

**PRAY FOR
THE SICK**



Anniversaries:

Nina Brovelli, Catherine King, Moby Lalani, Jutta Menzies, Suzanna Wright, David Archer, Felicitas De Costa, Craig Lobo, Wynnifrid Musselwhite, Hilda Kavanagh, Sister Mary McKowan, Frederick Watts, Maria Graves, Sr. John Lynch, Ralph Steele, Christine Harris, Mary Wynne, Arthur Finch, Patrick White, Margaret Allcorn, Johanna (Judy) Gilmartin, Alicia Grover, Henry Hughes, Eleanor O'Sullivan.

**Christmas offering for the Friars
A notice for parishioners who pay
by standing order**

As you know it is the practice that the loose plate offerings made at the Christmas masses are your personal offerings for the Friars. For those of you who pay by standing order we will have envelopes available in which you can place your donation and this will enable that donation to be gift aided. Thank you.

Mass Timetable

The masses on Saturday evening and Sunday at St Thomas' are live streamed

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

St Thomas' Prayer Group

Saturday mornings
10.30 to 11.30am

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 10.30 to 11am
and
5.15 to 5.45 pm

BAPTISMS

1st and 3rd Sundays
of the month

Thank you

SVP send their thanks for the collection last weekend, which raised just over £1000, thank you for your generosity, the funds will be put to good use.



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH



Parish Office: 020 8504 1686 Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org
Friary: 020 8504 1688 Facebook: @STOCWoodford
Email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org Twitter: @STOCWoodford

**Second Sunday of Advent 2023 (B)
10th December 2023**

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

Every year on the second Sunday of Advent, the Church asks us to ponder the words and deeds of St John the Baptist. John reminds us of the need to prepare for the coming of Christ with self-reflection and repentance.

First Reading Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

We hear a call to "prepare a way for the Lord".

Second Reading 2 Peter 3:8-14

Peter suggests there will be a new creation "where righteousness will be at home".

Gospel Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist baptises in water, anticipating the coming of the Messiah, who will baptise with the Holy Spirit.



Responsorial Psalm

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

May the Lord give us Peace

As we lit the first Advent candle last Sunday we prayed, "hasten the advent of that day when the sounds of war will be stilled for ever." The sounds of war are very loud in Gaza, Ukraine and Somalia. Pope Francis in his message to Cop28 wrote, "Are we working for a culture of life or of death?" At the moment, in reverse of the plea of prophet Isaiah, we are turning our ploughshares and sickles in AK47s and missiles. Pope Francis points to his patron as the way of peace. In 1224 St Francis composed his Canticle of the Creatures, "By then Francis was completely blind, and after a night of physical suffering, his spirits were elevated by a mystical experience. He then turned to praise the Most High for all those creatures that he could no longer see, but knew that they were his brothers and sisters, since they came forth from the same Father and were shared with other men and women. An inspired sense of fraternity thus led him to turn his pain into praise and his weariness into renewed commitment.

Shortly thereafter, Francis added a stanza in which he praised God for those who forgive; he did this in order to settle – successfully – an unbecoming conflict between the civil authorities and the local bishop.

I too, who bear the name Francis, with the heartfelt urgency of a prayer, want to leave you with this message: Let us leave behind our divisions and unite our forces! And with God's help, let us emerge from the dark night of wars and environmental devastation in order to turn our common future into the dawn of a new and radiant day."

Christmas Masses

Many thanks to all who offered their services last weekend, the provisional rotas are posted on the notice board at the back of the church (on the lefthand side as you leave) together with a list of all the "vacancies"; of which we currently have 36 to fill across all ministries. The most popular masses (3pm & 10am) are very short of Ushers (an extremely important role, especially when we have large numbers attending) and Ministers of Communion. Please stop and take a look and if you can help, please add your name and phone number to the list.

Message from Chigwell Convent

We thank the choir and musicians at Chigwell Convent for their continued support of providing the music at the 10am Mass every Sunday. On **Sunday 17th December** we will have **folk music for the 10am Mass at the Convent**, where the choir will be joined by an extended community of musicians. Please do join us to 'rejoice' for the celebration of Gaudete Sunday (Third Sunday of Advent)

Companions of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary

The next meeting will be on Monday 11th December at 2.00pm at Chigwell Convent



Mass Intentions

Sunday 10th December

8.30 Jutta Menzies Racionzer anniversary
10 Mr & Ms Yomarajah
11.30 Allen & Constance Edwards RIP

Chigwell Craig Lobo

Monday 11th December

Nicolas Reynolds RIP
Mrs De Costa Felicitas anniversary

Tuesday 12th December

Fiona Eastmand sick
Jenny Sullivan RIP
7pm Martin McShea RIP

Wednesday 13th December

Maduka Umeh
Doreen Anandappa RIP
Trinity intentions

Thursday 14th December

Deceased of Monaghan families
Rudi de Burgh birthday

Friday 15th December

Kathryn Wilson intentions

Saturday 16th December

10 John Mills anniversary
6 Victoria V Anne Hart RIP

Sunday 17th December

8.30 Tina Kerr RIP
10 Frankie Lannon RIP
11.30 Peter McDermott RIP

Church Cleaning

Thursday 14th December at 9.00am

Jackie John, Sue Mansbridge,
Srimathie Cruz,
Margaret Parkinson & Mary Charter

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo, 7th April 2024. £899.00 pps.

Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Sahara Desert Retreat in Morocco

26 February – 11 March 2024
Including a day visiting Marrakesh and 9 full days in the Desert. With Fr Arnaud and Deacon Vladimir from St Antony's in Forest Gate. Designed for young adults, open to all adults able to hike 4 - 6 hours a day for 9 full days in the desert. £952 (plus flight). www.desert-retreat.com or phone Catherine at 07807 348223.

Trinity Vacancies

- Teacher of Business
- Careers Leader
- Teacher of Design & Technology

Please visit the school website for more information