



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Lately dead:

- ◇ Monica Shrubbs
- ◇ Jane Iovino

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries:

Olivia (Eve) Begley, Madelaine Crafer, Laura Telford, Stanley Western, Sr Mary Keane, Sister Gemma Rafferty, Julian Roja-Figueiredo, 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, Bradley Persell, Lilia Armenia De Sa

Thank you

Massive Thank You for all the donations for St Francis night shelter. There was so much given we have left overs which is being provided to the homeless each day on the steps of St Francis parish when they provide lunch to the homeless.

The generosity was overwhelming and very much welcomed!

CAFOD

Thank you for the Church collections for Lent Family Fast Day you raised approximately £750.00

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

Parish Council

A Parish Council member will be at the back of church after services on 23 & 24 March to take your questions and comments - about absolutely anything, large or small. Answers to questions previously asked are on our parish website

Donations to the Church by Gift Aid envelopes

If you kindly donate to the Church by the use of Gift Aid envelopes please note that new envelopes for the next financial year are available for collection at the back of Church. Thank you for your continued support which enables us to increase your payment with HMRC.



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

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Friary: 020 8504 1688

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Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org

Facebook: @STOCWoodford

Twitter: @STOCWoodford



Served by the Franciscans

Fifth Sunday in Lent (B) 17th March 2024

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

Today is the Fifth Sunday of Lent. As we get closer to Holy Week our readings reflect the dark clouds which are gathering over Jesus and his concern about what will happen to him when he enters Jerusalem.

First reading Jeremiah 31:31-34

Jeremiah tells us of God's continuing patience with us even when we are most stubborn.

Second reading Hebrews 5:7-9

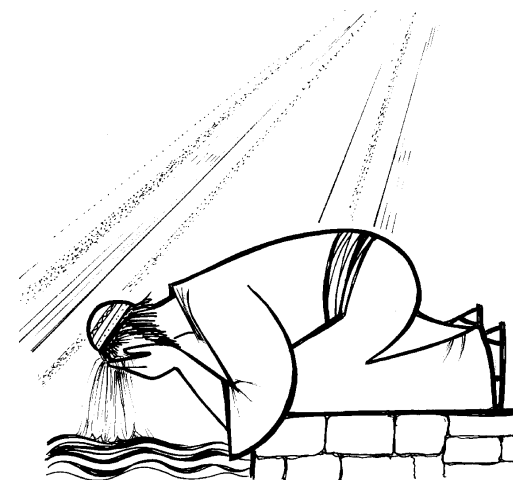
It is through Jesus' obedient suffering that we can be saved.

Gospel John 12:20-33

St John reveals to us Jesus' thoughts and apprehension about his coming suffering.

Responsorial Psalm

A pure heart create for me, O God



**Pope Francis speaks at a
Conference:
Vulnerability and Community,
between Welcome and Inclusion**

Jesus spent the majority of His public ministry, especially in Galilee, in contact with the poor and sick of every kind. This tells us that for us, vulnerability cannot be a “politically correct” theme, or a mere organisation of practices, however good they may be. I say this because the risk is there, it is always lurking, despite all good will. Especially in the largest and most structured bodies, but even in small ones, vulnerability can become a category, individual people without a face, service a “provision” and so on. So, we must remain firmly anchored in the Gospel, in Jesus, who did not teach His disciples how to plan aid to the sick and the poor. Jesus wanted to *form disciples in a style of life, staying in contact with the vulnerable*, in their midst.

The disciples saw how
He met people, they saw *how*

- ◇ *He welcomed:*
- ◇ *His closeness,*
- ◇ *His compassion,*
- ◇ *His tenderness.*

And after the Resurrection, the Holy Spirit imprinted this way of life in them. In this way, then, the Spirit again formed men and women who became saints, loving vulnerable people like Jesus did. Some are canonized and are models for all of us; but how many men and women have been sanctified in the welcome of the small, the poor, the fragile, the marginalized!

And it is important, in our communities, to share in simplicity and gratitude the stories of these hidden witnesses of the Gospel.

I would like to leave you a final insight.

In the Gospel, the poor, the vulnerable, are not objects: they are *subjects*, they are *protagonists together with Jesus in the proclamation of the Kingdom of God*. Let us think of Bartimaeus, the blind man of Jericho (cf. *Mk 10:46-52*). That account is emblematic; I invite you to reread it often, because it is very rich. By studying and meditating on this text, we see that Jesus finds in that man the faith He was looking for: only Jesus recognizes it in the midst of the crowd and the noise, He listens to his cry filled with faith. And that man, who for his faith in the Lord receives his sight again, sets out in motion, follows Jesus, and becomes His witness, so that his story has entered the Gospel. The vulnerable Bartimaeus, saved by the vulnerable Jesus, participates in the joy of being a witness to His Resurrection. I have mentioned this story, but there would be many others, with different types of vulnerability, not only physical. Think of the Magdalene: tormented by seven demons, she became the first witness of the Risen Jesus. In short, vulnerable people, encountered and welcomed with Christ's grace and with His style, can be a presence of the Gospel in the community of believers and in society.

*** Easter Triduum**

Many thanks to all who offered their services last week. We still need for the 8pm Vigil mass on Holy Saturday; a further 2 or 3 Ushers and 1 Sacristan.

*** Maundy Thursday – Washing of the Feet.**

So far only one person has put their name down, we still need another five people, male or female. If you would like to take part in this moving re-enactment of Our Lord's washing the feet of his disciples.

If you can help please add your name to the list at the back of the church



Mass Intentions

Sunday 17th March

8.30 Catherine & Jeremiah Fitzpatrick
10 Stanley Desborough anniversary
11.30 Mary Spillane anniversary

Monday 18th March

Tommy Bergin RIP
Eustace Singarajah surgery

Tuesday 19th March

Allen Charles anniversary
Georgia Pestell

Wednesday 20th March

Camille Malone intentions
Howard Cobb RIP
Bill Noonan anniversary

Thursday 21st March

Cecilia Hodgson RIP
Mr Sullivan sick

Funeral 12 noon Roseline (Rose) Ball

Friday 22nd March

Mary Waure intentions
Colette Brennan RIP

Saturday 23rd March

10 Mick Cusack RIP
6 Denis & Remona Armstrong

Sunday 24th March

8.30 Mary Lee anniversary
10 Halyna Syzonenko anniversary
11.30 John Burnham anniversary

**Church Cleaning
Easter Big Clean
Saturday 23rd March at 9am**
if you have any time to spare
please come along and help
prepare your Church for Easter

**Weekly Rota Duty
Friday 22nd March at 9am**
Claire Hobbs, Julia Bever, Susanna
Barnoin, Susan Juffs, Agatha
Emohare & Michelle Liddle

Congratulations
◇ **Wedding**
To Jisup Kim & Yasmin Nwofor who
were married at St Thomas' last
weekend
◇ **Baptisms**
To the following children who were
baptised in February Patrick Lewin,
Paris McDonagh & Raphael Vergara

Tennis Club Quiz
In the Becket Centre on Saturday
23rd March, 7pm for 7:30 start, £8 per
ticket . Please email
ftcwoodford@gmail.com for tickets or
questions. There is a licensed bar as
usual for this great quiz, and supper
can be provided.

**Charity Spring Music & Dinner
Evening on Saturday 27 April**

The Epping Forest Catenian Circle is
sponsoring a Spring Music and Dinner
Evening at the Becket Centre, in aid of
“YOUR PLACE”. *All parishioners are
very welcome to this social event with
a classical guitarist and light music for
all tastes. Tickets £35. More
information is on the poster in the
porch. Please text for tickets to
Bernard Bourdillon (07867 908814) or
Iain McLay (07806 998187).*