

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

On Monday, 14th December at 7.30pm we will offer a short service of reconciliation with availability of priests for individual confession. It is a good opportunity of preparation for Christmas.

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.

CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST. THOMAS'

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 the church.

SVP

A big thank you from the SVP for the generous offerings last weekend. £700 was received.

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.

TUESDAY CLUB

A reminder for all who have booked the Christmas Lunch. Look forward to seeing you at the "Cricketers" between 12.30pm and 1.00pm on the 8th December.

REPOSITORY

Christmas cards have been selling fast, 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 Mass Cards are available from the repository and the parish office.

RAFFLE FOR THE MISSIONS

The following prizes and ticket number have been left in the parish office for collection. Contact has been made with all winners except the following
KOBÉ White 571-575
PANATONE White 436-440
Thank you to all who participated in the raffle.

SACRED HEART COMPANIONS

Will have their monthly meeting on Monday, 7th December at 2pm in Chigwell Convent. New members are welcome.

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.

ADVENT SERVICE

St. Antony's Advent Carol Service is on Friday, 11th December at 1.45pm in St. Thomas'.

After many years of service to St. Antony's School, Miss Liz Conneely, our Deputy Headteacher, is leaving us at the end of the term and is moving away. If any former pupils/parents want to send her a message/card to wish her well, please send it via the school office.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Fr. Christmas	£440
External	£15
Entrance	£345
Grotto	£10
Gifts	£240
Toiletries	£275
Jewellery	£70
Toys	£290
Mother & Toddler Cakes	£220
Brownie Sweets	£383
Hampers	£625
Play your Cards Right	£15
Name the Teddy	£20
Bottle Stall	£540
Popcorn	£45
Mulled Wine	£90
Kids Books	£60
Advent Wreaths	£230
Raffle	£165
Face Paint	£20
Pick a Date	£185
Guides (Balloons)	£310
Home Produce	£55
Christmas Crafts	£115
CWL Refreshments	£205

TOTAL £5,110

The Fayre was a great success financially. Even more important was the happy buzz. We do need such opportunities to meet and enjoy the company of so many lovely people who make up our parish, its life and vitality. Thank you: first of all to you organisers and stall-holders who worked for many weeks before, and particularly last Friday and Saturday. Thank you for your great generosity in providing the goodies. And thank you then for coming to buy it all back and have your pockets emptied.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Tuesday, 8th December. Mass will be held in the main part of St. Thomas' at 10.00am. Loyola School Choir will be singing.

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

Woodford Fellowship of Churches Advent Carol Concert at St. Thomas' this afternoon (Sunday) at 4.30pm. Light refreshments will be served in the Becket Centre afterwards.

SOUP RUN

We are up London on Wednesday for the last soup run of the year and would be grateful to receive sandwiches, cakes, biscuits, toiletries and clean men's clothing. It is our tradition to give each person looking for help a chocolate Christmas selection pack. If you can help with this we would be very grateful.

Items can be left in the parish office during opening hours or in the Becket Centre on Wednesday evening between 7pm and 8pm. We would like to say a big thank you for the anonymous financial donations that were handed in.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Our next meeting will be in the Henrietta Suite (our usual place) on Thurs. 10th Dec. at 7.30pm.

At this time of the year people who have been bereaved find daily life even more painful as everyone around them is occupied with preparations for Christmas. The bereaved are filled with thoughts of their missing loved ones and are dreading their first Christmas without them or their second or third or umpteenth. If you are in this situation or know someone who is please know that you are welcome to come along to our supportive group meeting and know that you will be among people who understand and will support you.

Our meetings last about an hour and a half. We listen and share for the first hour and then we have a cup of tea and talk more informally for a while. If you would like to know more you are most welcome to 'phone Angela Barnes on 0208 505 0356. Grateful thanks to the kind donors for their contribution towards the Group's expenses.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick:- Mike Angelo, Maria Ashley, Baby Oliver Barker, Angela & Kerry Bromfield, Liz Browne, 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, Catherine Heagney, John Harris, Doris Harriss, S. Kuntz, Lauren, Mary McKay, Roger Machin, Camille Malone, Bridie McCoy, Paul McDonnell, Claudia McNulty, Jutta Menzies, Pat Morgan, Nicola Pilling, Dr Courtney Price, Lily Reding, Melda Tierney, Pauline Tuite, Astrid Turner, Kath Vaughan .

Lately Dead Jonathan Cuthbert,

Anniv: Fr. Jim Fitzpatrick, Ken Greaves, Fr. John Harding, Walter John Pert, Fr. Brian Nash, Lena Tyson

SCHOOL BURSAR

Part-time School Bursar needed to start as soon as possible, accountant with experience of commerce, not necessarily of schools. Two days a week. Might be of interest to recently retired accountant. Please contact the school office at the Ursuline Preparatory School, Ilford on 020 8518 4050.

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

Thursday 10.30am 10th December, Jean Burke, Mary Charter, Dianne Molloy, Dorothee Gabriel, Florence Kiggundu.

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.

THE TRAVELLER COMMUNITY

Are invited to come to Brentwood Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Diocese, and join the Cathedral parish community at Mass on Sun. 13th December at 6.30pm. Fr. Dan Mason will preach at this Mass.

CHRISTMAS ASSISI LUNCH

In the Becket Centre on Friday, 11th December.

St Thomas of Canterbury

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

Served by the Franciscans



A FAIRTRADE PARISH

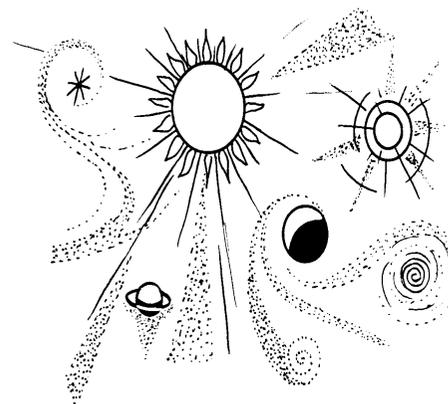
Tel: 020 8504 1686 Fax: 020 8504 1844



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

2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT CYCLE C

6TH DECEMBER 2015



Eagerness to receive the Good News is a strong theme in today's liturgy. We gather to hear the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ and to celebrate its reality for our lives in our Eucharist.

First Reading (Baruch 5:1-9)

The Lord reaches out to his people, who are challenged to welcome the Lord with joy and remove every barrier to his presence in their lives.

Second Reading (Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11)

When Paul calls the people of Philippi to mind and prays for them, he does so with joy. He urges them to increase in love for each other.

Gospel (Luke 3:1-6)

John the Baptist is firmly rooted in human history and geography as he is about to begin his ministry.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad

Raffle tickets are on sale after all Masses this weekend at £1 a strip. The raffle is to raise money for Emilie Mae's trip to Ecuador next summer with the Girl Guides.