

**PRAY FOR  
THE SICK**



**Anniversaries:**

Allen Charles, Ernesto Loiacono, Philip Parchment, Lynn Chaplin, Joseph Marie, Donald Copping, Hannah Waite, Elizabeth Bermingham, Mary Snares, Michael Butterworth, James Farrell, Patricia Kalinaukas, Winnie McLaughlin, Michael O'Neill, Veronica Boe, John Burnham, Francesco Faccini, Jocelyn Sonderskov, Ferruccio Pieropan, Lilia Armenia De Sa, Gerard Gillham.

**Retiring collection**

There will be a retiring collection next weekend for Lourdes sick & helpers pilgrimage fund.

**Mass Timetable**  
*The masses on Saturday evening and Sunday at St Thomas' are live streamed*

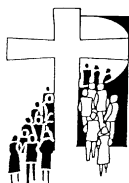
**SUNDAY MASSES**

1st Mass: 6pm Saturday;  
8.30am; 10am & 11.30am Sunday  
*(The 11.30am Mass is recorded)*

10am Chigwell Convent

**WEEKDAY MASSES**

10am St Thomas'  
9.30am Chigwell Convent except on  
Saturday's when mass takes place at  
10am



**Each Friday in Lent**  
we conduct the Way of the Cross at  
7.30pm

**CONFESSIONS**  
Saturdays 10.30 to 11am  
and  
5.15 to 5.45 pm

**BAPTISMS**  
1st and 3rd Sundays  
of the month



**ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY**  
Woodford Green  
A FAIRTRADE PARISH



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**Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)**  
**19th March 2023**

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

On Laetare Sunday we rejoice in the Lord and give thanks for the gift of Christ's resurrection from the dead, which gives us hope and confidence. In the UK, Ireland, and some other countries around the world, today is Mother's Day, and we thank God for mothers, living and dead, and ask the prayers of Our Lady, Mother of the Church, for them.

**First Reading** 1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

The spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day onwards.

**Second Reading** Ephesians 5:8-14

Walk in the light of the Lord and turn away from the darkness of sin.

**Gospel** John 9:1-41

Jesus gives the blind man new sight and the gift of faith.

**Responsorial Psalm**

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.



## Mothering Sunday

Today we salute all mothers. Rarely sufficiently appreciated, but they are the channels through which God builds fully developed persons to continue his work. Michael and I celebrate our jubilees today not wishing to dilute your day of recognition. But we both know how much our mothers are responsible for what we have achieved in our respective decades. And we thank God for them. And for you.

## Stations of the Cross

Halfway through Lent and both our schools lead us into the second half of Lent with their practice of this devotion. The Franciscans started it in Jerusalem, where its story happened. Now each Friday and more often the friars there lead a group starting from Pilate's HQ, then out onto the street still bearing the name *Via Dolorosa*, down into a dip and then up to where the city gate previously stood. I have carried the cross with such a group, and felt embarrassed and guilty. Ordinary life goes on, beggars, souvenir sellers and all as it had been on the original Good Friday. But these Jerusalem Stations are special. You feel the horror of Jesus, savagely whipped, coming out onto the road to shoulder the rough cross. The courage of Mary, Simon of Cyrene at first reluctant, Veronica, then the mothers with their children. They are Jesus' friends. The next lot are not with their brutal savagery of stripping naked, nailing, hoisting the cross. How can human beings be so vicious? And now? The Stations of Jesus' suffering is a wonderful exercise and I recommend it to help you deepen your sense of his love and compassion.



## Holy Week

We can return to the full celebration of Holy Week this year with covid restrictions largely lifted. In our world so full of suffering, cruelty, fear, menace this is a week which sets out the antidote to despair and gives us hope of love, joy and peace. If you take it seriously. There is the notice board at the back of the church asking you to fill the duties of the week. We, together, go through in symbol telling the story. On Palm Sunday the Hosannas and immediately Matthew's version of Jesus' passion. On Thursday evening we meet around the table of the Last Supper. It was a table of the Old Testament becoming suddenly the beginning of the New Testament. A gift of love, God giving himself totally holding nothing back. But the price of love has to be paid. Down we go into the garden for that tormented night of terror. "Could you not watch one hour with me? With dawn we follow the series of Friday's events. All is disaster. God is dead. Until Saturday night had fallen and the Resurrection. New Life. A new world. How we long for that. So come and share these liturgies with us so that you can deepen your experience of Easter, then and now

### Easter Triduum at St Thomas'

Readers, Ministers of Communion, Ushers & Sacristans: If you will be attending any of the services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday; please add your name to the lists located at the back of the church.

### Maundy Thursday Washing of the Feet

We are looking for up to 6 volunteers (male or female). If you would like to take part, please add your name to the list at the back of the church.



## Mass Intentions

### Sunday 19th March

8.30 Allen Charles anniversary  
10 Norman Picton recovery  
11.30 Jubilarians

Chigwell Governors & staff  
St John's School

### Monday 20th March

Sr Mary of the Holy Spirit RIP

No mass at Chigwell

### Tuesday 21st March

Phil Callanan anniversary

Chigwell Dominic Correia RIP

### Wednesday 22nd March

Gerard Gillham anniversary  
Matt John & Anne McLoughlin RIP

### Thursday 23rd March

Michael Butterworth anniversary  
John Burnham anniversary

### Friday 24th March

Ann & William Jennings RIP

11 Funeral Moira Bisset

### Saturday 25th March

10 Sandra & Christopher Lobo  
6 Liz Browne RIP

### Sunday 26th March

8.30 William Green RIP  
10 Jim Aungthin RIP  
11.30 Mary & Carl Knights intentions

## Church Cleaning

**Saturday 25th March at 10.30am**

Rosie O'Connor & Charmaine Turrell

## For Sale—Violin

Handmade Chinese Violin (The Mussima) 4/4 with bow and case. Originally purchased from J P Gulliver London in 2016. Contact Patricia 079891 80870.

## Lenten Lunches

Are taking place in the Becket Centre every Friday during Lent from 12.15 to 1.30 pm. Do come and join us for a choice of home-made soups, French bread and butter, with tea or coffee to follow, all for 5 pounds. The proceeds will go to Mary's Meals, feeding schoolchildren in Haiti. We hope to see you there.

## Parish Keep Fit Club

CWL are starting up this fun class again from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 8.15 – 9.15pm taught by Claudia, an experienced flexible teacher. £5 per class, payable on the night. Please bring a mat or towel and water. A great chance to get fit, have fun and socialize.

## 2023 Summer Fete Volunteers needed

The Parish Council is looking for Volunteers who would like to help organise and assist with this years summer fete which is taking place on 17th June. If you are interested or would like more information please contact the parish office in the first instance.