

### Anniversaries:

Jeanne Burke, John Fernandez, Peter Morgan, Sister Mary Heenan, Mr Mears, Michael Carroll, James Cunningham, Florence Mulroue, Maria Regresado, Joan Reynolds, Catherine King, Moby Lalani, Jutta Menzies, Suzanna Wright, David Archer, Felicitas DeCosta, Craig Lobo, Wynnifrid Musselwhite, Hilda Kavanagh, Sister Mary McKowan, Frederick Watts, Maria Graves, Sr. John Lynch, Ralph Steele.

**Parish Council**  
**Will next meet on Monday 8th December**

**Companions of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary**  
will next meet on **8th December** at 2.00pm at Chigwell Convent. All welcome

**Medjugorje Pilgrimages 11-18 May and 8-15 September 2026**

Please join us on Pilgrimage to Medjugorje next year. The total cost for the May pilgrimage is £770 and the September pilgrimage is £789. A £30 discount will be given to those who book and pay a £150 deposit before the end of January 2026. To book and for further information please phone Gail on 07989 879148 or email [gail.hewett@hotmail.com](mailto:gail.hewett@hotmail.com). Thank you.

### 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

### St Vincent De Paul Society

Are you in urgent need – financial or other? Call us on 07547 491067 and leave a message. We will call you back.

There will be a retiring collection this weekend for our SVP Group.

### St Thomas' - Alpha course Commences 9th January

Alpha is a series of group conversations that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith in an open, friendly environment.

**16th December 7.30**  
penitential service at St Thomas with the possibility for individual confession.



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



Parish Office: 020 8504 1686 Website: [www.stthomaswoodford.org](http://www.stthomaswoodford.org)  
Friary: 020 8504 1688 Facebook: @STOCWoodford  
Email: [parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org](mailto:parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org) Twitter: @STOCWoodford

### Second Sunday of Advent (A) 7th December 2025

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

We continue our preparation for the birth of Christ with the appearance of John the Baptist. This makes sense, as John is dedicated to preparing the way of the Lord. We too prepare that way.

### First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

The prophet describes both the gifts of the Messiah and the changes his reign will bring.

### Responsorial Psalm

In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.

### Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

We welcome each other as Christ has welcomed us.

### Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist calls us to help him prepare the way of the Lord.



## St Charles Borromeo gives us advice as to how to celebrate Advent. Remove All Obstacles to His Presence

"Beloved, now is the acceptable time spoken of by the Spirit, the day of salvation, peace and reconciliation: the great season of Advent. This is the time eagerly awaited by the patriarchs and prophets, the time that holy Simeon rejoiced at last to see.

This is the season that the Church has always celebrated with special solemnity. We too should always observe it with faith and love, offering praise and thanksgiving to the Father for the mercy and love he has shown us in this mystery. In his infinite love for us, though we were sinners, he sent his only Son to free us from the tyranny of Satan, to summon us to heaven, to welcome us into its innermost recesses, to show us truth itself, to train us in right conduct, to plant within us the seeds of virtue, to enrich us with the treasures of his grace and to make us children of God and heirs of eternal life.

Each year, as the Church recalls this mystery, she urges us to renew the memory of the great love God has shown us. This holy season teaches us that Christ's coming was not only for the benefit of his contemporaries; his power has still to be communicated to us all. We shall share his power, if, through holy faith and the sacraments, we willingly accept the grace Christ earned for us, and live by that grace and in obedience to Christ. The Church asks us to understand that Christ, who came once in the flesh, is prepared to come again. When we remove all obstacles to his presence he will come, at any hour and moment, to dwell spiritually in our hearts, bringing with him the riches of his grace.

In her concern for our salvation, our loving mother the Church uses this holy season to teach us through hymns, canticles and other forms of expression, of voice or ritual, used by the Holy Spirit. She shows us how grateful we should be for so great a blessing, and how to gain its benefit: our hearts should be as much prepared for the coming of Christ as if he were still to come into this world. The same lesson is given us for our imitation by the words and example of the holy men of the Old Testament."

### CHRISTMAS FAYRE

This event is one of the occasions that we see our parish at its best. There was such a friendly atmosphere and people were meeting old friends and making new ones. The stalls were loaded with good gifts for every age and a lot of you took a good number of items home. Thanks to all who worked over several weeks to prepare and I hope they had some fun as well as working. Thanks to the Young Vinnies for helping with the clear up Jo Ferrari after running the event for 9 years has decided that that is enough. She has organised an event that has been enjoyed by parishioners of all ages and she can be very proud of that. Well, done Jo. We also want to thank Simon, who after many years of organising the event will be stepping down. His dedication has been invaluable, and we truly couldn't have done it without him.

We would like to express our gratitude to Woodford Green, Heartfelt Funeral Directors, Seasons Bar, Belsit, Vinotap, Abi the caretaker and all the Trinity staff. A special thanks to Santa for joining us, to the parents from St Antony and Trinity, to our parishioners for their contributions and to everyone who helped make the wreath and hampers



## Mass Intentions

### Sunday 7th December

8.30 Ann Curran RIP  
10 Donald Raecke RIP  
11.30 Constance & Allen Edwards RIP

### Monday 8th December

Conversion of Archybrite M  
Denis Burns anniversary

### Tuesday 9th December

Agnes & Peter De Costa RIP  
Mick Heavey RIP

### Wednesday 10th December

C.W.L  
Trevor Barnham RIP  
Chigwell Felicitas De Costa RIP

### Thursday 11th December

Mrs E McGrath RIP  
Craig Lobo anniversary  
Chigwell Safe delivery of triplets

### Friday 12th December

Mrs Ann McShea  
Eoin Franey

### Saturday 13th December

10 Jutta Menzies Racionzer anniversary  
6 Angela Kirkland anniversary  
Chigwell Francis De Costa anniversary

### Sunday 14th December

8.30 Luciano & Rita Pesci RIP  
10 Stanislav RIP  
11.30 Bishop Thomas McMahon RIP  
Chigwell Monica Dias RIP

**Church Cleaning**  
**Friday 12th December at 9am**  
Claire Hobbs, Susanna Barnoin, Susan Juffs, Agatha Emohare, Nesther Muradzikwa & Michelle

## Advent Ecumenical service 7th December at 4.30pm

Do come along and enjoy this service of music and readings at St. Thomas on December 7th at 4.30pm. It's a truly ecumenical occasion, with our own choir and the choirs of All Saints and St. Mary's, South Woodford, combining to help us prepare for the great feast of Christ's coming

## Zapraszamy na polskie kolędownie!

Our Polish parish community is organising a Polish carols sing-along service on Saturday 13th December at 4pm, in the main Church. This 45 mins service, featuring some of the most loved traditional Polish carols and readings, will be followed by an opportunity to sample traditional Polish cakes and bakes and to meet members of the Community. Everyone is welcomed!

## Baptism Congratulations

To the following children who were baptised at St Thomas' during November  
Talia Kirby, Leo Patel, Athena Gorsuch & Blythe Pilgrim

## Movie night

Everyone is invited to the movie night in St Thomas of Canterbury church organised by Young Vinnies. The movie "The Star" will be from 4-6.30pm. Tickets £10 for a family and can be purchased from the parish office or by QR code on the poster in the church porch.