

PRAY FOR THE SICK



Lately dead:

- ◇ Valerie Shearmur
- ◇ Anthony Hill
- ◇ Roseline Ball

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries:

James Griffin, Brenda O'Rourke, Mary Pearson, Murial Pells, Eileen Smith, Jonathan Wingate-Whyte, Anastasia Barfoot, Patrick Donovan, Olga Machado, Beatrice Cafon, Anne Harris, Elizabeth Meredith, Jacqueline Collett, Br Boniface (Hans) Kruger, Albert Clifford, Jane Fulcher, George Hoyes, Jessie Turner, Kathleen Clark, James Dillon, Henry Durrell, Teresa Ennever, Alexander Lobo, Yvonne Lobo, Margaretta Olivos, Veronica Allen, Bernard Blumsom, Noreen Hunt-Terry, James Saunders, Elizabeth Browne, Joseph Byrne, Eleanor Kilroy, Anne O'Gara

Coin Purse found

Please contact the parish office if you lost a purse as it contains coins and personal items

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



7.30pm at
St Thomas's
on Fridays in Lent.



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

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Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org

Facebook: @STOCWoodford

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Third Sunday in Lent (B) 3rd March 2024

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

There are many distractions in our world today and we can easily lose sight of what is really important. We gather today to remind ourselves of where true value and wisdom lie and commit ourselves to treating all people with fairness and respect.

First Reading Exodus 20:1-17

The Law is given to the people through Moses, teaching them how to live their lives and how to treat one another.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

The Risen Christ reveals the wisdom of God, a wisdom that is beyond anything we can imagine.

Gospel John 2:13-25

Jesus drives the money-changers out of the Temple and proclaims that he will make all things new.

Responsorial Psalm

You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.



CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE

The cleansing of the Temple is sometimes used to show that Jesus sometimes was angry and did something to stop abuse i.e. putting gaining money before the worship of God. He did do that but there is deeper meaning to His action. He is replacing a former religious practice with the Christian way of doing things. The money changers did an important service for worshippers who came to Jerusalem with the money of their nation in their purses. This could not be spent in the Temple which used only the Tiran Half 'Shekel so they had to change their coinage in order to buy a bird or an animal for sacrifice.

Ronald Rolheiser gives us an insight into the new perspective Jesus was introducing: "Now, of course, some of these money changers were less than honest, but that wasn't the real reason why Jesus reacted so strongly. Nor was he unduly scandalized because commerce was happening in a holy place.

When Jesus says, "take all of this out of here and stop using my Father's house as a market", he is teaching something beyond the need to be honest and beyond the need to not be buying and selling on church property.

More deeply, not turning the Father's house into a market might be translated as: "You don't need to exchange your own currency for any other currency when it comes to worshipping God. You can worship God in your own currency, with your own coinage. Nobody, no individual, no temple, no church, no institution, ultimately sits between you and God and can say: 'You need to go through us!'"

That's a strong teaching that doesn't sit well with many of us. It immediately posits the question: "What about the church? Isn't it necessary for salvation?"

That question is even more poignant today in an age wherein many sincere people already take for granted that they have no need of the church: "I'm spiritual, but not religious." Granted there's a danger in affirming and emphasizing this teaching of Jesus, but, and this is the point, this teaching was not directed towards those in Jesus' time who said: "I am spiritual, but not religious." Rather it was addressed to religious individuals and at a religious institution that believed that the way to God had to go through a very particular channel (over which they had control). All religious coinage had to be transferred into their particular coinage, since in their belief, they controlled access to God. Jesus tries to cleanse us of any attitude or practice that would enshrine that belief. No one controls access to God, and if God ever loses his temper it's because sometimes we believe we do."

Covid - reminder to reduce risk

- Reception of the Precious Blood (chalice) – is still suspended and is not available to the congregation.
- The Host will still only be given into the hand and will be done in such a way that no touching of your hand takes place. In order to assist we kindly remind parishioners to hold their hand flat
- Blessings at Communion "...with hands held over the recipients head but not actually touching".

We thank you for your continued cooperation with these matters and your understanding of our wish to keep everyone safe.



Mass Intentions

Sunday 3rd March

8.30 Br Raymond RIP
10 Mick Cusack RIP
11.30 Mary Hobart RIP

Monday 4th March

Miles O'Malley birthday
Bridie Maher anniversary

Tuesday 5th March

Antony Williams anniversary
Padraig Kirrane RIP

Wednesday 6th March

Tessa Murphy intentions
Antonia Pancratius celebration
Tim Bourke RIP

Thursday 7th March

Mrs Eustace-Chelsey-Rajin
Angela & T J Cartwright RIP

Friday 8th March

Intentions Sheila Farmer
Norene Steel-Harriston RIP

11.30 Funeral Anthony Hill

Saturday 9th March

10 Mick Cusack RIP
6 Carl Knights RIP

Sunday 10th March

8.30 Valerie Shearmur RIP
10 People of the parish
11.30 James Dillon anniversary

Church Cleaning Thursday 8th March at 9.00am

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

Franciscan life: Invitation

The Franciscan Community invite enquiries from single Catholic people aged 18-40 years pondering a possible vocation in the religious and/or priestly life, and Franciscan life; (website: www.friar.org). If interested and need guidance, please talk to one of the Friars or contact *Br Dónal ofm* via email - brdonalofm@yahoo.co.uk

TENNIS CLUB QUIZ

Diary date: Saturday 23rd March.
Tickets £8. Please email
ftcwoodford@gmail.com

Vacancy

The Ursuline Academy Ilford is looking to recruit a Receptionist/Purchasing Assistant, 36 hours pw, Term time + 2 days.
Applicants will also be considered on a job share basis, minimum 2 days.
Please visit the school website for more information.

Help Needed

Across are taking the sick and terminal ill to Lourdes via Jumbulance on 9th to 18th May. They urgently need fit able helpers. Please contact Debbie (Group Leader) 07847 714781 for further information.