

ANNIVERSARIES:

Eleanor Kilroy, Isabella Kingswood, Boniface (Hans) Kruger OFM, Richard Langley, Mary Lee, Alexander Lobo, Yvonne Lobo, Ernesto Loiacono, Olga Machado, Patrick Mahoney, Joseph Marie, Winnie McLaughlin, Ellen McMurdoch, Elizabeth Meredith, Moya Moffat, Sister Patrick Moriarty, Sister Brigid Nugent, Anne O'Gara, Fr Benedict O'Halloran OFM, Kathleen O'Hara, Margaretta Inessilva Olivos, Lotte O'Neill, Michael O'Neill, Bradley Persell, Lilia Armenia De Sa

Donations for the Homeless

The parish Young Vinnies group will be visiting the SVP homeless shelter in Southend in March and have been asked for donations of good quality coats, joggers, hoodies, hats, gloves and new socks. If you would like to donate please leave with the parish office until the **23rd March**.

In Touch Magazine

If anyone would like a copy of these magazines produced in this parish over a number of years, please contact Patricia on 020 850 42017.

St James United Reformed Church in Palmerston Road, Buckhurst Hill is closing on Easter Sunday. It was a much valued mass centre for the local Catholic community for many years. A service of celebration will be held on Sunday 29th March at 2.30pm. If you would like to attend please contact Peter Minoletti (07772547412) to assist with numbers

YOUR PLACE—Second Collection

A total of £589.85 was collected during last weekend masses (**not** including envelopes). Thank you to everyone for their kind generosity!

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

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 10.30 to 11am
and 5.15 to 5.45 pm

BAPTISMS

1st and 3rd Sundays
of the month

SVP

Our SVP conference will be having a second collection after all masses on the weekend of **21st & 22nd March**. Your generosity at Christmas enabled the SVP to assist 27 families in need. We also gave help to a neighbouring parish SVP Conference which was struggling financially. The monies raised next weekend will be aimed to help more people and families in need. In addition, if you know someone in need please pass on our contact details which are: phone 07547 49106 or email svpstthomas@gmail.com or take one of our leaflets in the porch and pass it on to them. As a reminder we can also offer support other than financial

St Vincent De Paul Society

Are you in urgent need – financial or other? Call us on 07547 491067 and leave a message. We will call you back.

SUMMER FETE

Summer fete on the 11th of July, 12-4pm. If you would like to have a stall, please contact Avril on avril.leary@yahoo.co.uk. We would welcome any donations of prizes for the raffle.

UNDER 5's

St Thomas under 5's group is running every Tuesday & Wednesday morning at 9.30am—11am term time only.



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Parish Office: 020 8504 1686
Friary: 020 8504 1688



Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org
Facebook: @STOCWoodford
Twitter: @STOCWoodford



Served by the Franciscans

FORTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A) SUNDAY, 15TH MARCH 2026

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

As we continue this season of Lent we gather today, giving thanks for all the many blessings we have received and committing ourselves to living out the Gospel in our daily actions.

First Reading 1 Samuel 16:1b. 6-7. 10-13a

The prophet Samuel anointed David as King of Israel, after which the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him.

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want

Second Reading Ephesians 5:8-14

Paul contrasts past "darkness" with current "light in the Lord," urging believers to live as children of light and produce goodness, righteousness and truth.



SET DOWN YOUR WATER JAR

Pope Francis uses this image from this Sunday's Gospel to encourage us to set aside the burdens we carry unnecessarily and free ourselves to engage unburdened in the conversation of prayer with the Lord.

The Gospel says that the disciples marvelled that their Master was speaking to this woman. But the Lord is greater than prejudice, which is why he was not afraid to address the Samaritan woman: mercy is greater than prejudice. We must learn this well! Mercy is greater than prejudice, and Jesus is so very merciful, very! The outcome of that encounter by the well was the woman's transformation: "the woman left her water jar" (v. 28), with which she had come to draw water, and ran to the city to tell people about her extraordinary experience. "I found a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" She was excited. She had gone to draw water from the well, but she found another kind of water, the living water of mercy from which gushes forth eternal life. She found the water she had always sought! She runs to the village, that village which had judged her, condemned her and rejected her, and she announces that she has met the Messiah: the one who has changed her life. Because every encounter with Jesus changes our lives, always. It is a step forward, a step closer to God. And thus, every encounter with Jesus changes our life. It is always, always this way.

In this Gospel passage we likewise find the impetus to "leave behind our water jar", the symbol of everything that is seemingly important, but loses all its value before the "love of God". We all have one, or more than one! I ask you, and myself: "What is your interior water jar, the one that weighs you down, that distances you from God?" Let us set it aside a little and with our hearts; let us hear the voice of Jesus offering us another kind of water, another water that brings us close to the Lord. We are called to rediscover the importance and the sense of our Christian life, initiated in Baptism and, like the Samaritan woman, to witness to our brothers. A witness of what? Joy! To witness to the joy of the encounter with Jesus; for, as I said, every encounter with Jesus changes our life, and every encounter with Jesus also fills us with joy, the joy that comes from within.

And the Lord is like this. And so we must tell of the marvelous things the Lord can do in our hearts when we have the courage to set aside our own water jar.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the cross will take place every Friday during Lent at **7.30pm** from the 20th February until the 27th March. We will make this journey and would like you to join us.



HELPERS : EASTER MASSES

Are you able to help during the Easter masses? If so, please add your name to the list on the notice board at the back of the church - thank you

LENTEN LUNCHES

Lunches will be available every Friday in Lent. Homemade soup, French bread and tea/coffee will be served between 12.15 and 1.30pm in the Becket Centre, all for just £5.

Please do come and join us. The money that we raise goes to Mary's Meals, a charity that feeds school children in some of the poorest countries in the world.

40 hours devotion

40 hours of Continuous Eucharistic Adoration during Lent (night and day except during Mass) will take place on the weekend of **21-22 March** at St John Vianney Catholic Church, 1 Stoneleigh Road, Clayhall, Ilford IG5 0HE, starting with Mass of Exposition and Procession of the Blessed Sacrament at 7am on the Saturday and ending with Benediction at 11pm on the Sunday. All are very welcome to take part in this very special devotion.

Gift Aid

Gift Aid Envelopes for the next financial year will be available on the table at the back of the church. Please collect yours when convenient. It is important that you let the parish office know if you are no longer a tax payer. If you would like to join the Gift Aid scheme, just fill in the Gift Aid Declaration and collect a set of envelopes from the parish office.



Mass Intentions

15th to 22nd March

Sunday 15th March

8.30am - Mary Lee anniversary
10am - Willy O'Gorman
11.30am - in memory Patrick Higgins
CWL

Monday 16th March

Angus Gillies (very sick)
Flynn family
Philip Musonza RIP

Tuesday 17th March

Mary O'Connor & Paddy Delaney RIP
Myles O'Connor
Josie Walsh RIP
Fr Odran Furlong RIP

Wednesday 18th March

Sheila & Allen Charles wedding anniversary
Patrick De Silva anniversary
Peter & Theresa Hayes

Thursday 19th March

Allen Charles anniversary
Patrick De Silva anniversary

Friday 20th March

Sr Mary Slaven H Fam RIP
Aonghus Leyden RIP

Saturday 21st March

10am - Fr Tony McKenty RIP
6pm - Bridget Kearney RIP

Sunday 22nd March

8.30am - Paddy & Phil Callanan RIP
10am - Peter Bourdillon
11.30am - John Burnham anniversary

Church Cleaning

Friday, 20th March at 9am

Claire Hobbs, Julia Bever, Susanna Barnoin, Michelle Liddle, Agatha Emohare, Susan Juffs

VACANCIES:

1. The Ursuline Academy Ilford is looking for an Exam Invigilator. Please see the school website for further information www.uai.org.uk/joining-us/come-work-at-uai
Closing date for applications 20th March.

2. The Governing Body of St. Antony's School have vacancies for a Class teacher and Middy assistant. The closing date for applications is Thursday 19th March. For more information, please visit our website www.stantonyscatholicps.co.uk/vacancies

Parish Social

Parish Social with Cash BINGO on Saturday **28th March in the Becket Centre**. Entrance fee £2.00 and Bingo books £3.00 each for 7 games. CASH only please. Doors open 7.30pm eyes down 8.00pm
(feel free to come along straight after the 6pm mass). All welcome! Please bring your own drinks and nibbles.

ALPHA

For the next 4 weeks, from Friday 6th March to the last session on Friday 27th March, inclusive, so that guests may take part in the Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm. We will then start our Alpha session as soon as the Stations finish.

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine & Co. Mayo Led by Bishop Alan Williams

Monday 15th June 2026 to Friday 19th June 2026. 4 nights in Knock House Hotel, with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Visit Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre. Price £799.00 per person
Contact: Patricia Tel: 01268 762 278 Mob: 07740 175 557
knockpilgrimages@gmail.com