

PALM SUNDAY LITURGY

The full liturgy will begin at 11.30am in the Becket Centre. Please come before 11.20am so that we can arrange the procession. We enter into the spirit of the day: Red vestments. Hooray!! Jesus is great, the Messiah ending all troubles. We follow the drum singing heartily—simple tunes repeated in a round. Arrived in church the mood changes. We who were cheering now scream: Crucify him. Join in that too.

HOLY WEEK

Retells the story of Jesus' last week. Jesus is now working the effects of that in us as we move through Last Super, Calvary—the gap—and Easter. We are not spectators looking on from outside. God is doing something in us through the liturgies. On Thursday at 8pm I hope a representative of each of the active groups in the parish will come up with a symbol of your work, to renew our commitment to the service of Jesus now. We watch in the still of the night. Through Friday—Stations of the Cross at 10.30am and 8pm, the 3pm liturgy—we feel the pain, humiliation, abandonment, total desolation in agony. It is of Jesus in the past and his members now. And then: At 8pm on Saturday the vigil begins in the dark, for God is dead. The resurrection light bursts through the gloom and then on to baptism and new life.

WORTH COMING?

It can be a moving emotional, instructive experience leading to greater depths of life and love. It all depends on whether you take it all seriously. It is not just for the pious. It is offering new life to everyone.

LENT LUNCHES

In the Becket Centre on Tuesdays in Lent 12.15pm—1.30pm. Home Made Soup and French Bread £3. Everyone is welcome.

EASTER TRIDUUM

Many thanks to all those who offered their services last weekend; we do however, still need more Readers, Ministers of Communion Sacristans & Ushers for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday & Holy Saturday. Please add your name to the lists located at the back of the church if you are able to help.

ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT SCHOOL, WANSTEAD

Requires mid-day Assistant 7.5 hours per week, term time only. Closing date Mon. 21st March. Contact 020 8989 4700 or enquiries@stjosephsconventschoo.co.uk

Applications are invited for St. Joseph's Convent School Nursery Class to start in Sept. 2016. Girls born between 1.9.12—31.8.13 and Reception Class birthdays between 1.9.11—31.8.12. For further information, please contact 0208 989 4700.

REPOSITORY EASTER CARDS

Palm Sunday is approaching and there is just time to pick up your Easter Cards. On Low Sunday we will be available after all Masses to take orders for First Holy Communion gifts.

1ST COMMUNION

There is a meeting for parents of 1st communion children to arrange the Masses at 8pm in the Becket Centre on Wednesday, 16th March. It is expected that all parents will attend this important meeting.

LOGS

Do you have a log burner? Are you on the lookout for logs? Then look no further. Please help yourselves to the pile of logs located by the garages in the car park.

24 HOURS EXPOSITION

The Pope has asked parishes to have a 24 hours Exposition in the Year of Mercy. Is there any interest for such in this parish? Please let me know. Quentin.

SYRIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

Would you like to do something to help the refugees fleeing war-torn Syria? Join members of our parish TELCO team, other organisations in Redbridge and individuals locally on a training afternoon to learn about ways we can work together to welcome refugees seeking sanctuary to Redbridge. Sun. 20th March 3pm—6pm in the Claire Room upstairs in the Becket Centre. Please email Daniel.Mackintosh@citizensuk.org for more information or to register your interest.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2016

"Before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you've depended on more than half of the world". Martin Luther King Jr. There are times of the year when many people who grow the food we eat for breakfast can't feed their own families. Join us for a cup of Fairtrade tea or coffee after 10am and 11.30am Masses at St. Thomas' this Sunday. Thanks to the generosity of Waitrose in Buckhurst Hill and Sainsbury's in Loughton in supplying our Fairtrade tea and coffee during Fairtrade Fortnight. Any donations received from you for these refreshments will be passed equally to Mary's Meals and CAFOD.

GARDEN FETE

Working fridges desperately needed for the Garden Fete. If you can help, please call Mick 07875473269.

To make the garden fete plant stall a success, all "green fingers" please bring along your plants on Fete Day.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Would like to increase further the medical cover it provides for its pilgrims. If you are a doctor, please consider joining the pilgrimage this year (14th—19th August). Your care of our pilgrims is greatly needed, will be greatly appreciated, and is immensely rewarding. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Cathy O'Connor at 01206 501146 or via cathy@brentwoodlourdes.org

SAINSBURYS VOUCHERS

Once again the Mother and Toddler Group are collecting Sainsburys vouchers and would appreciate your help. Please hand them into the parish office. Thank you.

THE RESURRECTION

Cruel fairy story or a vivid living reality? Dr. Doherty will deliver this History Mystery Lecture on Thursday 10th March at 7.30pm in the Ratcliffe Hall on the Upper Site. Trinity Catholic High School, Mornington Road. Admission will be £2. Dr. Doherty will raffle copies of his recent novels and auction the dedication of the next one. Refreshment including wine will be available. All proceeds to go to "The Mission of Hope" led by Sr. Mary Joachim who is working in the most desolate area in Ethiopia. All are most welcome.

CHURCH FLOWERS

We are in need of ladies who would be prepared to learn how to arrange the church flowers on a rota basis. If you are interested, please contact Barbara, Parish Office.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES

Will parishioners pick up their envelopes for the next financial year from the back of the church. Grateful thanks.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick:- Mike Angelo, Baby Oliver Barker, Angela Barrett, Betty Bere, Angela & Kerry Bromfield, Genevieve Campbell, Eustage Chesley, Claire, Carmel Cork, Claver D'Souza, Lewis Cullinan, Teresa Daly, Chris Fitzgerald, Franca Francioni, Irene & Carter de Freitas, Karen Gallagher, Trish Gardner, Mary Grisdale, Cynthia Gregory, Doris Harriss, Lauren, Camille Malone, Bridie McCoy, Claudia McNulty, Patsy Mahoney, Jutta Menzies, Pat Morgan, Miriam Mullally, Josephine Mullen, Dermot Ryle, Edward Shearer, Astrid Turner, Mary Quaine,

Anniversaries Eileen Godber, Kay Meyler

Latently Dead James Campbell, Tina Woolf, Liz Browne, Emily Murphy. We extend the sympathy of the parish to Val Browne and family on the death of Liz. **May she rest in peace.**

HOUSEHOLD DUTIES

Cleaning/ironing etc. Good rates, references available, CRB checked, works in all areas. Please contact 07960 077452.

CLEANER

With 20 years experience cleaning schools, pubs and offices is available for cleaning duties as from 5th April 2016. Minimum 2 hours per session. References available. For more information please contact Lydia on 07549156797.

Please do not

SUNDAY MASSES

St. Thomas'
1st Mass Sat. 6pm; 8.30am;
10am (Children's Liturgy)
11.30am
Chigwell Convent
10am
St. James URC
(Buckhurst Hill)
9am (Children's Liturgy)

WEEKDAY MASSES

St. Thomas'
10am
Chigwell Convent
9.30am
Saturday 10am
(1st Weds of the month)
No morning Mass
Trinity High School
8.20am on Lower Site.

SATURDAY CONFESSIONS

St. Thomas'
10.30am—11.30am
5.00pm—5.45pm
Chigwell Convent
After 10am Mass
BAPTISMS
1st and 3rd Sundays
Of the month

CHURCH CLEANING

Friday 9am 18th March Maureen Insole, Claire Hobbs, Julia Bever, Christine Acons, Lisa Robinson, Jack Edwards.

A reminder that the Easter Clean of our church is on Wednesday, 23rd March at 10.30am. Please come and give a little of your time to give the church a good clean for Easter. We do need your help.

TEA ROTA

We need additional people to help serve teas on a 7 week rota basis after the 11.30am Mass on Sunday. If you feel you can help, please contact Sheila on 8504 3839.

WORKS OF MERCY

The next Rosary Procession Vigil, led by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, will be held on Sat. 19th March at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church. We begin with 9am Mass, followed by our Procession at 9.45am to Marie Stopes, where we pray 15 decades of the Rosary and sing hymns returning at approx 12noon to the church for refreshments. Full details on poster in church porch.

LONDON MARATHON PARTY

Exclusive Fundraiser Event for London Youth Charity on 16th April at Woodford Wells Club, Monkams Lane. Start 19.30pm Finish 12.30am Ticket £20 per person. Dress Code: Glamorous. Tickets available at Woodford Wells Club Reception. See poster at back of the church.

St Thomas of Canterbury

557/559 High Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0RB

Served by the Franciscans



A FAIRTRADE PARISH



Tel: 020 8504 1686 Fax: 020 8504 1844

Email: parishoffice@friar.org Web: www.stthomaswoodford.org

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT CYCLE C

13TH MARCH 2016



As we gather today we come with many things on our minds and in our hearts: the concerns and distractions of our daily lives, and the older hurts and joys that we carry with us always. Today we are invited to make a fresh start, and begin a journey with the Lord into an unknown but blessed future with him.

First Reading (Isaiah 43:16-21)

God is doing a new deed. The prophet Isaiah calls on us to look again, with fresh eyes, to see what graces the Lord has ready for us if we will put our trust in him.

Second Reading (Philippians 3:8-14)

The apostle Paul, in prison, yet filled with the freedom and joy of the Holy Spirit exhorts us by his own example: forget what is past, and keep running the race into the new life of resurrection.

Gospel (John 8:1-11)

The woman Jesus meets is guilty and condemned, trapped by her sin. In his forgiveness and compassion she is freed from her past, and her accusers are shamed by their own past sins.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad*