

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Anniversaries:

Mary Chandradasa, Sister Colette Cleary, Eric Du Casse, Robin Flindall, Michael Reilly, Christopher Stubbs, Fr Andrew Cloonan OFM, Daniel Healy, John McGovern, Joan Neenan, Amelio Tolaini, Mavis Bruce, Denis Kavanagh L'Estrange, Percy Wartnaby, Julian Famiglietti, Terence McGraph, Anthony O'Brien, Fr Urban OFM, Patricia Western, Leonard Albrecht, Elizabeth Halliday, Horace Coppendale, Bridget Flynn, Marie Samaraweera, Karen Spencer, Angela Reis, Alexandra Weatherley.



Pray the Rosary to unite in prayer for the pandemic to end



Catholic Herald

From May, the Catholic Herald is changing from a weekly to monthly publication.

More information can be found at <https://catholicherald.co.uk/subscribe>

Messages from Facebook/ website

The Friars thank you for the kind messages they have been receiving through our social media channels, it is encouraging to hear from Parishioners in these unrepresented times.

Trinity Vacancies

- P/T Teacher of Home Economics,
 - P/T Teacher of History
- Please visit the school website for more information.



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Parish Office: 020 8504 1686

Friary: 020 8504 1688

Email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org



Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org

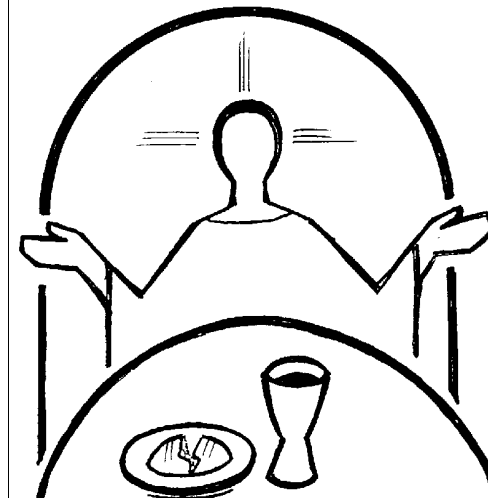
Facebook: @STOCWoodford

Twitter: @STOCWoodford



7th Sunday of Easter Sunday Cycle A Sunday 24th May 2020

To live a full human life, we must live it not just with others but through others. This is why the true well-being of a society is measured by trust, which is a vital component of love. Christ in his fullness of love departs from this world in the supreme act of trust. Since then, his life is lived through our faith and hope in his presence.



First Reading

Acts 1:12-14

When the Lord seemed to depart, the disciples turned to prayer, and Jesus was still there.

Second Reading

1 Peter 4:13-16

Just as we find healing in hospitals, so the early Christians found freedom in imprisonment, the true freedom in Christ.

Gospel

John 17:1-11

Christ is the true priest, and there are many ways of sharing in his priesthood.

MAY THEY ALL BE ONE

Does it matter?

Some years ago a US Televangelist declared: "Jesus only spoke to a few hundred people. I address millions each week".

In the OT God stayed in heaven and spoke through prophets.

But at Bethlehem an event happened more important and significant even than the Big Bang.

God came himself into the human race and our world. He was like every other human being, knowing dependency, love and rejection, pain and suffering. He ate and drank with friends, with critics, with sinners who had not repented. His language was that of ordinary people: images of sheep and farming; of an anxious woman sweeping her house; of eating and sewers.

Sitting in heaven is not enough for God. "The Word became flesh".

His earthly task achieved, Jesus promised: "I will stay with you always even to the end of the world". Our present stage is led by the Holy Spirit. But Jesus is with us. And that principally through the sacraments. Two aspects are essential in each celebration of any sacrament.

First it is a human encounter involving the presence of a minister as well as a recipient. God empowers a priest to say: "I baptise you;" "I absolve you from your sins" (though God has already forgiven). "This is my body, my blood" (note he does not say this is the body of Christ – but **My** Body). He identifies minister with himself.

Secondly: Jesus uses familiar human and material elements: water, bread and wine, oil, human verbal and physical exchanges. It is the physicality that characterises our church practice.

Doubting Thomas knew it 8 days after Easter "Unless I touch the wounded hands and side..". In John 6 Jesus said: "Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you will not have life.." This scandalised a lot who had started to believe. The language is brutal, uncompromising.

This physicality is expressed in your sacrament of marriage. You, not the priest, are the ministers of this sacrament to each other. What is the equivalent to the water, bread etc. of the other sacraments?

There is much talk during our lockdown of "spiritual communion". It is an excellent and much to be commended practice. But I feel it is an oxymoron, or a totally different use of the word *Communion*.

For even in your homes where you live your sacrament of marriage there is non-stop "communing", but the sacrament is only fully expressed in the physical union of two bodies. It is from this and not communing in spirit that life is engendered.

We hunger to eat and drink Jesus. To give baptism to the newly-born. To hear the comforting "I absolve you". There is a growing number of young couples distressed that their wedding plans are in disarray. For the moment we must be content with spiritual communion. But it is no substitute for the real thing.

To be continued...!

Austen asked Pope Francis *what he had to say to the elderly, to young people and to those facing poverty as a result of our crisis:*

"The elderly continue to be our roots. The tension between young and old must always be resolved in the encounter with each other. Because the young person is bud and foliage, but without roots they cannot bear fruit. The elderly are the roots. 'I would say to them: I know you feel death is near and you are afraid, but look elsewhere, remember your children and do not stop dreaming'. To the young people: 'Have the courage to look ahead and to be prophetic. May the dreams of the old correspond to your prophecies'. (cfr Joel 3,1)

"Those who have been impoverished by the crisis are today's deprived. They have lost everything or are going to lose everything. Deprivation means to enter the world of the deprived, to realise that he who had no longer has. What I ask of people is that they take the elderly and the young under their wing, that they take history under their wing, take the deprived under their wing.

(He quotes Vergil: Aeneas, defeated in Troy has lost everything. "I gave way to Fate, and bearing my father on my shoulders, made for the mountain".)

"Two paths lie before him: to remain there to weep and end his life, or to follow what was in his heart, to go up to the mountain and leave (the war) behind.

That is what we all have to do today: to take with us the roots of our traditions and make for the mountain."



Join us for Mass on-line live this Sunday at 10am

Prayer of spiritual communion

(St Alphonsus Liguori)

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen



Mass Intentions

Sunday 24th May

People of the parish
Noel Aherne RIP

Monday 25th May

Alan Skeritt RIP

Tuesday 26th May

Frank & Rose Fitzpatrick wedding anniv
Timothy Pride RIP

Wednesday 27th May

Eamonn Gaughan RIP

Thursday 28th May

Dora Murphy
Trinity intentions

Friday 29th May

Peter & Petrina Stubbings

Saturday 30th May

Karen Spencer anniv

Sunday 31st May

People of the parish
Patrick Harris RIP