

RECONCILIATION SERVICE

On Monday, 14th December at 7.30pm we will offer a short service of reconciliation with availability of priests for individual confession. It is a good opportunity of preparation for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Please note that the Mass of Christmas Eve will be at 10.15pm preceded by just 15 minutes of carols. It will be well to aim to attend this Mass rather than the Masses at 5pm and 7pm which tend to be over-crowded.

CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST. THOMAS'

Calling all Readers, Ministers of Communion, Ushers & Sacristans. Many thanks for all those who offered their services last weekend, however we still have "vacancies" for all the Christmas Masses. We especially need help with Ushers for the 5pm Mass. So if you will be attending any of the Masses on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, please indicate your availability by adding your name to the list located on the table at the back of the church.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL BIDDING PRAYERS

If anyone would like to join the rota for composing the Bidding Prayers at St. Thomas', please contact the parish office.

SCHOOL BURSAR

Part-time School Bursar needed to start as soon as possible, accountant with experience of commerce, not necessarily of schools. Two days a week. Might be of interest to recently retired accountant. Please contact the school office at the Ursuline Preparatory School, Ilford on 020 8518 4050.

REPOSITORY

Christmas cards have been selling fast, so we have restocked. We have also tracked down some beautiful Afro-American cards in the USA—a little more expensive than some because of the postage but well worth a look.

Christmas Mass Cards are available from the repository and the parish office.

HOME PRODUCE STALL

Mary Charter and Catherine Bissimire would like to thank everyone who donated to the home produce stall at the Christmas Fayre.

£100 to CRY
£100 to The Sisters in Chigwell
(Philippine Project.)

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES AUGUST 2016

Bishop Alan will lead the Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from Sunday 14th to Friday 19th August. From £639 by air with full board for six days, five nights, or from £419 by coach. This pilgrimage includes an experienced medical team and plenty of help for those with mobility needs. It is also ideal for couples, individuals, and groups of friends. There is a full programme to opt in and out of, and everyone is welcome. There are brochures at the back of the church. For more information or for a brochure, please 'phone Cathy O'Connor 01206 501146.

WELCOME

We welcome into the parish community Imogen Grace Anthony who was baptised in St. Thomas' last weekend.

SATURDAY SCHOOL

Re-opens on 16th January 2016

TELCO

Would you help us?

During this special time of advent, and during this difficult time in our world, inspired by our Pope who is offering refuge to a Syrian family in the Vatican, we are asking if there are parishioners who would like to play their part in helping the Syrian refugee crisis. We would value the support of parishioners who wish to join us in encouraging Redbridge council to accept 50 Syrian refugees into the borough of Redbridge and to join a support team in welcoming them to our area. As part of the campaign we most urgently require landlords who would be willing to accept the London council housing rate and offer their property if available at the time, to a Syrian family. We would also be grateful if you have a skill or service to offer in helping refugees integrate into our area to help support the request to our council. Please pick up the latest In Touch magazine for more information and please email munizsoledad@yahoo.es if you are interested, or would like to help.

RAFFLE

Emilie Mae wishes to thank parishioners for the opportunity to sell raffle tickets for the hampers last weekend. It was a big success and managed to raise just over £800.

VALENTINE SINGERS

Family Christmas Concert. Sat. 19th Dec. 7.30pm at St. Andrew's Church, The Drive, Ilford IG1 3PE. Tickets £10, £5 (students/benefit holders includes seasonal refreshments. Box Office 020 8550 4654.

NEW TO THE PARISH?

If you are new to the parish or have moved within the parish, please contact the parish office so that we can keep our records up to date. Grateful thanks.

THE HOLY FAMILY SISTERS AND CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

The Holy Family Sisters of 5 The Green are very grateful to all their friends who, last year, donated to various Charities instead of giving them Christmas presents. We would be very happy if you do the same this year as there are still so many families in need. We take this opportunity to thank you for your kindness and generosity to us and to wish all of you a very happy and blessed Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

CHURCH CLEANING

Friday 10.30am 18th December Rachel Varney, Lisa McDonnell, Carole Burns, Sheila Charles, Janet Walker.

We need 3 extra people to help clean the church once in 7 weeks on a rota basis 1 person on a Friday at 9am and 1 person on a Thursday also at 9am and 1 person on a Saturday at 10.30am. Please contact Pat Bell on 020 8504 4577 or email mrmcbell@btinternet.com if you can help.

CHRISTMAS CLEAN

Date for the Diary:

Wed. 23rd December at 10.30am.
As many helpers as possible please.

SUNDAY TEAS

We are looking for 2 people to help with teas after 10am Mass on a Sunday morning on a rota basis once in seven weeks. Please contact Pat Bell on 020 8504 4577 or email mrmcbell@btinternet.com if you can help.

SOUP RUN

Please note that there will be no more soup runs until the New Year.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick:- Mike Angelo, Maria Ashley, Baby Oliver Barker, Angela & Kerry Bromfield, Liz Browne, Genevieve Campbell, Yvonne Carpenter, Eustage Chesley, Claire, Claver D'Souza, Don Dourado, Laurie Durrant, Maureen Halford, Thomas Hefferman, Irene & Carter de Freitas, Trish Gardner, Mary Grisdale, Cynthia Gregory, Catherine Heagney, John Harris, Doris Harriss, S. Kuntz, Lauren, Mary McKay, Roger Machin, Camille Malone, Bridie McCoy, Paul McDonnell, Claudia McNulty, Jutta Menzies, Pat Morgan, Dr Courtney Price, Lily Reding, Melda Tierney, Pauline Tuite, Astrid Turner, Kath Vaughan .

Lately Dead George Casey, Jonathan Cuthbert, Martin Gilligan, Pat Greene, Aiden Hayes, Peter Morgan, Bill Selby, Pat Sullivan, Mrs Sullivan.

Peter Morgan's Requiem will take place on Tuesday, 15th December at 10.00am in St. Thomas'.

Pat Greene's remains will be received into St. Thomas' on Thursday, 17th December at 5pm. Her Requiem will take place on Friday, 18th December at 10am in St. Thomas'. A well known and respected member of the parish community. May she rest in peace.

Anniv: Desmond Hand, Craig Lobo, Mary O'Sullivan,

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

NOTICE

From Police Constable Shahnuaz
(Faith and Community Liaison Officer)
If anyone you know has been a victim of a crime or incident where you believe it was as a result of your beliefs or any other Hate Crime, then please report the matter to the Police as soon as possible. In case of emergency please always dial 999, otherwise dial 101 or call your local Safer Neighbourhood Team.

It is vital to get offences of this nature recorded even if one believes that "there is no point" or for other cultural reasons wishes not to proceed. The reporting of hate crime enables the Police to build a picture of the current tensions being faced by the local communities in Redbridge. This also allows the Police to manage their resources accordingly as their priority remains to keep you safe.

HAIRDRESSER

Harrods trained and colour specialist (mobile). Contact Tina 07957977380.

VACANCY

Trinity Catholic High School require an Examinations Manager and Assistant to the Data Manager.
Required as soon as possible. 36hrs per week. Contact SamGillary@fc.tchs.uk.net. Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is Friday, 8th January 2016.

St Thomas of Canterbury

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

Served by the Franciscans



A FAIRTRADE PARISH

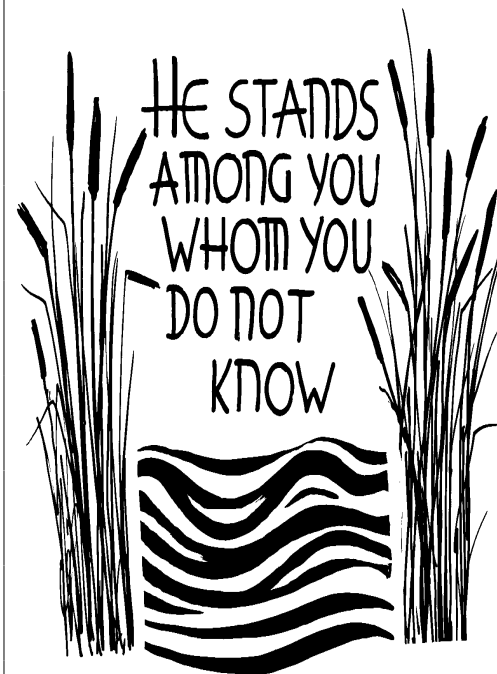
Tel: 020 8504 1686 Fax: 020 8504 1844



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

3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT CYCLE C

13TH DECEMBER 2015



As the days now draw nearer to the celebration of our saviour's birth the scriptures call on us to rejoice that God is always close to us.

First Reading (Zephaniah 3:14-18)

After warning against the coming day of judgement, the prophet encourages the people to rejoice because God is among them and salvation is near.

Second Reading (Philippians 4:4-7)

Paul is in prison because of his work for the Lord but concentrates only on his love and concern for the Christians in Philippi.

Gospel (Luke 3:10-18)

John the Baptist teaches the people how to change their lives in preparation for the coming of Christ.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Sing and shout for joy

For great in your midst is the holy One of Israel.