

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Truci Abrahams, Baby Oliver Barker, Angela Barrett, Miss Terry Bennett, James Bennett, Sandra Bourke, Arlene Bowman, Angela Bromfield, Geoff Brown, Gerry Cook, Irene de Freitas, Conor Dempsey, Anthony Doherty, Don Dourado, Trish Gardner, Betty Halliday, Doris Harriss, Joan Hayes, Bernie Hauser, Annie Keenan, Rory McCreesh, Frank McDermott, Margaret McDonnell, Mary McKay, Roger Machin, Camille Malone, Audrey McDonnell, Jutta Menzies, Dr. Douglas Murphy, Betty Norton, Dymrna O'Donnell, Liam O'Sullivan, Evaritia (Linda Palmer's Mother), Lily Reding, Joan Reynolds, Jean-Yves de Sainte-Croix de la Sabliere, Debbie Smythe, Madelaine Sydic, Astrid Turner, Maria Vaughan, Rita Watkins.

Anniv: Agnes Dorothy Catania, Craig Lobo, David Archer, & Peter Morgan

Lately Dead: Angela Brincat.
Angela's funeral will be on Friday 15th December at 10am in St Thomas'.

SATURDAY SCHOOL

Every Saturday (during term time) from 10am—11am for children attending non-Catholic primary schools. We need help next term as one of our helpers is unable to continue. If you could help please ring Nancy on 07979 544325 or Fiona 07951 050098.

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.

CHURCH CLEANING

Friday 9am 15th December Margaret Chung, Jennifer Sorrell, Christabel Wijeweera, Francesca Cushion & Liz Atkinson.

CHRISTMAS CHURCH CLEANING

An early reminder that it is the big clean of our church on Friday, 22nd December from 10.30am. Please put a note in your diaries. We are all very busy at this time of year but if we get a good crowd it will take no time at all. Please try to spare half an hour of your time. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR RAFFLE

We still have most of the prizes in the parish office - unclaimed. There are some smashing items, please come in and collect yours if you're a winner!

TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

There are vacancies for two temporary teacher positions at Trinity from Jan 2018. Teacher of Psychology & Sociology and Teacher of RE
Please review the school website for full details <http://fc.tchs.uk.net>

MEDJUGGORJE IRISH CENTRE PILGRIMAGES 2018

7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle service from €279 per person. Book any flight - any time & we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service. Call us for further info on 01 4434510 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com

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

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 B

10th DECEMBER 2017

The Good News about Jesus Christ the Son of God is what draws us here today. We gather to give thanks for the healing and salvation that the Lord our God offers us in Jesus.

First Reading

Isaiah 40:1-15, 9-11

Isaiah offers a message of hope: the people are to prepare for the coming of the Lord.

Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-14

God is patient, wanting no one to be lost.

Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help



**The second candle of the Advent
Wreath is the Candle of Peace**

CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY

With the 25th following hard on Sunday some are wondering how to arrange their weekend devotions. I follow Pope Francis' advice when he says "Do not expect me to give all the answers. Use your own gifts". This is a good test to see how much we have learned from our autumn discussions. If you are a *tram* you will, without reflection, follow the rails: Mass on Sunday and Mass on Christmas day are both obligations. If you are a



trolley-bus you will reflect on the huge power love and generosity coming from above, and make up your own mind on how to respond to this. Simple? Hmm...

Barbara says a - partial - farewell

We had a quiet but very enjoyable celebration in the Friary on Barbara's last day in the office she has served so faithfully for over 30 years. It was her wish to go quietly without ceremony and plaudits. May God reward her richly for all she has given us. We promised to keep her in our prayer and look forward to enjoying her continuing involvements with us.

MISS CURTIS

Also hangs up her cap and gown this coming week as she heads into retirement. At Mass last Wednesday together with a large gathering of her family, friends, colleagues past and present, we expressed our sense of gratitude for her 22 years of sensitive leadership of St Anthony's school. She has led a school of high academic achievement. More, by word and example she has made sure St Anthony's is truly a Catholic school sharing with parents and parish the task of developing to the full all God's gifts. Only the recording angel knows all the generous giving and rich achievement of this service. More appreciations are in prospect.

RECONCILIATION

There will be a service of reconciliation in church on Monday 11th beginning at 7.30. Together we listen to God's word showing us the way we need to grow. Then there will be a considerable number of priests to hear your confession if you wish. It need not be rushed. It is a time to tease out with the priest's help what God is whispering in your ear when you pray seriously. "Not a torture chamber" says Pope Francis.

CHRISTMASS MASSES

Calling all readers, Ministers of Communion, Ushers & Sacristans.

If you will be attending Mass at St Thomas' on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, please indicate your availability by adding your name to the lists located on the table at the back of church.

CHRISTMASS MASS TIMES

A flyer showing details of Christmas and New Year mass times is available at the back of church. Please take a copy for your reference

IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE A BRIEF COMMENTARY ON THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY'S READING, PLEASE EMAIL: ALANMAIR63@GMAIL.COM

RENEWAL & RESTRUCTURING

Please collect a summary of this most important Diocesan document. Available at all Masses this weekend. Feel free to comment

PARISH OFFICE HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS

The office will close on Fri 22nd Dec at 1.30pm and reopen on Tues 2nd at 9.30am

MOTHER AND BABY GROUP

After many years Rachel is standing down from running the Mother and Baby Group at Christmas. Her cheerfulness and energy has been tireless and much appreciated. We will miss her tremendously but wish her all the best for 2018.

ECUMENICAL ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

December 10th 4.30pm in St. Thomas' with the choirs of All Saints, St. Thomas' and St. Antony's School, followed by light refreshments in the Becket Centre. Donations of mince pies welcome.

THE CHIGWELL SISTERS

Would like to express their thanks to all who take the trouble to save their used stamps for the missions and place them in the box in the church porch. Your help is much appreciated.

REPOSITORY

Stand up liturgical calendars are now in, together with 2018 Brentwood Diocesan Year Book. A lovely selection of Christmas Cards are also still available.

SVP

Thank you for your generous support of the SVP collection last week. Your donations directly help struggling people in our community.

THE HOME PRODUCE STALL

At the Christmas Bazaar raised £130.65 which they have donated to the Franciscan Missions.

IN TOUCH MAGAZINE

The Christmas edition of the parish magazine will be on sale the week of the 16th Dec, with a Christmas Message from Fr Austin and lovely articles from Trinity pupils.

NEW NEW NEW!

St Thomas has a brand new and vibrant website! You can find it here from Sunday www.stthomaswoodford.org

We want this to be an active forum for our parish, a hub of communication, the place to find answers to your questions. It will contain everything from mass times to details of events, and (for those who have difficulty sleeping) minutes of parish council meetings! Also for the first time a Roll of Honour remembering our war dead will be available under "Parish History". If you are running an event or activity do please tell us. We can help you publicise it. We particularly welcome news about youth led initiatives - in fact we would love to include a special page for young people.

The site needs wide ranging input from the whole parish to keep things vibrant and up to date. Information and news about your groups, activities and contacts will be the heartbeat of this project. Without your involvement, the web site will soon go stale and lack life.

You can reach us at

webadmin@stthomaswoodford.org and we are looking forward to hearing from you.

IT/COMMS TEAM

SOUP RUN

Our only trip to London in December will be on Wednesday 13th. We usually bring a quantity of selection boxes with us, which are always so gratefully received. If you could pop any you could donate into the parish office, along with the usual items needed, we will be able to put a smile on peoples faces on Wednesday.

TUESDAY CLUB: LUNCH

Those who have submitted menu choices should be at THE CRICKETERS (Woodford High Road) on the 12th at 12.30 for 1 O'Clock lunch,

