

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Anna Appiah, Aichard Abangwu, Mike Angelo, Baby Oliver Barker, Angela Barrett, Miss Terry Bennett, Sandra Bourke, Angela Bromfield, John Browne, Antonia Buck, Claire Merrins, Teresa Daly, Nigel Dillon, Carla Doherty, Irene & Carter de Freitas, Don Dourado, Antony Dover, Lenny Finney, Garrie Godkin, Cynthia Gregory, Mary Grisdale, Betty Halliday, Doris Harriss, Ethne Hubbard, Jane Kirk, Roger Machin, Camille Malone, Clare Merrins, Patrick McGurk, Mary McKay, Jutta Menzies, David Morgan, Joan Reynolds, Jacky Rott, Dermot Shean, Debbie Smythe, Astrid Turner, Rita Watkins, Cian Wright.

Anniversaries:- Ken Greaves, Craig Lobo, Chevonne Lobo.

Lately Dead: Derek Faulkner, Pamela Goodburn, Michael Hoban, Fr. McInerney, Maureen Placito, Kevin Potter, Olive Whitehead,

We extend the sympathy of the parish to the Faulkner, Keating & Edwards families on the sad loss of Derek Faulkner, a well known and loved member of the parish. He was also a much loved Dad, Granddad and Great-granddad and will be greatly missed by all the families.

May he rest in peace.

CHURCH CLEANING

Friday 10.30am 9th December Rachel Varney, Lisa McDonnell, Carole Burns, Sheila Charles, Janet Walker.

We are in the process of doing the new rota. Could someone from each team please let Pat know how many come on your team and if you need any more people a.s.a.p.

We are in need of a few more people to help with church cleaning on a rota basis. You would be working in a team of 4 or 5 once in 7 weeks on a Thursday or Friday and one team that do it on a Saturday. Please ring Pat Bell 020 8504 4577 or email mrmcbell@btinternet.com.

FLOWER ARRANGERS

Well done to Clare, Valerie and Jenny who have done so well with learning the art of arranging the flowers for St. Thomas'. Their first attempt at the Advent Wreath, as you can see, has gone very well. We look forward to seeing how their skills increase with decorating St. Thomas' at Christmas.

BIG THANK YOU

From Mary Charter, and Catherine Bissmire for your donations to the Home Produce stall at the Christmas Bazaar. Over £300 was raised and divided between Sacred Heart Sisters in the Philippines, CRY and the parish.

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 IN ADVENT CYCLE A

4TH DECEMBER 2016



As we draw ever closer to Christmas, today's readings teach us that waiting has its own special value.

First Reading (Isaiah 35:1-6. 10)

The prophet assures his people in exile that the Lord will come, the desert will bloom and human disabilities will be healed.

Second Reading (James 5:7-10)

The farmer, who plants his seeds in autumn and, after early and late rains, sees the first shoots appear, is an example of patient waiting.

Gospel (Matthew 11:2-11)

John's disciples assure him that his waiting is rewarded: the Messiah has come, the words of the prophet are fulfilled.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

In his days justice shall flourish
And peace till the moon fails

The second Candle of the Advent Wreath is the Candle of Peace.

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.

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

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Many commented on the lovely atmosphere of friendship good will and generous sharing of time that was evident at the Bazaar. I thank you all: for coming and spending, for generously supplying goods for the stalls, but principally my appreciation goes to the organisers. For some it has been a matter of days and evenings spent over several weeks, then of lifting the gifts contributed as well as the huge effort of Saturday. The parish and several other charities benefited to some £3,600. That is fantastic. More important still though is the social sharing of the whole project and afternoon. Besides the praying teaching and caring we do need to share some fun together. A parish is a family and families need to spend time enjoying company. I encourage those of you who came to give your personal and financial support to think of joining in the organisation next year. That part is really much more enjoyable.

MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

Last Sunday I commissioned a number of Ministers for one year. That gives time to become clearer about who is a Minister and who not. Several dozen have not yet indicated whether they still wish to serve. And as yet I have not received any communication of a housebound person who would like to receive communion at home. Please do think if you know of any such.

ECUMENICAL ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

At St. Thomas' this afternoon (Sunday) at 4.30pm. Light refreshments available afterwards.

CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE

I will be available to sign certificates of catholic practice for parents wishing to find a place for their child in St Antony's school next year. Come to the William Scott Room upstairs in the Becket Centre between 7pm and 8pm on Tuesday evening, 6th December.

DEMENTIA AWARENESS

Are you or someone you know affected by dementia? The Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friends programme is the biggest ever initiative to change people's perceptions of dementia. Dementia Friends is about learning more about dementia and the small ways you can help. The parish is running a free "Dementia Friends" Information Session on Tuesday, 6th December at 7.30pm in the Becket Centre, open to anyone interested in finding out more about this initiative. Numbers are limited; further sessions can be arranged in the New Year. Please contact the parish office if you wish to attend.

ACROSS JUMBULANCE

Would any nurses or paramedics care to join the team travelling to Lourdes leaving 20th April 2017 and returning on 29th April 2017? Please ring Sheila 8504 3839 or Moya 8504 2514.

Also a doctor is required to travel on the outbound leg of the pilgrimage to stay a few days if able. Please call Gemma Constable 07766169534 to discuss if interested.

IN TOUCH

The exciting Christmas edition of In Touch will be available from December 11th. Price £2.

Immaculate Conception 8th December

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES AT ST. THOMAS'

Calling all Readers, Ministers of Communion, Ushers & Sacristans. If you will be attending any of the three Masses (5pm, 7pm and Midnight: 10.15pm) at St. Thomas' on Christmas Eve, please indicate your availability by adding your name to the lists located on the table at the back of the church. Please note, as Christmas day falls on a Sunday this year, Christmas Day Masses will be covered by the normal Sunday rotas.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL BIDDING PRAYERS

If anyone would like to join the rota for composing the Bidding Prayers at St. Thomas' please contact the parish office.

SACRED HEART COMPANIONS

Will have their monthly meeting on Monday, 5th December at 2pm in Chigwell Convent. All new members are welcome.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA 2018-2019

ST ANTONY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

The consultation for our Admissions Criteria for 2018/2019 is now available on our school website on the Admission page. www.stantonyscatholicdps.co.uk. If you wish to comment please send your responses by emailing admin.st-antonys@redbridge.gov.uk or posting it to the school address. Deadline for all responses is 27th January 2017.

CWL

Wednesday 7th December Social at 8pm in the William Scott Room.

HOLY FAMILY LAY ASSOCIATES

Meeting on Monday, 5th December 7.30pm at Maureen's house.

EPHING FOREST SOUTH 43RD SCOUTS

Parents, do something rewarding and support our children, get involved with our Scout, Cub and Beaver Group for just a few hours a week either on a Friday (Cubs) or Monday (Scouts) evening.

Unless we can recruit three new Leaders/Assistant Leaders before the end of December we are in danger of closing. Please contact Chris Kurton at ckurton@hotmail.com or Terry Hobbs at hobbsfamily49@btinternet.com.

SOUP RUN FOR THE HOMELESS

The final Soup Run for the year is on Wednesday, 14th December where we would like to be able to give all the people who need our help a Christmas selection pack. Packs can be left in the parish office or in the Becket Centre on the night of the 14th. Thank you for your continued support.

MOTHER'S PRAYER GROUP

Tuesday, 6th December in the Francis Room after the 10am Mass.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR RAFFLE PRIZES

Caroline Brennan, Michael Murphy, Peter Nairen, Jackie Holmes, Serena Mereu, Alma Quinn, Jackie John, Lauren Poole, Tara Carmady, Joanna Szwarc, Steve Leary, Andrea Skinner, Catherine Galligan, Tony Leary, Linda Reilly, Michelle Murphy, Dolf Campman, Lisa O'Donnell, Mrs Bacon, Anne Quinn, Chris Skinner. Please collect from the parish office.

LOST JACKETS

If you have mislaid a jacket recently, please look on the rail in the Becket Centre. If not claimed at the end of the month they will be disposed of.