

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please note that if you wish your name to appear on the sick list please email the parish office.

Lately dead:

- ◇ **Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI**
- ◇ **Christine Harris**
- ◇ **Tony Ogdin**

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries:

Phyllis Kinsella, Sister Michael Cleary, Kelly Hugh, Mary Flynn, Edward Haliburn, Nora Gallagher, Minnie Nash, Patricia Tish, Frank O'Shea, Sean Connolly, Ersilia Fazzani, Harry Donovan, Kathleen Johnson, Ann Maher, Kathleen Naismith, James Hopkins, Mary Spillane, Jacqueline Da'Prato, Vera Barr, Patrick Graves, Wlodzimierz Zykon, Ivan Du Casse, Nello Pieroni, Muriel Cooper, Mary Ferrett, Majorie Cummings, Keith Newman, Edward Foley, Gertrude McCarthy, Joan Steadman, Betty Norton, Gerard Seeberan, Adela Musson, Nigel Dawson.

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

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 10.30 to 11am
and
5.15 to 5.45 pm

BAPTISMS

1st and 3rd Sundays
of the month

Retiring Collection

There will be a retiring collection next weekend for Pax Christi



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

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Served by the Franciscans

The Baptism of the Lord 8th January 2023

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

Jesus' being baptised marks the beginning of his public ministry. In this act of humility, God reveals Jesus as God's beloved Son.

First Reading Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7

Isaiah's description of the servant of the Lord sets the tone for the ministry of Jesus.

Second Reading Acts 10:34-38

Peter gives a summary account of Jesus' ministry to new converts, beginning with the story of Jesus' being baptised by John the Baptist.

Gospel Matthew 3:13-17

Jesus persuades John the Baptist to baptise him along with all those who wish to live a decent human life under the word of God.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord will bless his people with peace.



My first wish is to thank you for your huge generosity to us friars through this difficult Christmastide. Your gifts mounted high and the Christmas collection most generous. Thank you and may God bless you for such generosity in straitened times.

Next to wish you a happy and fulfilled new year - hoping you come back refreshed by the long holiday.

I feel that together we have been driven by covid into an almost 3-year state of hibernation like the hedgehogs. On Christmas 2021 the total footfall in our church for 24/25th was just over 600. Last week it was well over 2000. And the masses were vibrant, full of good music and the conviction of our faith overpowering surrounding glooms. Jesus is here to stay and his gifts build on our dormant period now past.

Can we carry this further? Streamed masses served us well when we dared not gather for fear of the infection. Yet people sitting apart in their homes viewing the mass on the screen are missing essential ingredients of the Eucharist. They are principally two: receiving communion, and making a family gathering. Several times this past fortnight we have heard St John saying: *"Something which has existed since the beginning, that we have heard, and we have seen with our own eyes; that we have watched and touched with our hands.."* Heard, seen, and above all touched. These are essentials. They are what you enjoying family gatherings in your homes have treasured, and you living alone have missed so much. For all they are the essentials of catholic practice. He is the bread of life. We must eat the bread of Jesus, not just watch it. The church Jesus founded is essentially one whose members gather and meet regularly to form his family.

I do not expect we shall number 2000 at mass any Sunday shortly. But I do hope regular sharing in making Jesus come down to feed us will resume as before our hibernation. Money and job problems, civil unrest and all will be with us for some time. We can meet and speak our faith to each other in ways that bring an ability to surmount the problems and foster a satisfaction in life no amount of wealth can give.

Lost Mobile

A very good-looking iPhone was found in one of the front benches of our church a week or so before Christmas. We have not been able to identify its owner though we would like to return it to the only one who can bring it back to life.

Our Christmas Tree

Was even more resplendently decorated than in previous years. For that we are much in debt to the Spears Family. But I want to record once again our gratitude to Heartfelt Funeral Directors, of Snakes Lane East, who gave us the tree.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI RIP

Bishop Alan will celebrate Requiem Mass in Cathedral at 11.30am on 8 January. All welcome.

[Pope Benedict XVI Requiescat in pace - Brentwood Diocese \(dioceseofbrentwood.net\)](https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net)

Readers Workshop - A note for your diary

We will be holding a "Readers Workshop" at the church on Saturday 28th January for all Readers. Further details to follow.



Mass Intentions

Sunday 8th January

8.30 Frank Horner
10 Lucy Carton 90 years old
11.30 O'Flaherty family

Monday 9th January

Jenny Jones & Margharita Catania RIP
Special intention K K

Tuesday 10th January

Bernadette Blade sick
Patrick & Ellen Armsby

Wednesday 11th January

Barbara Cheer
Chimes family

Funeral Christina Harris

Thursday 12th January

Holy Souls
Trinity intentions

Friday 13th January

C.W.L
Marina Burke RIP

Saturday 14th January

10 Lucy Carton
6 Bill Mansbridge anniversary

Sunday 15th January

8.30 Angela Brincat RIP
10 Sally Picton recovery
11.30 Deceased of O'Connell family

Church Cleaning

Saturday 14th January at 10.30am

Rachel Woolf & Kathleen Mahoney

First Holy Communion Classes Reminder

Group A 14th January

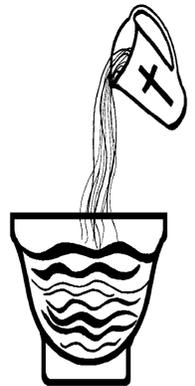
Group B 21st January

Group C 28th January

Baptism Congratulations

To the following children who were baptised at St Thomas' in December

Anna Day, Ella Kelly, Henry Foster, Cian Boyan, Lucas Quinn, Ivy Quinn, Zachariah Valibhai-Thomas



Next Baptism Course

The next baptism course for first time parents will take place on 1st & 8th February 8 to 9pm in the Becket Centre. Applications forms are available from the Parish Office.