

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Truci Abrahams, Baby Oliver Barker, Angela Barrett, Miss Terry Bennett, Sandra Bourke, Arlene Bowman, Angela Bromfield, Geoff Brown, Tony Daws, Irene de Freitas, Don Dourado, Lenny Finney, Trish Gardner, Betty Halliday, Doris Harriss, Camille Malone, utta Menzies, Janet Morris, Dr. Douglas Murphy, Betty Norton, Kathleen Ogles, Maureen Pestell, Maureen Pollock, Yvonne Poulter, Lily Reding, Joan Reynolds, Heather Robertson, Jacky Rott, Trishna Santilal, Dermot Shean, Debbie Smythe, John Stokes, Frances Finnegan, Madelaine Sydic, Derek Timothy Astrid Turner, Beryl Vaughan, Rita Watkins, Gloria Wood, Teresa Wiener, Anne Winzer, Cian Wright.

Anniversaries: James & Elizabeth Loughran, John McGovern, Karen Spencer, Patricia Western, Michelle Samaraweera.

Lately Dead: Peter Ellis, Brendan Maher, Bridget Stapleton.

BAPTISMS

If you need to attend a baptism course for your first child, please contact the parish office.

Baptisms take place on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

PLEASE NOTE

NO JUMBLE TO BE LEFT IN THE CHURCH PORCH.

CHURCH CLEANING

Friday 9am 2nd June Margaret Chung, Jennifer Sorrell, Christabel Wijeweera, Francesca Cushion, Liz Atkinson.

PLANT WATERING

The pots outside the church are now planted and need to be watered on a regular basis. So far, we only have 2 volunteers. Please consider offering a little of your time to make the front on the church beautiful especially in this hot weather. If you would like to join the rota once a week, please contact the parish office.

VACANCIES

Trinity Catholic High School

Cover Supervisor Sept. 2017, 32 hrs/ week.
Teacher of Maths Sept 2017

Please visit the schools website for more details.

REPOSITORY

A new stock of prayer books for children has just arrived. Parents, do come in after Mass and take a look at what might help your youngsters with their prayers at home and in church. Still available—cards and suitable gifts for First Holy Communion and Confirmation candidates.

PLEASE NOTE

There will be no Children's Liturgy this Sunday and 4th June.

St Thomas of Canterbury

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

Served by the Franciscans



A FAIRTRADE PARISH

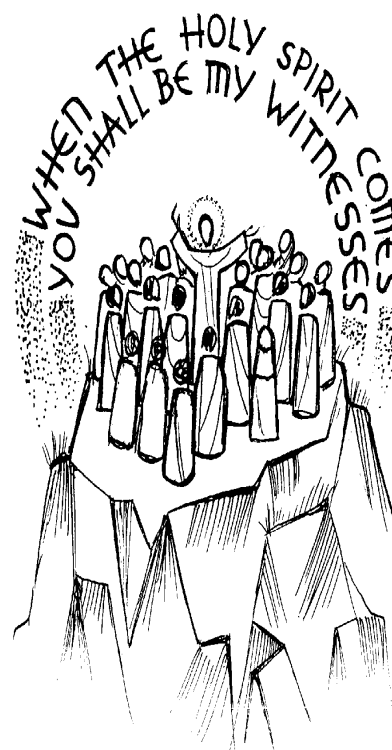
Tel: 020 8504 1686 Fax: 020 8504 1844



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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

28TH MAY 2017



Christianity is about ascension. In everything we do, we are called to ascend, not physically, at least not yet, but in our hearts. We are always to desire to rise, so that every action becomes an offering to God.

First Reading

Acts 1:1-11

The apostles stand on the road but the road is for travelling, not for standing still on.

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23

Paul calls us to see what can be, not just what is.

Gospel

Matthew 28:16-20

Whatever will happen in the future, whatever days you have to come, you may be sure of one thing: Jesus will be with you.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

God goes up with shouts of joy;
The Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

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

Monday's outrage in Manchester provoked a wholesale demonstration of solidarity. Perhaps it takes a disaster of that magnitude to convince people we need strong community. A Catholic is not one who just goes to Mass on Sunday. A Catholic is one who belongs to a family, then a family of families sharing a social life that provides all the ingredients of a humming family life, among them goodwill, imagination, laughter and the rest. St Thomas' has always had a strong social life from which the many commitments and good works flow. And it is still good. But our social life needs reinforcing. Gradually one by one the occasions and meetings and shared interests have shrunk, while some have disappeared. Please think about it. On June 24th our Summer Fayre is the biggest social occasion of the year. Do come and enjoy it.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Next Saturday brings the sixth and last celebration of First Communions for the current year. Without exception they have been well prepared, with great generosity. The Masses have been dignified moving occasions of prayer and love. They say a lot about the spirituality that thrives quietly in your homes. Well done. - We will review our practice immediately to learn of any possible improvements. But very soon the cycle starts again. We are looking for parents and others who will help with the preparation from next September.

HOLY FAMILY LAY ASSOCIATES

Meeting on Monday, 5th June 7.30pm at the Convent.

There will be an SVP collection after all Masses this weekend

PILGRIMAGE

The clergy of our deanery spent two days in a short retreat at Walsingham last week. We prayed for you and for the future of our Diocese. The Bishop is keen that the whole Diocese makes a pilgrimage thither on Sunday 22nd July. Is anyone interested? Would we fill a bus? Alternatively there is a suggestion of sharing a bus with adjacent parishes. Let me know fairly soon if you are interested.

GENERAL ELECTION

Our Bishops have issued some general guidelines of the values we should be pursuing in the coming Election. Please take a leaflet today. In the porch you will find notice of Hustings in Woodford Memorial Hall on 5th June at 7.30pm. We expect Ian Duncan Smith to come to the Becket Centre at 9 am on Friday 1st June.

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

"We have to break the vicious circle of anxiety and stem the spiral of fear resulting from a focus on "bad news". This has nothing to do with spreading misinformation that would ignore the reality of human suffering, nor is it naive optimism blind to the scandal of evil." Pope Francis' message on this day when we are asked to pray that the power of media and communications be used for good rather than harm.

GOD AND THE COSMOS

At Gidea Park next Saturday, 11 – 3. Guy Consolmagno will tell of the most recent scientific developments in understanding our cosmos. A Jesuit he is one of the leading contemporary astronomers and has been for years the Director of the Vatican Observatory. See notice in porch.

CONFIRMATION MASS

4th June at 3pm in St. Thomas'

PARISH AGM

We are looking for up to three individuals to volunteer for election to the Parish Council. Election is normally for three years, subject to personal commitments. Please hand your name into the parish office with contact details if you think you can help. We will contact you to explain further what is involved before you confirm your willingness to stand.

JOURNEY OF FAITH

The Journey of Faith got off to a resounding start last Wednesday. We welcomed 7 newcomers with 2 more guaranteed to join the party though not available that evening. If anyone else would like to sample the experience you may feel comfortable in the larger number. Next meeting Wednesday 7th June at 7.30pm. Come and join us in our search.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO COME

Pray and share in our Scripture Prayer Group on the following dates:-
Thurs, 8th June, 22nd June and 6th July at 7.30pm in the Francis Room upstairs in the Becket Centre.

PARISH ANNUAL SPONSORED WALK FOR BCCS

Our sponsored walk for BCCS (Brentwood Catholic Children's Society) is taking place this year on Sat. 17th June. Our circular walk of approx 9 miles from the Becket Centre through Epping Forest is the best supported in the Diocese and is suited for all ages. It's a great family event. This year its an earlier start time of 10am. If you would like to take part or sponsor the walk, contact David Underwood on 07905 741033.

SACRED HEART COMPANIONS

Will have their monthly meeting on Monday, 5th June at 2pm at Chigwell Convent. New members are welcome

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY



The Parish Summer Concert will be on Saturday 1st July featuring the Rodrigo Guitar Concerto. Tickets on sale from the parish office £15 and £12.

ACROSS

Pilgrimage to Lourdes by Jumbulance

Debbie Hourihan is leading a national group pilgrimage to Lourdes via Jumbulance on 3-12th August 2017. Helpers needed and there are limited places for able/unable and VIP's (those who are sick, disabled, terminally ill or just need a helping hand).

Full week at Lourdes in 4* Hotel full board, Group programme for the week £699. Limited subsidies available for nurses and 16-25 year olds in full time education. For more information contact Debbie Hourihan on 07584 623 472 or 020 354 1800.

ELECTION HUSTINGS

Monday, 5th June at 7.30pm in The Memorial Hall, South Woodford, Election Hustings for the parliamentary seat of Woodford and Chingford. All candidates have been invited.

To reserve tickets, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Hustings c/o Memorial Hall, 209 High Road, South Woodford. Maximum of 3 tickets per household, and please suggest a possible question.

WELCOME

We welcome into the parish community Ikenna Caesar Adizua Anene who was bap-tised in St. Thomas' last weekend.



THANKYOU

Chantelle Bacchus would like to thank the parish for generously supporting her Red Cross Bake Sale: £513 was raised.