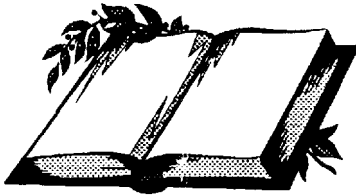


**PRAY
FOR THE
SICK**



Anniversaries:

Lucia Nie, Patricia Greene, Peter Jacques, Katherine Delaney, Martin Fuller, Joan Hayes, John Martin, Leslie Bond, Ethel Humphrey, Rita Marrai, John Fernandez, Peter Morgan, Sister Mary Heenan, Mr Mears, Michael Carroll, James Cunningham, Florence Mulroue, Maria de Fatima Regresado, Joan Reynolds.

Church Diary

The company who, in the past, provided the church diary is no longer able to do that. In order to provide information for parishioners about the Church Liturgical Calendar we have set up information on the website which we hope will assist. Please visit <https://www.stthomaswoodford.org/rccalendar>

Parish Council

Your parish councillors expect to be present after all masses this weekend to receive your comments and opinions on anything and everything. Feedback from earlier sessions is on the website under 'about us' and 'PPC'.

The PPC will next meet on **13th December**

Church sound system

You may notice the new (well disguised) speakers. They are part of a completely new sound system, just installed. This weekend is for tuning and getting used to it. We will ask for your feedback next week and then adjust as necessary.

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

Retiring Collections

Thank you for your cash donation of £1,100 for the work of the **BCYS**

There will be a retiring collection for **SVP** this weekend



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

First Sunday of Advent (B) 3rd December 2023

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

The coming of the Messiah to save the world, so longed for and anticipated by the prophets, has been fulfilled by the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

First Reading Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

The Prophet cries out for God to tear the heavens open and come down to save us.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

St Paul constantly thanks God for the graces his converts received in Corinth.

Gospel Mark 13:33-37

Jesus entrusts the Church, his followers, with our own special tasks as we live out our personal Christian vocations.



Responsorial Psalm

God of hosts, bring us back: let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Happy New Year!

Last Saturday we celebrated our Christmas Fayre and it was a joyful celebration. As soon as we entered the Trinity School Hall, you could feel there was a 'buzz' about the place. The children were excited and were meeting up with friends and the adults relaxed in the very friendly atmosphere. The parish showed itself in a very good light. This Sunday we celebrate the beginning of a New Year in the life of the Church. The Celebrant at Mass will be wearing purple vestments but it is not Lent; Advent has a distinct character. It is a season of expectation in which we hold back on enjoyment we can engineer immediately, in order to await the joy God can gift us with. This 'holding back' does not fit with the parties and gatherings that happen at this time. Advent is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus' promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Advent is not about speculation. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighed down and distracted by the cares of this world. One way to prepare our hearts and minds is to make use of the Sacrament of Penance. In a new year we are encouraged to examine the direction of our life and seek closer union with Our Lord. The Parish Penitential Service will be on **Monday 11th December at 7.30 p.m.** with opportunity for individual confession. On the day before, Sunday 10th at 4.30 p.m., will have the Ecumenical Advent Service. Please take advantage of this time of expectation before celebrating at Christmas our joy in Our Lord.

Christmas Fayre

Message from the organisers



It was so nice to see so many of you at this year's fayre. I hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did. A huge thank you is due to Simon Nash and Jo Ferrari and their team of helpers for putting on such a lovely event and getting us all into the Christmas spirit. We will be posting photos of the event on the parish website - well worth a look! If any of you want to join this team to help next year please give your name to the parish office. As we all know "many hands make light work". There will be some photos on the website soon! You also raised an amazing £5k. Thank you.

Christmas fayre Raffle Prizes to be collected from the parish Office
Numbers 511/ 551/ 593 / 602 / 620 / 632 / 745

Theologies of Hope in the Twelfth and Thirteenth Centuries
Br Chris a Friar at Woodford has recently published the above book. It is available to purchase at www.cambridgescholars.com. More information is available on the Church Notice board.

Certificates of Practice
Fr Michael will be available to sign certificates of Practice on the following days
Monday 4th December 3-5pm
and
Tuesday 5th December 7—8pm



Mass Intentions

Sunday 3rd December

8.30 Giovanni Rimmaudo RIP
10 Deceased of O'Connell family
1.30 Tina Kerr RIP

Monday 4th December

Rosa & Antonio healing
Joan Gottschalk RIP
Nell Farrelly RIP

Tuesday 5th December

Joan Hayes anniversary
Tom Bannon RIP
Deceased sisters SHJM

Wednesday 6th December

Jo Pestell intention
Intentions Mary O'Connor
John Maher RIP

Thursday 7th December

Janet Arsenio
Fr Paul Boagey
Trinity intentions

Friday 8th December

Mary James RIP
Stuart Ritchie RIP

Saturday 9th December

10 Nambi Motha 90 birthday
6 Clare Pearce RIP

Sunday 10th December

8.30 Jutta Menzies Racionzer anniversary
10 Mr & Mrs Yomarajah
11.30 Allen & Constance Edwards RIP
Craig Lobo

Brentwood Diocesan Directory
Is available from the Parish Shop

Church Cleaning Saturday 9th December at 10.30am

Rachel Woolf & Kathleen Mahoney

Catholic Fellowship

Mass will be celebrated on Sunday **3rd December** at St Anne Line Church at 3.30pm for the intentions of Fellowship members. Everyone welcome and Mass will be followed by tea and cakes. A collection will be taken for the homeless.

Ecumenical Advent Service

Sunday, **December 10th** at 4.30 pm. with the choirs of All Saints church and Loyola Boys school. Tea/coffee and mince pies in the Becket Centre afterwards. Donations of mince pies welcome. Do come and join us for this ecumenical service of preparation for Christmas.

Christmas Masses at St Thomas'

Calling all Readers, Ministers of Communion, Ushers & Sacristans. If you will be attending any of the three Masses (3pm; 6pm or 10pm) at St Thomas' on Christmas Eve or the three Masses (08:30; 10:00 or 11:30am) on Christmas Day, please indicate your availability by adding your name to the lists located on the table at the back of the church.

Traditionally the 3pm Mass on Christmas Eve and 10am on Christmas Day have been a "children's mass", and we are looking again for two children aged 9 years or above (preferably with experience of reading at school assemblies etc.) to help with the Readings. There is a separate sign-up sheet on the table at the back of church, please add your child's name if you can help.