

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Anna Appiah, Aichard Abangwu, Mike Angelo, Baby Oliver Barker, Angela Barrett, Miss Terry Bennett, Sandra Bourke, Angela Bromfield, John Browne, Antonia Buck, Claire Merrins, Teresa Daly, Nigel Dillon, Carla Doherty, Irene & Carter de Freitas, Don Dourado, Antony Dover, Lenny Finney, Garrie Godkin, Cynthia Gregory, Mary Grisdale, Betty Halliday, Doris Harriss, Ethne Hubbard, Jane Kirk, Roger Machin, Camille Malone, Clare Merrins, Patrick McGurk, Mary McKay, Jutta Menzies, David Morgan, Joan Reynolds, Jacky Rott, Dermot Shean, Debbie Smythe, Astrid Turner, Rita Watkins, Cian Wright.

Anniversaries:- Letitia Featherstone, Patricia Greene, Luca Marrai, Walter Pert, Lena Tyson

Lately Dead: Joan Culloty, Anne Gallagher, Tony Marl, Michael Mansoor, Johnner O'Brien, Lauren Sandell, Don Stevens, Mr Vaccares,

A REQUEST

I would be grateful if the Savio family could contact either Quentin or the parish office. We need some details for the Baptism Register.

Also can the Tojuola Family contact the parish office re their Gift Aid contribution. Grateful thanks.

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

SING MESSIAH

Sat., 3rd Dec. at Brentwood Cathedral, Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is holding a performance of this thought provoking, emotionally stirring, rousing piece of choral music. A specially formed choir will rehearse in the afternoon and perform the complete Messiah to an audience at 7pm. Tickets to parishioners at St. Thomas' cost £15. Call Julie Abbott 01268 784544 or jabbot@bccs.org.uk.

ROOM AVAILABLE

In the Woodford Green area. Female, working professional preferred. If you know anyone who might be interested could you please contact Mary on 07858769907.

CHURCH CLEANING

Thursday 10.30am 1st December Jean Burke, Mary Charter, Dianne Molloy, Dorothee Gabriel, Florence Kiggundu. We are in the process of doing the new rota. Could someone from each team please let Pat know how many come on your team and if you need any more people a.s.a.p.

We are in need of a few more people to help with church cleaning on a rota basis. You would be working in a team of 4 or 5 once in 7 weeks on a Thursday or Friday and one team that do it on a Saturday. Please ring Pat Bell 020 8504 4577 or email mrmcbell@btinternet.com.



St Thomas of Canterbury

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

Served by the Franciscans



A FAIRTRADE PARISH

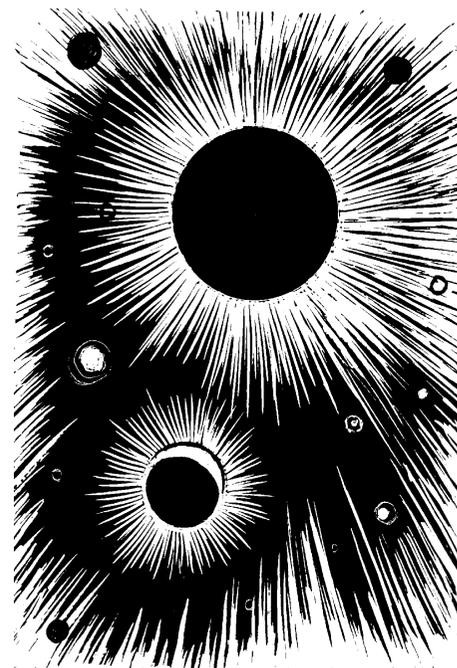
Tel: 020 8504 1686 Fax: 020 8504 1844



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

1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT CYCLE C

27TH NOVEMBER 2016



Jesus tells us to remain awake for the coming of the Son of Man. In Advent we prepare ourselves for his coming by living watchful lives.

First Reading (Isaiah 2:1-5)

Isaiah has a vision in which all peoples will stream to the Temple of the Lord, and he will establish a kingdom where there will be no more war.

Second Reading (Romans 13:11-14)

Paul urges the Romans to give up the ways of the night and to live sober lives in the light of the day.

Gospel (Matthew 24:37-44)

Jesus urges his disciples to remain awake and ready for the coming of the Son of Man.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

To you O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Please take an Advent Flyer as you leave church today.

There will be an SVP collection after all Masses this weekend.

ADVENT

One by one through the world the Holy Doors have closed and the holy year of mercy came to its conclusion. It is only the celebratory year that is past: the reality persists. Today marks the start of a new year. We have an ambitious plan to help everyone to digest the huge change that has crept on us scarcely noticed. It is a different thing to be a catholic now from what it was even a few years possibly months ago. Pope Francis has led us into a new mentality. Or rather: he has provided the material. WE have to assimilate it. So in the new year we hope to organise discussions in which we will help each other to grasp what Francis is saying. Help each other. Yes. Lectures achieve little or nothing. We learn from each other in a family atmosphere. That is what a parish is, or should be.

READERS' TRAINING DAY

My warm thanks to Michael Murphy for organising, to Sue Seward for conducting brilliantly, and the two dozen+ courageous participants who came last Saturday for tuition in reading. It was informative, formative and fun for 3 hours. We will observe the benefit when next you each read in church. And hope to provide a further course for others. Good reading is not as easy as it looks!

ECUMENICAL ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

At St. Thomas' on Sunday, 4th December at 4.30pm with the choirs of All Saints, St. Thomas' and St. Antony's School. Light refreshments to follow in the Becket Centre (donations of mince pies gratefully received). All are most welcome.

MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

Much of our ministry is doing well. I thank all who came for the refresher course in the past ten days. Though brief the meetings were useful, principally for our personal formation. Alas the real problems I perceive are no nearer to resolution. So I will try again. Your commission has run out. I still have no clear knowledge from many on our list as to whether you wish to continue this ministry or not. So: first of all I must alter the arrangements I announced last week.

Today at each mass there will be the opportunity for any Minister commissioned for our parish till now, to renew your mandate for ONE Year only. It will give time to make further enquiries and set up better arrangements.

But, secondly, do bear in mind: there are many housebound people in our parish to whom we should be taking Our Lord in communion and we are not doing so. Please tell me of anyone who would benefit from such a visit. We are failing badly. I need you to bring me the information. Then we can think how to arrange it.

DEMENTIA AWARENESS

Are you or someone you know affected by dementia? The Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friends programme is the biggest ever initiative to change people's perceptions of dementia. Dementia Friends is about learning more about dementia and the small ways you can help. The parish is running a free "Dementia Friends" Information Session on Tuesday, 6th December at 7.30pm in the Becket Centre, open to anyone interested in finding out more about this initiative. Numbers are limited; further sessions can be arranged in the New Year. Please contact the parish office if you wish to attend.

ACROSS JUMBULANCE

Would any nurses or paramedics care to join the team travelling to Lourdes leaving 20th April 2017 and returning on 29th April 2017? Please ring Sheila 8504 3839 or Moya 8504 2514.

Also a doctor is required to travel on the outbound leg of the pilgrimage to stay a few days if able. Please call Gemma Constable 07766169534 to discuss if interested.

YOUTH 2000 PRAYER GROUP

A Youth 2000 Prayer Group meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7pm at The Convent, 20 Higham Station Avenue, South Chingford E4 9AZ (near Morrisons Shop). All are welcome.

ALB AMNESTY!

All altar servers past and present. Does your alb still fit? Do you have unwanted or unused albs? Please drop off unwanted albs to the parish office or come along on the 3rd December at 12noon with your alb if you need a better fit or a repair.

For more information, contact the parish office or Deborah on 020 8505 5012.

HOLY FAMILY LAY ASSOCIATES

Meeting on Monday, 5th December 7.30pm at Maureen's house.

TRINITY SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Tuesday, 6th Dec. at Mornington Road Site from 5pm. Advice on Higher Education will also be available. The Headmaster and Director of Sixth Form will speak to all students and parents about the application process in the Ratcliffe Hall at 7pm.

SACRED HEART COMPANIONS

Will have their monthly meeting on Monday, 5th December at 2pm in Chigwell Convent. All new members are welcome.

EPHING FOREST SOUTH 43RD SCOUTS

Parents, do something rewarding and support our children, get involved with our Scout, Cub and Beaver Group for just a few hours a week either on a Friday (Cubs) or Monday (Scouts) evening.

Unless we can recruit three new Leaders/Assistant Leaders before the end of December we are in danger of closing.

Please contact Chris Kurton at ckurton@hotmail.com or Terry Hobbs at hobbsfamily49@btinternet.com.

TELCO

Nine of our parishioners represented St. Thomas' at The Delegates' Assembly last Thursday at the Muslim Centre in Whitechapel.

250 people of all races, religions, ages, sexes and schools joined together to recognise our achievements (among which were the Living Wage, safety for some Refugees and Housing (including CLTs). Also to follow up the promise of 100 CLTs on The Olympic Park and renew our promise to work together for The Common Good. We marked the beginning of our new campaign on Health and energy. Bernadette, Claire and Gloria took active roles.

If there are any parishioners who would like to join us on the Committee we would welcome you with open arms. We welcomed two new members who joined us for the Assembly. "That we all may be one..." Is what comes to mind when we come together to "fight" for just causes.

PRAYER/SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUP

Held in the Becket Centre on 1st and 15th December at 7.30pm led by Sr. Sandra. You are welcome to come to any or all of these sessions.