

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Anniversaries:

Hugh Bowler, Anne Hickford, Sister Francis Kavanagh, Mary Quaine, Michael Millar, Danny O'Leary, Sister Maurita O'Leary, Lajos (Louis) Szukics, Mary Sullivan, Sister Mary Halligan, Richard Routledge, Alice Bryant, Vera Butler, Harry Kenyon, Raymond Stokes, Rosa Meriano, Sam Sebutt, Mary Tucker, Francis Jackson, Braz Joseph De Sa, John Walsh, Harold Clisset, Francis Daly, Theodore De Freitas, Kathleen McCarthy, Angela Barrett, Joan Looney, Bruna Walker, Claude Barnes, Maria O'Grady, Arthur Smith, John Fells, Francis French, Martin Staunton, Piedade Florencio De Sa

Easter Mass Collections

A reminder that the offertory collections at Easter Masses will be for the Friars. Envelopes are available should you wish this to be gift aided. Please tick the box to indicate that it is for Easter. A reminder also for those that donate by standing order to use these envelopes for your Easter donation

**Thank you
Happy Easter**

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

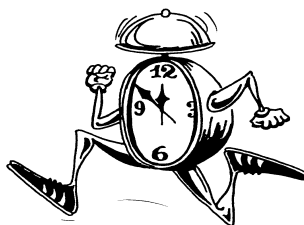
1st and 3rd Sundays
of the month

Baptism Course

The next course for first time parents will
take place on 29th May & 5th June.
Applications forms can be obtained from
the Parish Office.

Reminder

That the clocks
go forward this
weekend



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Woodford Green
A FAIRTRADE PARISH



Parish Office: 020 8504 1686 Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org
Friary: 020 8504 1688 Facebook: @STOCWoodford
Email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org Twitter: @STOCWoodford

**Easter Sunday (B)
31st March 2024**

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

On this Easter Day we gather as a community to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. We give grateful thanks for this happy day, and for the opportunities we have been given to pass the love and hope of the Risen Christ to all we meet.

First Reading

Acts 10:34.37-43
God does not have favourites:
the resurrection is for everyone.

Second Reading

Colossians 3:1-4
Now the life you have is hidden with
Christ in God.

Gospel

John 20:1-9
Jesus has risen from the dead –
nothing will ever be the same again.

Responsorial Psalm

This day was made by the Lord; we
rejoice and are glad.



The next newsletter will be published for 14th April 2024

Resurrection a Seed of Hope within us, A Meditation.

During the Easter season, I often ask workshop or retreat groups to name their own “small r” resurrections. I do so because it seems impossible to appreciate Jesus’ resurrection with a capital R without some grounding in our own experience. Participants generate impressive lists: health after serious illness, a relationship transformed, a shaft of sun piercing a depressing day, a new venture late in life. One woman even described seeing the ultrasound of her new granddaughter two weeks after her husband’s death. Life and death brush hands in a mysterious dance, and sometimes we catch a heartening glimpse.

Such resurgence of life, bursts of energy, and banners of hope—are these not hints of the Resurrection? When Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins asks Christ to “Easter in us, be a dayspring to the dimness of us,” he captures this rooting of a lofty, hard-to-grasp doctrine in ordinary lives. The good news remains an unchanging, steady beacon, but the way we receive it is coloured by our own experience. We may join half-heartedly in songs and celebration because we’re worried about the rent increase; it’s altogether different to sing full-throated alleluias because the biopsy was benign.

As we sow seeds this spring, it helps to notice how hard, small, and unpromising they look.

Parents, grandparents, and teachers are sometimes blessed to see a seed they planted—skill with numbers, a commitment to justice, or talent for music—emerge in a later generation. But some people never see the seeds they plant blossom. In his book *Taking Flight*, Anthony de Mello tells the story of a woman who enters a store and finds God behind the counter. “What do you sell here?” she asks. “Everything your heart desires,” God replies. So she asks for peace, love, freedom from fear, and happiness for all humanity. God smiles: “I’m afraid you misunderstood. We don’t sell fruits here. Only seeds.”



Maybe the seed of the good news needs to lie fallow in us for a while, awaiting the right conditions to flourish. Maybe we need to tend the rich soil of grief, probing what we can learn from it. At such times, we pray that the tiny seed of hope may grow into the flowering tree of resurrection. If we look closely, we can probably see around us in nature a tangible symbol of hope. The laciest green fuzz appears on tree limbs. The blades of grass may be only one-eighth-inch high, but they soon will carpet the hillsides. No wonder a popular Easter song is “Now the Green Blade Rises”.



Mass Intentions

Sunday 31st March

8.30 Mick Cusack RIP
10 Bernadette & Peter
wedding anniversary
11.30 Carl Knights

Monday 1st April

Leigh Kempshall sick

Tuesday 2nd April

Margaret Delaney anniversary

Wednesday 3rd April

Cathy Mair sick

Thursday 4th April

Sr Sandra 80th Birthday

Friday 5th April

Fr Isidore
Denis Burns

Saturday 6th April

10 Norman Picton 90th Birthday
6 Roman’s intentions

Sunday 7th April

8.30 Valerie Shearmur
10 Monica Shrubbs RIP
11.30 Mrs Da Cruz RIP



Church Cleaning

Saturday 6th April at 10.30am

Rosie O’Connor & Charmaine Turrell

Thursday 11th April at 9am

Jackie John, Sue Mansbridge,
Srimathie Cruz, Margaret Parkinson
& Mary Charter

Charity Spring Music & Dinner Evening on Saturday 27 April

The Epping Forest Catenian Circle is sponsoring a Spring Music and Dinner Evening at the Becket Centre, in aid of “YOUR PLACE”. All parishioners are very welcome to this social event with a classical guitarist and light music for all tastes. Tickets £35. More information is on the poster in the porch. Please text for tickets to Bernard Bourdillon (07867 908814) or Iain McLay (07806 998187).

Readers — can you help

We have a number of First holy communion masses in May/June. If you are about and can assist please let the parish office know. Many thanks

Advance Notice

Car Park Gulley Repairs

During the week commencing 15th April, the Gulley in the Car Park opposite the main double doors will be repaired. Although the car park will remain open there will be restrictions. So for parents taking and collecting their children to & from school we would ask that consideration be given to walking to school that week.