

**PRAY FOR THE  
SICK**



**Lately dead: Laura Kennedy**

**Eileen LYLE** passed away the 12 November aged 93 years. Her funeral will be on Tuesday **14th December** at Our **lady of Grace and St Teresa of Avila** in Chingford at 10am.

*May they rest in peace*

**Anniversaries:**

Hilda Kavanagh, Sister Mary McKowan, Frederick Watts, Maria Graves, Sr. John Lynch, Ralph Steele, Mary Wynne, Arthur Finch, Patrick White, Margaret Allcorn, Johanna (Judy) Gilmartin, Alicia Grover, Henry Hughes, Eleanor O'Sullivan, Charles Kairis, Sr. Marie Murphy, Victoria Thompson, John Mill, Ivy White, Jeremiah Fitzpatrick.

**Prayer to St Anthony**

O Saint Anthony! Saint of Miracles! I also have need of thy assistance; I have need of this special favour (mention the favour). I carry thy image bearing thy illustrations name on it and I call on thee to do justice for me at all times. Therefore, console me in my present necessity and grant me the help that, with full confidence, I hope for. Amen Say you request and make the sign of the cross. On behalf of AP.

**Mass Timetable**

*All our services are live streamed*

**SUNDAY MASSES**

1st Mass Sat. 6pm;  
8.30am; 10am & 11.30am  
*(The 11.30am Mass is recorded)*

**WEEKDAY MASSES**

10am

**CONFESSIONS**

By Appointment

**BAPTISMS**

1st and 3rd Sundays  
Of the month

Please wear a facemask, sanitise your hands, observe appropriate distancing Don't forget to provide track & trace information by using the QR code



**IPAD Found**

An IPAD has been handed in, please contact the Parish Office for more information as we would like to return it to its owner.



**ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY**

Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

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Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org

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**Third Sunday of Advent (C)**

**12th December 2021**

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



On this Gaudete Sunday, we rejoice in the promise of the incarnation of our saviour, the Son of God, Jesus Christ. He alone can give us true happiness.

**First Reading** Zephaniah 3:14-18

The prophet looks forward to a time of joy as he awaits the coming of the Messiah.

**Second Reading** Philippians 4:4-7

Trust in Jesus Christ and you will find true happiness.

**Gospel** Luke 3:10-18

John the Baptist announces the coming of the Christ, the Anointed One, and baptism by water and the Holy Spirit.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

## What is a parish for?

Eight people came to a Becket room last Saturday to listen to each other talking around this topic. It was a spontaneous response to the invitation of Pope and Bishop. Each spoke from their heart, producing a wide range of perceptions of what is real, wishes, healthy criticism, without any confrontation. It left me with much to mull over. We will meet again and newcomers are welcome in this group. My hope is that this practice will be repeated many times. Of course the church will survive. But what sort of church? It will involve and depend on people who are prepared to take the initiative we saw last Saturday. A bit of it can be done in the pub and coffee shop where friends gather to share what they hold dear— though that would only be a preliminary and superficial level. It is in meetings where people come sincerely to hear and to reveal their inmost feelings of what is important in life that the future church will emerge.

## Music returns

Seven churches were present last Sunday for an excellent Advent ecumenical service of prayer and song. And a collection of £660 for Mary's meals and the Salvation Army's care of the homeless in Ilford. Today we welcome back the 10 am Music Group who have been practicing for some weeks. Likewise the 11.30 choir is flourishing with organ support. Do think. Are you a concert-goer or do you come to mass to play an essential part? You know that just being there is boring, but taking part gives energy. For all the Christmas masses you will have carol sheets. Please sing, even though through the mandatory mask.

## A Christmas Message

Fr Austin Christmas message can be found on our website.

## Monday 13th December 7.30pm

### Penitential Service of Reconciliation

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm there will be a choice of 5 or so priests well distanced around the church for you to receive this sacrament. It has been a good experience through the pandemic that many have come, at their own chosen time, to talk to one of us priests through the plexiglass screen. The "confessions" have been more adult and productive. But on Monday we also express the fact that we are sinners together, and we come together to receive God's healing pardon and love.

### Christmas offering for the Friars A notice for parishioners who pay by standing order

As you know it is the practice that the loose plate offerings made at the Christmas masses are your personal offerings for the Friars. For those of you who pay by standing order we will have envelopes available in which you can place your donation and this will enable that donation to be gift aided. Thank you.

### Christmas Masses at St Thomas'

Many thanks to all who volunteered last weekend. However, we still require the following: **Ministers of Communion:** for the 3pm mass on Christmas Eve.

**Additional Reader:** for the 7:30pm mass on Christmas Eve and the 10am & 11:30am masses on Christmas Day  
**Ushers:** for the 3pm & 10pm masses on Christmas Eve and the 11:30am mass on Christmas Day

If you can help with any of the above, please add your name to the lists at the back of the church.

## Mass Intentions

### Sunday 12th December

8.30 Maurice O'Sullivan RIP  
10 Ann Corbett RIP  
11.30 Michael Gallagher ill  
People of the parish

### Monday 13th December

Chevonne Maria Lobo anniversary  
Francis De Costa anniversary  
Evarita Sidonie RIP

### Tuesday 14th December

Jeremiah Fitzpatrick anniversary  
Patrick T O'Sullivan RIP  
William Howe

### Wednesday 15th December

Mr & Mrs J J Yogarajah anniversary  
Brian Beveridge RIP  
Christina Ryan very ill

### Thursday 16th December

Ruth Grimsell RIP  
Milo Dempsey RIP  
Trinity intentions

### Friday 17th December

C.W.L  
Phillis Ryan RIP  
Breda Friel RIP

### Saturday 18th December

10 am Rory McGuire  
Kathy Stokes RIP  
6 pm John Mills anniversary

### Sunday 19th December

8.30 Deceased of O'Connell family  
10 People of the parish  
11.30 Terry Watts RIP

### SVP collection

We thought your last generous collection for the SVP work had provided enough for Christmas. Alas the needs are only growing. So again today we ask you to be generous in a **retiring collection after all masses.**

## Church Cleaning This will be the big clean before Christmas

### Friday 17th December at 9am

Claire Hobbs, Christine Acons,  
Julia Bever, Susanna Barnoin, Liz  
Atkinson, Josie Kiernon & Michelle  
Liddle

Any parishioner is welcome to come along and assist.

### Prayers of the Faithful – Bidding Prayers

We urgently need more people to join the rota for composing the Bidding Prayers for the Sunday masses – currently we just have five! If you would like to help or find out more information on what is required, please contact the Parish Office.

### Parish Diaries

Are available at the back of church

### Trinity Vacancy

Teacher of Theology/RE  
Please visit the school's website for more details

### The Youth2000 New Year Retreat

Will be taking place in our diocese, at Trinity School over the new year period. If you are interested please visit the school website.

<https://youth2000.churchsuite.co.uk/events/vxjhcong>

### Certificates of Practice

Fr Quentin will be available to sign school certificates of practice on Wednesday 15th December between 2.30 & 3.30pm.

### Brentwood Directories

Are available to purchase in the Parish office.