

### **RECONCILIATION SERVICE**

On Monday, 14th December we will offer a short service of reconciliation with availability of priests for individual confession. It is a good opportunity of preparation for Christmas.

### **MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

I invite you all to join me at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 8th December in St. Thomas' for a period of adoration followed by a short meeting. It is primarily for ourselves, to reflect on the trust God gives us as ministers. An opportunity will follow for any business or queries about our service.

### **CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

Please note that the Mass of Christmas Eve will be at 10.15pm preceded by just 15 minutes of carols. It will be well to aim to attend this Mass rather than the Masses at 5pm and 7pm which tend to be over-crowded.

Please take an Advent Flyer available from the back of the church, giving the times of Masses and Services during Advent.

### **CHURCH DOOR**

To preserve what heat we have in the church we will now keep the double doors closed. There will still be access to the church each day as usual through the side door. Please also keep this shut to keep the heat in.

### **NOTICED THE NEW BANNER IN CHURCH?**

Take a Look and Pamphlet? Vocations to the Franciscan Friars Minor are encouraged in our Franciscan Parish! Single Catholic Men 18-40 years, interested?

### **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.

### **THE HOLY FAMILY SISTERS CHRISTMAS PRESENTS**

The Sisters of 5 The Green are very grateful to all their friends who, last year, donated to various charities instead of giving them Christmas presents. We would be very happy if you do the same this year as there are still so many families in need.

We take this opportunity to thank you for your kindness and generosity to us and to wish all of you a very happy and blessed Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

### **REPOSITORY**

Christmas cards have been selling fast, particularly those from the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society so we have restocked. We have also tracked down some beautiful Afro-American cards in the USA—a little more expensive than some because of the postage but well worth a look.

### **CHRISTMAS HAMPER**

Raffle tickets will be sold on the 5th/6th December after each Mass at a £1 a strip. The raffle is to raise money for Emilie Mae's trip to Ecuador next summer with the Girl Guides as she's working with The Book Bus to teach children how to speak, read and write in English.

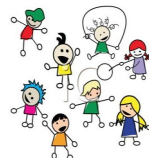
### **QUIZ**

A big thank you to all those who came to the Quiz in aid of the Laryngectomy Trust held on Saturday in the Becket Centre. We had a fantastic night and raised a whopping £392 which we are bumping up to £400. Thanks to all—Sheila & Mona.

### **HOLY FAMILY LAY ASSOCIATES**

Meeting on Monday, 7th December at 7.30pm at Maureen's house. Please bring Phase III booklet for "Flame Meditation".

### **KEEP FIT**



Mon from 8-9pm in the Becket Centre. Fun Class—only £3. Lose those extra pounds in time for Christmas!!!

### **GETTING MARRIED NEXT YEAR?**

If so, then you may be interested in attending two evenings of helpful preparation. The sessions will be at St. George's Walthamstow on 12th and 19th November. The exercise will be repeated next April. It is an opportunity not to be missed. From the Synod has come a great insistence on helping young people to prepare well to enjoy all that a good Catholic marriage can be. This is a start.

***New to the Parish? Please don't forget to register with the parish office.***

### **MOTHER'S PRAYER GROUP**

Tuesday, 1st December after the 10am Mass in the Francis Room.

### **CWL**

Wednesday, 2nd December CWL Social in the William Scott Room at 8pm upstairs in the Becket Centre.

### **CROFTON SINGERS CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Music for Advent & Christmas including Palestrina, Byrd, Parry & Vaughan Williams 7.30pm on Sat. 12th Dec. St. Mary's Church, South Woodford. Tickets including refreshments £10. Under 18's free. [www.croftonsingers.org.uk](http://www.croftonsingers.org.uk).

### **HEADTEACHER VACANCY**

St. Josephs Catholic Primary School, Harwich from April 2016. Contact Gill Colley 01255 503493 for details.

### **BAPTISMS**

If you need to attend a baptism course for your first child please contact the parish office for details.

Baptisms take place on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month.

### **FRANCISCAN MISSIONS**

The Christmas issue of "The Troubadour" giving an update on activity in the missions is available at the back of the church. Please take a copy as you leave Mass.

### **ADVENT CAROL SERVICE**

Woodford Fellowship of Churches Advent Carol Concert at St. Thomas' on Sunday, 6th December at 4.30pm. Choirs from all Saints, St. Thomas' and Loyola School. Light refreshments will be served in the Becket Centre afterwards.



Donations of mince pies would be greatly appreciated.

### **SOUP RUN**

A set of house keys were found in a bag of clothes donated to the soup run on Wednesday night. Please collect from the parish office.

*The next and final soup run of the year is on Wednesday, 9th December.*

### **WHIPPS CROSS**

If you, a family member or friend would like to see a Catholic Chaplain or receive Holy Communion whilst receiving treatment at Whipps Cross University Hospital, please contact the Chaplaincy Team 020 835 6988.

### PLEASE PRAY FOR

**Sick:-** Mike Angelo, Maria Ashley, Baby Oliver Barker, Angela & Kerry Bromfield, Marilyn Callow, Genevieve Campbell, Yvonne Carpenter, Eustage Chesley, Claire, Claver D'Souza, Don Dourado, Laurie Durrant, Maureen Halford, Thomas Hefferman, Jeanne Fisher, Irene & Carter de Freitas, Trish Gardner, Mary Grisdale, Cynthia Gregory, Pat Greene, John Harris, Doris Harriss, Lauren, Mary McKay, Roger Machin, Camille Malone, Bridie McCoy, Paul McDonnell, Claudia McNulty, Jutta Menzies, Pat Morgan, Fr. Con O'Connell O.F.M., Nicola Pilling, Dr Courtney Price, Lily Reding, Pauline Tuite, Astrid Turner, Kath Vaughan .

We extend the sympathy of the parish to Ted and Pat O'Connell and family on the death of Fr. Con O'Connell O.F.M., who died peacefully in Glasgow last week.

**May he rest in peace.**

**Lately Dead** John Bradshaw, Mrs Campbell, Kathy Doyle, Maisie Flynn, Sean McSherry, Fr. Con O'Connell O.F.M., Tony O'Donnell, Jeffrey Jacobs, Marion Savage

**Anniv:** John Nolan

### HELPERS OF GOD'S PRECIOUS INFANTS

Please join us in our prayer vigil every Sat. from 7.30am—11.30am outside Marie Stopes in Russell Road, Buckhurst Hill. Please come even for 15 or 30 mins. You will make all the difference.

#### 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

### CHURCH CLEANING

Friday 9am 4th December Maureen Insloe, Claire Hobbs, Julia Bever, Christine Acons, Lisa Robinson.

### CHRISTMAS CLEAN

**Date for the Diary:**

Wed. 23rd December at 10.30am.

As many helpers as possible please.

### MINI TENNIS

Woodford Wells Club Mon, Tue. Wed. Thurs 4pm and 5pm Sat. Sunday mornings 9.30am—10.30am. These sessions are held indoors. Come and have some fun. For ages 3—7 years. For more information contact Natasha Argent 07904022966 or tashaxargent@hotmail.com.

### HAIRDRESSER

Harrods trained and colour specialist (mobile). Contact Tina 07957977380.

### BADMINTON

Come and get fit for Christmas. We play in Trinity School, Mornington Road between 8pm and 10pm Thursday nights. Cost £5. For details 'phone Liz 07759 410304. Also Badminton Players required Monday evenings 7.30pm - 9.30pm at Trinity School, Mornington Road. Mixed ability. Contact Michael 07941 479485.

# St Thomas of Canterbury

557/559 High Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0RB

Served by the Franciscans



A FAIRTRADE PARISH

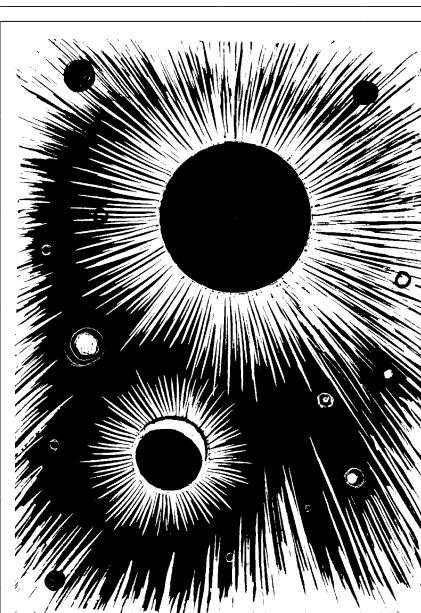
Tel: 020 8504 1686 Fax: 020 8504 1844



Email: parishoffice@friar.org Web: www.stthomaswoodford.org

## 1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

29TH NOVEMBER 2015



Jesus reminds us that one day he will return in glory to judge the living and the dead.

### First Reading (Jeremiah 33:14-16)

Through the prophet Jeremiah, the Lord assures his people that he will bring salvation and restoration to the land.

### Second Reading (1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2)

Paul reminds the Thessalonians of the instructions he gave them on the authority of Jesus the Lord. If they continue to follow them, their hearts will be confirmed in holiness.

### Gospel

(Luke 21:25-28. 34-36)

Jesus looks to the time when he will come again, and tells his disciples to be ready.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**There will be an SVP Collection after all Masses this weekend.**