

## PRAY FOR THE SICK

We will be reviewing the sick list during March, if you wish to remain on the list from April onwards please contact the parish office.

### Funeral

Mr Dermot Horan's funeral is taking place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March at St Joseph and the English Martyrs RC Church, Windhill, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2ND at 1.00pm

### Anniversaries:

Elizabeth Bermingham, Mary Snares, James Farrell, Patricia Kalinaukas, Winnie McLaughlin, Michael O'Neill, Veronica Boe, John Burnham, Francesco Faccini, Louis Ah-Lim, Mary Chappell, Lotte O'Neill, Georgine Easter, Sister Patrick Moriarty, Josefa Vargas, Eileen Godber

### Keep in touch

One way to keep in touch with your church during the Coronavirus period will be to receive the newsletter by email please sign up on our parish website

[www.stthomaswoodford.org](http://www.stthomaswoodford.org)

or mail

[communications@stthomaswoodford.org](mailto:communications@stthomaswoodford.org)

### Online Mass

As for the foreseeable future there will be no mass celebrations open for parishioners to attend it is our intention to record a mass weekly for online viewing. This weekend we will be recording the Vigil Mass on Saturday evening. It will be uploaded and available to view by Sunday morning.

To watch mass online please visit our parish website <https://www.stthomaswoodford.org/> and click Mass Online on our homepage. This will bring up another link Watch Mass Online. Clicking on this link will take you to our You Tube channel from where you can view mass. You will see masses listed in date order. Click on any mass to view it. If you wish to receive an email notification when mass is uploaded each week you will need to subscribe on You Tube. (You will see a large red Subscribe button on the mass page on You Tube)

### SUNDAY MASSES

St. Thomas'

St Thomas' postcode is IG8 0RB

Masses are not taking place at this time

### WEEKDAY MASSES

Masses are not taking place at this time

### SATURDAY CONFESSIONS

St. Thomas'

10.30am - 11.30am  
5.00pm - 5.45pm



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Parish Office: 020 8504 1686

Friary: 020 8504 1688

Email: [parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org](mailto:parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org)



Website: [www.stthomaswoodford.org](http://www.stthomaswoodford.org)

Facebook: @STOCWoodford

Twitter: @STOCWoodford



Served by the Franciscans

## 4th Sunday of Lent - Sunday 22nd March Cycle A

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

How do we come to faith? It can be a gradual process for all of us, and often involves testing. But all of us are called to renew our faith especially during Lent.



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

God gives Samuel a special insight to choose Jesse's son David.

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

God has brought us out of darkness so we can live in the light of the Lord.

**Gospel** John 9:1-41

A blind man is healed and, in the face of opposition, comes to faith by seeing Jesus as his saviour.

### Responsorial Psalm

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



Arrangements to deal with the covid 19 threat have been changing daily this past week. They may yet go further. When we heard two weeks ago that all masses had been cancelled in Korea we did not dream that the prohibition would reach us. So we can for the moment not come together to celebrate in mass and worship the faith we share. We friars believe that we should be with you particularly in times of trouble, yet here we are distanced by indisputable restrictions. More than that we are humbled by the number of offers we receive from you to come to help us as we self-isolate perforce due to our vulnerability of medical conditions and age.

The essentials of pastoral service we continue to provide nonetheless. We continue, perhaps more intensely, our daily pattern of prayer for you and all. As do the other two religious houses of our parish in Chigwell and the Holy Family. If any good can be seen in this affliction it is the possibility that it may bring many, till now obsessed with secular values, to find their need of God.

When St John in his nineties was asked What are we? his answer was: We are children of God. At the root of our being we have no power over birth and death. Medical knowledge and skills can palliate, but ultimately we cannot control our health or fortune. We are helpless babes in God's loving arms. If we can go back to a serious realisation of that we will gain from the disaster.

Today is Mothers' Day. We thank God for our own mothers and all who take on this noble task of giving themselves selflessly to their babes and children. They mirror closely how God is treating each one of us: feeding, soothing, cleaning putting up with all manner of poor response. grateful for the smallest signs of returning love

## We Pray.....

God our Father, Creator of the world, almighty and merciful, out of love for us You sent your Son into the world as the doctor of our souls and our bodies, look upon your children who, in this difficult time of confusion and dismay in many regions of Europe and the world, turn to you seeking strength, salvation and relief, deliver us from illness and fear, heal our sick, comfort their families, give wisdom to our rulers, energy and reward to our doctor, nurses and volunteers, eternal life to the dead. Do not abandon us in the moment of trial but deliver us from evil. We ask this of Thee, who with the Son and the Holy Spirit, live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

*Mary, mother of health and hope, pray for us!*

## Children ICHTHUS

As part of our usual Sunday Mass celebration we have available for the children in our parish the ICHTHUS. Although mass may not be taking place we will leave these at the back of church each week as it may present a good opportunity for family spiritual time together. Please find a link to the Diocesan news page, where we have published an article with recommendations for parents with school-aged children to enable them to continue to worship in the home, and continue to mark the season of Lent / Easter period with their families without gathering publicly for mass.

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/news/domestic-church-resources-parents-covid-19/>

## Coronavirus Update

So St Thomas' church is open for prayer. It will open about 8.30 am and stay so till 6.30 pm. We hope to stream Mass each Sunday. We shall be praying. I know you too will be joining us from your homes. Call us by phone or email if we can do anything. No one must die without the sacrament of the sick. The healthcare services are on hand to exercise their skills. So are we to share the gifts God has put into our hands.

- Masses will no longer take place on Weekdays or Weekends at St Thomas', Chigwell or Buckhurst Hill
- As no masses are taking place communion to those at home will also cease unless there are exceptional circumstances
- Confessions will take place on Saturday at 10.30am to 11.30am & 5.00pm to 5.45pm
- The Parish Office will deal with queries by phone or email ONLY

## Helping each other

We have a team of parishioners concerned for their fellow parishioners who may be confined to home without much help or support in the coming months.

They would like you to contact us via the **Parish Office 020 8504 1868 or email [parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org](mailto:parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org)** if you need help or know of someone who needs help with any of the following:

Shopping  
Prescription collections  
Check in phone calls  
Walking the dog

Please do not hesitate to contact us and we will try to help in whatever way we can.

## SVP Thank you

Despite the lower than usual numbers attending mass yesterday we still had an extremely generous collection from parishioners (just over £900). We will be putting some of the money to good use straight away this week helping local families in need... the generosity of the parishioners is much appreciated

## Lenten lunches update

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the rest of the Lenten lunches. The three that have taken place have raised £825, and we would like to thank you for your very generous support. The money will be sent to Mary's Meals, and anyone who wishes to make further donations can get in touch with the charity directly. As always, we are so grateful to all who have been involved in the preparation and serving of the meals. Let's hope for better things next year.

## Foodbank

The Foodbank will continue to be available in our Church for donations. If you can contribute it will be extremely appreciated.

