

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Funeral at St Thomas'

John (Sean) Martin's funeral will take place on the 20th of December at 10am

May he rest in peace

Latently dead Elrinda Urag

Anniversaries: Arthur Finch, Patrick White, Margaret Allcorn, Johanna Gilmartin, Alicia Grover, Henry Hughes, Eleanor O'Sullivan, Charles Kairis, Sr. Marie Murphy, Victoria Thompson, Ivy White, Rosalind Burton, May Tudisca, Virginia Crook, Doris L'Estrange, Reginald Allen, Freitas de Augustinho, Gemma McManus, Desmond Hand.

SVP

There will be a retiring collection after all masses for the SVP who aim to help local families.

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

Franciscan Vocation Talks Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th January in the Becket Centre

Single Catholic men, 18-43 years of age, interested in the Franciscan Life Are invited to join us in the Becket Centre.

Friday: 3rd January

5-5.45pm *Franciscan Prayer*

Saturday: 4th January

12noon-12.45pm *Life and Spirituality of St. Francis*

2.30pm to 3.15pm *Franciscan History*

4pm to 4.45pm *Franciscan Formation*

7.30pm to 8.15pm *Franciscan Ministry now + the Future*

If interested in attending these talks and you are seriously considering a Religious Vocation, then please contact now and by 28 December

Br. Donal OFM (Vocation Director),

Email - brdonalofm@yahoo.co.uk

Awake London

A Catholic Bible convention on 21st December from 2pm to 6pm will be held at St Anne's Catholic High School, 6 Oakthorpe Road, London, N13 5TY.

Raffle Prizes to be collected

White ticket 54 and pink ticket 200. if not collected from the Parish Office this week we will return them to the organisers.



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Parish Office: 020 8504 1686

Friary: 020 8504 1688

Email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org



Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org

Facebook: @STOCWoodford

Twitter: @STOCWoodford



3rd Sunday of Advent

Cycle A 15th December 2019

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

John the Baptist again takes centre stage but in a different mood from last week – in prison, he wants to know if Jesus is the one they are awaiting. Jesus' answer is enigmatic. John is told to read the signs for himself.

First Reading Isaiah 35:1-6. 10

The prophet looks forward to a day when those who are blind will see, those who are deaf will hear and those who are lame will "leap like a deer".

Second Reading James 5:7-10

Be patient, says the writer. Take the example of a farmer waiting for the crop to ripen. Impatience will not hasten the Lord's return.

Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

In prison and nearing death, John sends messengers to ask who Jesus is; Jesus replies that John must read the signs for himself.

Responsorial Psalm

Come, Lord, and save us



Newsletter

To receive the newsletter by email please sign up on our parish website www.stthomaswoodford.org or mail communications@stthomaswoodford.org

Prepare ye the way of the Lord

So far you have used the church well in preparation for the Lord's 2019 coming. A large number came to the Ecumenical Advent service last Sunday. It is well to be reminded that we should value and do more to build our good relations with sister churches in the locality. We are all sharing what Matthew Arnold described as "the long roar of the receding tide of faith". Carol services usually retell the story of how Christ came in the past. On Sunday six other churches joined us to concentrate on the theme of Advent. We felt something of the cold of a world without Jesus – just so that we appreciate what a gift he is. There are many today whose world has no place or trace of Jesus. At times they feel the lack, without knowing what they are missing. The tea and pies that followed were an important chance to talk to others with whom we share deeply.

On Monday evening some came for the reconciliation service. There is still time if you wish for confession before Christmas. Just ring the doorbell. Priests will be in church at the usual times next Saturday as well.

Then on Tuesday St Antony's school filled the church for their Carol service. After unprecedented levels of absence through illness, and hence a lack of practice, the children provided an orchestra, drama and voices to a very high standard. Well done to the children and particularly their teachers. We look forward to more sharing between school and parish when the New Year begins.

The coming week brings Trinity Carol Service on Wednesday **18th December** in the lower site at 7.30pm.

Parish Activities

Thursday 19th December 7.30pm

Final Advent Talk of 2019 for parishioners by Brother Chris Dyczek on the topic of "Eugenio Constantino and imperialist Christianity" in the Assisi Room (upstairs in the Becket Centre). All are welcome.

Saturday 21st December 12 noon

The Christmas tree will be going up in the church, families welcome to join us.

Sunday 22nd December 10am Mass

The Children liturgy Catechists are hosting a short Carol Service in the Becket Centre. Children will be singing carols, accompanied by a guitarist. Polish cakes, Christmas biscuits and mince pies will be served. There will be an arts and craft table for children to enjoy. Everyone is welcome.

Mass Online

Saturday vigil mass will be recorded and available to view online. To view this visit www.stthomaswoodford.org Click **Mass Online**, then click the link to **Online Mass**.

Christmas Masses at St Thomas'

Many thanks to all who volunteered last weekend. However, we still have a long way to go before we have a full complement of Readers, Ministers of Communion, Ushers & Sacristans for all the masses on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day. Currently we don't have any volunteers for any of the ministries at the 10am mass on Christmas Day! Also, as we are expecting the church to be full at all the masses, we urgently need more experienced Ushers to assist with the smooth and safe running of each service. If you can help, please add your name to the list, located on the table at the back of the church.

Restoration Fund

Since launching our fundraising campaign for the heating and other works, 26 parishioners have entered into five year standing orders, eight parishioners and groups have made cash donations and eighteen First Holy Communion families have contributed. Thank you to these generous people who have contributed but we still have a long way to go.

One generous parishioner has donated their winter fuel payment to the appeal and they wondered if others would consider doing the same.

Notice Boards

In January we will be reviewing the contents of the notice boards in the Church porch area. This will involve removing all current posters etc. and deciding what will be placed on the boards in future. More information will follow in due course.

Christmas offering for the Friars A notice for parishioners who pay by standing order

As you know it is the practice that the loose plate offerings made at the Christmas masses are your personal offerings for the Friars. For those of you who pay by standing order we will have yellow envelopes available in which you can place your donation and this will enable that donation to be gift aided.

Advent Ecumenical Service

Many thanks to all those who supported the service, particularly to the readers, the choirs and the CWL. The retiring collection raised £850, which will be divided between Mary's Meals and the Redbridge Cold Weather Centre. Your generosity was appreciated.

Church Cleaning Thursday 19th at 9am

THE BIG CHRISTMAS CLEAN ALL HANDS ON DECK PLEASE

A message of thanks from the Parish Council

St Thomas' thrives because of the large band of volunteers that keep it alive, active and well cared for. In recognition of this the Parish Council would like to thank you all for your contribution to parish life and our community. As a small token of our appreciation, we would like to invite those who can come to a small social event on **25th January 2020 between 7 & 9pm**. We would love to be able to embrace you all at this event but alas, numbers have to be restricted to the numbers that can be accommodated in the Henrietta suite. Therefore, on a first come first served basis if you can come along can you please email parishoffice@stthomaswoodofrd.org as soon as possible. Whether you attend or not please accept our thanks for your role in our parish life. A mass will be offered for all your intentions on that day.

A Day for Readers

A date for your diary: On **Saturday 25th January** there will be a Day for All Our Readers from 10am to 3:15pm in the Becket Centre. More details in the New Year.

Saturday School

We are in the Assisi room of the Beckett Centre from 10am Saturday morning. Term starts again **11th Jan 2020**. For more information please contact Sean on 07968284781/sean@patriciansystems.com

Camp wild

Is organising Christmas party on the 23rd of December & Camp Wild activities on the 2nd and 3rd of January in the Becket Centre. Please call 07414274015 for more information.