, no, but rather He works with what the disciples bring him. One of them says: "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" (v. 9). It is little, it is nothing, but it is enough for Jesus.

Let us now try to put ourselves in the place of that boy. The disciples ask him to share everything he has to eat. It seems to be an unreasonable proposal, or rather, unjust. Why deprive a person, indeed a child, of what he has brought from home and has the right to keep for himself? Why take away from one person what is not enough to feed everyone anyway? In human terms, it is illogical. But not for God. On the contrary, thanks to that small freely-given and therefore heroic gift, Jesus is able to feed everyone. This is a great lesson for us. It tells us that the Lord can do a lot with the little that we put at His disposal. It would be good to ask ourselves every day: "What do I bring to Jesus today?". He can do a lot with one of our prayers, with a gesture of charity for others, even with one of our sufferings handed over to His mercy. Our small things to Jesus, and He works miracles. This is how God loves to act: He does great things, starting from those small things, those freely-given ones. All the great protagonists of the Bible - from Abraham, to Mary, to the boy today - show this logic of smallness and giving. The logic of smallness and giving. The logic of giving is so different from ours. We try to accumulate and increase what we have, but Jesus asks us to give, to diminish. We like to add, we like addition; Jesus likes subtraction, taking something away to give it to others. We want to multiply for ourselves; Jesus appreciates when we share with others. When we share, it is interesting that in the accounts of the multiplication of the loaves in the Gospels, the verb "multiply" never appears: no. On the contrary, the verbs used has the opposite meaning: "to break", "to give", "to distribute" (cf. v. 11; *Mt* 14:19; *Mk* 6:41; *Lk* 9:16). But the verb "to multiply" is not used. The true miracle, says Jesus, is not the multiplication that produces vanity and power, but the sharing that increases love

and allows God to perform wonders. Let us try to share more: let us try the way Jesus teaches us. Even today, the multiplication of goods cannot solve problems without fair sharing. The tragedy of hunger comes to mind, which affects the little ones in particular. It has been calculated officially that every day in the world around seven thousand children under the age of five die due to malnutrition, because they do not have what they need to live. Faced with scandals such as these, Jesus also addresses an invitation to us, an invitation similar to the one probably received by the boy in the Gospel, who has no name and in whom we can all see ourselves: "Be brave, give what little you have, your talents, your possessions, make them available to Jesus and to your brothers and sisters. Do not be afraid, nothing will be lost, because if you share, God will multiply. Banish the false modesty of feeling inadequate, trust yourself. Believe in love, believe in the power of service, believe in the strength of gratuitousness". May the Virgin Mary, who answered "yes" to God's unprecedented proposal, help us to open our hearts to the Lord's invitations and to the needs of others.

RESULTS OF THE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

Brothers George, Patrick and Michael Copps travelled to Dromantine Conference Centre in Co Down to join the other friars making up the Chapter. It was a very fraternal meeting with prayer and discussion about our future being the substance of our time together. The main business of the Chapter was to elect a new Provincial Minister, his vicar and four Definitors viz. Councillors. Brother David Collins is our new Provincial. This leadership team met after the Chapter and they have decided to leave the community here as it is. Given the vulnerable state of our community, they told us that there may be developments as the year progresses. Chapters, because of the meeting and energy created, always give a boost so we say 'yes' to the future and embrace the challenge.' We are now into what is a holiday period for many of us. So travel safely and enjoy the free time.
Father Michael Copps, OFM



Mass Intentions

**2nd August to
9th August**

Sunday 2nd August

8.30am - Lonsdale family
10am - Arif Khan
11.30am - Helen Lally RIP

Monday 3rd August

Mr Kevin Doherty
Frank White RIP

Tuesday 4th August

Michael & Rose O'Doherty - Diamond
wedding anniversary

Wednesday 5th August

Augustus Craig sick
Marion Rafferty

Thursday 6th August

Bacuetes family intentions

Friday 7th August

Nora Yellop
Akanki - Baptiste

Saturday 8th August

10am - Maureen Pestell sick
6pm - Meyler family

Sunday 9th August

8.30am - Andy Gray RIP
10am - David Wrighton
11.30am - Anna Louise



VOLUNTEER APPEAL

New organisers and volunteers are urgently required for this year's Christmas Fayre. We are also seeking parishioners to help on the Parish Council,

Becket Centre Committee, the Fabric Team, a new Liturgy committee and Spiritual Formation & Evangelisation team. Please contact the parish office for more information.

Church Cleaning

Thursday 6 August at 9am

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

Message from Father Brian:

I want to offer a heartfelt 'Thank you' for the beautiful celebration last weekend—both the Mass and the reception that followed.

At 100 years old, I've learned that gratitude is best expressed promptly...before you forget what you're being grateful *for*. Last weekend was a grace. The liturgy was prayerful, the music uplifting, and the reception - well! I'm deeply touched by your kindness, your presence, and your patience. You have carried me with your prayers, your friendship, and occasionally your gentle reminders of names I should remember. Thank you for the warmth, the laughter, and the love you showed. If Simeon and Anna taught us anything, it's that God's faithfulness unfolds over a lifetime—and you have been part of that faithfulness to me. Thank you for your marvellous cards, generous gifts, and reminiscences. **My heartfelt thanks to you all for the many cards, kind wishes, and the abundance of gifts I have received for my 100th Birthday.** Your generosity has touched me deeply and I am profoundly grateful for your prayers, your thoughtfulness, and the warmth of our parish family. Please be assured of my prayers for each one of you. I will celebrate Mass for you all—but please forgive me if I cannot give a personal reply to each of you.

Journey of Faith

On Wednesday 9th September the **Journey of Faith** will resume its sessions talking and listening. We are a mixture. Some baptised but have not done much about it, Christians of any denomination, those of other faiths and none. But all searching to find something better in life. It's a sharing of our different life-experiences looking at the Catholic Church where it is at the moment in a fast-changing world. Each Wednesday starts at 7pm for general chat and a cuppa. Then serious business at 7.30pm. A very good time to start and we look forward to newcomers especially as we start this new year.