

LATELY DECEASED

Mary Patricia Cleary
Leonard George Hampshire
May they rest in eternal peace

FUNERALS

The funerals of Mary Patricia Cleary will take place on 8th October at 12pm; Mary King on 9th October at 11am at Chigwell Convent

ANNIVERSARIES:

Alan Morris, Mary Ryecroft, Jacqueline Walsh, Bertram Douglas, Sr. Mary Paul Mason, James O'Shea, Nora Power, Joseph Whitehouse, Adriana Gottschalk, Joseph Hackett, Beryl Harley, Stuart Ritchie, Mary Kevany, George Bright, Derrick Keveny, Rosie Lavin, Bridget Parry, Marie Saliba, Charlotte Welling, Dean Welling, Hugh Farrelly

Lost Property

A table will be set up after Mass on Sunday, 4th October at the back of the church for lost property. Any items not collected by **Friday 9th October** will be disposed of.

Second Collection

Family Fast Day Sunday, 4th October

Please donate to our *Family Fast Day* parish collection. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours experiencing shortages of food and safe water. Your gift can support children to stay in school by helping communities and schools provide nourishing meals, improve access to water and grow food in school gardens.



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

Chigwell Friday 9th —mass cancelled.
Funeral Mass for Mary King at 11am

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 10.30am - 11am & 5.15pm - 5.45 pm

BAPTISMS

1st and 3rd Sundays

Baptism Course Dates

The next baptism course will take place on Wednesday, **11th AND 18th November 8.00pm—9.00pm**. Parents are required to attend both dates to complete the course. To register, please visit the parish website or contact the parish office directly.

Baptism Congratulations

To the following children who were baptised at St Thomas' in **September**; Georgina Ying Huynh; Evelyn Chung; Georgie Anthony Allen; Evara Joy Lebon Bradley; Gracie Helen Rose Perry.

Wedding congratulations

To Henry Burke & Michelle Spears; Joshua Grant & Iona Thomas married at St Thomas' during September.

Scared Heart of Jesus and Mary

Next meeting will take place on 12th October at Chigwell Convent - 2.00pm

Second Collection—Prisoner's Sunday

There will be a second collection held on Sunday, 11th October

Friends in Faith Wellbeing Course, on Fridays at 7.30pm. 9th, 23rd October, 6th, 20th November, 4th, 18th December in the Henrietta Suite. All welcome!



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

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TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) SUNDAY. 4TH OCTOBER 2026

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

Today, the twenty-seventh Sunday of the year, is also the closing day of the Season of Creation and the Feast of St Francis of Assisi.

First Reading Isaiah 5:1-7

Isaiah compares Israel to a vineyard which God has prepared but the people have neglected.

Responsorial Psalm:

The vineyard of the LORD is the house of Israel.

Second Reading Philippians 4:6-9

St Paul encourages us to pray and give thanks to God, who gives us peace of heart.

Gospel Matthew 21:33-43

Jesus uses Isaiah's imagery of a vineyard in a parable to the chief priests and elders, but they don't realise it applies to them.



HAPPY FEAST OF ST FRANCIS

On the eve of our Feast, we celebrated the Transitus or Passing St Francis. This was the consummation of his life lived in union with Christ. Most of us are not at that stage of life but have our life to live and St Francis can help us to live lives full of joy and purpose. Pope Leo's visit to France showed a people who were not tired of the Gospel but enthusiastic to hear it and live it. In a very public event, Francis was disowned by his father, an ambitious cloth merchant, and at that instant realised that his father was God the Father. In that Father, he trusted and was provided for the rest of his life. From then on he regarded people, animals, all things on earth as gifts from his Father. Seeing everything in this light he could not stop giving thanks and pouring out praise. We pray that we have something of that spirit and become thankful people.

POPE FRANCIS ON WHY HE TOOK THE NAME FRANCIS

I do not want to write this Encyclical without turning to that attractive and compelling figure, whose name I took as my guide and inspiration when I was elected Bishop of Rome. I believe that Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically. He is the patron saint of all who study and work in the area of ecology, and he is also much loved by non-Christians. He was particularly concerned for God's creation and for the poor and outcast. He loved, and was deeply loved for his joy, his generous self-giving, his open-heartedness. He was a mystic and a pilgrim who lived in simplicity and in wonderful harmony with God, with others, with nature and with himself. He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace. Francis helps us to see that an integral ecology calls for openness to categories which transcend the language of mathematics and biology, and take us to the heart of what it is to be human. Just as happens when we fall in love with someone, whenever he would gaze at the sun, the moon or the smallest of animals, he burst into song, drawing all other creatures into his praise. He communed with all creation, even preaching to the flowers, inviting them "to praise the Lord, just as if they were endowed with reason".

His response to the world around him was so much more than intellectual appreciation or economic calculus, for to him each and every creature was a sister united to him by bonds of affection. That is why he felt called to care for all that exists. His disciple Saint Bonaventure tells us that, "from a reflection on the primary source of all things, filled with even more abundant piety, he would call creatures, no matter how small, by the name of 'brother' or 'sister'". Such a conviction cannot be written off as naive romanticism, for it affects the choices which determine our behaviour. If we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs. By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously. The poverty and austerity of Saint Francis were no mere veneer of asceticism, but something much more radical: a refusal to turn reality into an object simply to be used and controlled.

** FEAST OF ST FRANCIS **

This year, the Feast of St Francis occurs on a Sunday. In our church the Mass is of the Feast not of the Sunday. We have texts for readers that should be picked up from the sacristy today. We will have a little program of celebration starting on **Friday, 2nd October at 7.30pm**. There will be a Holy Hour in the small chapel consisting of a short talk on Franciscan Spirituality followed by a Q&A session. We will then meditate on what we have learnt and have additional readings from the Life of Francis to keep our minds working. On **Saturday 3rd October at 4.30pm—5.30pm**, we will celebrate the Transitus, or Passing of Francis. The Transitus is a traditional Franciscan ceremony remembering the death of Francis. The Sunday will be the Feast of St Francis: his passing into the glory of heaven.



Mass Intentions

4th -11th
October

Sunday 4th October

8.30am - Mina Antonioni
10am - Kathleen Ruddy RIP
11.30am - Gabriel Amodio RIP
Chigwell - Mrs Maureen Sammon 91

Monday 5th October

Angela Lobo's intention
Bridget Ruddy RIP
Mary Anne Khoo RIP

Tuesday 6th October

Rosa Fitzpatrick RIP
Bridie Linnane RIP

Wednesday 7th October

C.W.L
Claire Hobbs
Jessie McKay intentions

Thursday 8th October

Leon Menzies
Deceased of Booth family

Friday 9th October

Cathal Gilmartin anniversary
Taylor Clarke

Saturday 10th October

10am - Sheila Murphy anniversary
6pm - Hugh Farrelly

Sunday 11th October

8.30am - Bernadette Craft anniversary
10am - John Ruddy RIP
11.30am - Len Hampshire RIP

** The Call To Be Human **

Four talks given by Fr Martin Boland at Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead on Wednesday: 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th October. Admission is free—for further details please visit www.ourladyoflourdeswanstead.com

Church Cleaning

Friday, 9th October at 9.00am

Claire Hobbs, Julia Bever, Susanna Barnoin, Michelle Liddle, Agatha Emohare, Susan Juffs

** OPEN EVENING **

TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Thursday, 8th October 5.00pm—8.00pm.

Trinity Catholic High School invites Year 5 and Year 6 families to their open evening. Visitors are welcome to tour the school, meet staff and students and find out more about life at Trinity. All are welcome!

FOUNDATION DAY TALK -

Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre

The Community invite you to their Foundation Day Talk on Friday 9th October at 2pm. Venue: 74, HOWE CLOSE, COLCHESTER CO4 3XD. Speaker: Dr Cormac Begadon. The talk is entitled: 'Between Faith and Fortune - The Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre, Atlantic World and the Paradox of Religious Benefaction in the 18th century'. For more information and to book your place: <https://canonesses.co.uk/event/foundation-day-2026/>

The Priests' return to the Brentwood Diocese.

BCCS invite you to a weekend of musical celebration. Choose from a Gala Dinner or Charity Luncheon, both held at a stunning Grade II listed Georgian manor house. 9th-10th October at The Lawn, Rochford - for full details and to purchase tickets, please visit www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events-campaigns/, www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events-campaigns/ or contact Julie Abbott 07912277413 / jabbott@bccs.org.uk

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

We urgently need 4 new volunteers to organise the Christmas Fayre this year. Without volunteers the fayre will have to be cancelled which would be a great pity. Anyone interested in helping this year please contact the Parish Office.

