

## PRAY FOR THE SICK

### Lately dead:

- ◇ Fr. Andrew McMahon
- ◇ Carl Knights

May they rest in peace

### Anniversaries:

Nigel Dawson, Adela Musson, Gerard Seeberan, Mary Cunningham, John Cleere, Thomas Feeney, Barbara Gois, Henricus Hustun, Thomas Mathews, Syrus Morley, Margaret Russ, Anka Stuttard, Eileen Bell, Jacob Black, Margaret Clarke, Susan Faulkner, Robert Heath, Conrad Roudette, Jacob Sullivan, Charles Vychodil, Anthony Murphy, Terence O'Brian, Margaret Arthur, Gerald Cobb, Marlene Cooper, Mrs Eileen Morrill, Frances (Fran) Piller, Victor Van Boolean.

### CHAPLAINCY AT SNARESBROOK CROWN COURT

This chaplaincy is run by mainly retired people who make themselves available to people at the chapel of the Crown Court in Snaresbrook. The chapel is open from 12.30 to 2pm. each weekday. The main quality of people who offer this service is non-judgemental listening to anyone who comes to the chapel seeking quiet and solace and maybe wishes to talk. If this is a service you would like to offer contact Mark Spencer Ellis, who co-ordinates the chaplaincy, at [markspencerell1@gmail.com](mailto:markspencerell1@gmail.com). He will show you round and offer training for this ministry.

### Mass Timetable

The masses on Saturday evening and Sunday at St Thomas' are live streamed

### 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

### Retiring Collections

Thank you for your donation to  
**Pax Christi** £381.93 last weekend.

There will be a retiring collection **next**  
weekend for **Racial Justice**

### Lost property

Items of lost property will be in the church porch next week. Any unclaimed items will be disposed of.

### PPC

Will next meet on 12th February

An update of their action plan and Q & A can be found on the website



**ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY**  
Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Parish Office: 020 8504 1686

Friary: 020 8504 1688

Email: [parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org](mailto:parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org)



Website: [www.stthomaswoodford.org](http://www.stthomaswoodford.org)

Facebook: @STOCWoodford

Twitter: @STOCWoodford



Served by the Franciscans

## 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) 21st January 2024

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

Jesus calls us each day to follow him and to seek the kingdom of God. Each day gives us a new opportunity to follow Christ.

**First Reading:** Jonah 3:1-5. 10

Jonah calls the people of Nineveh to repentance. They hear his call and return to the Lord.

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

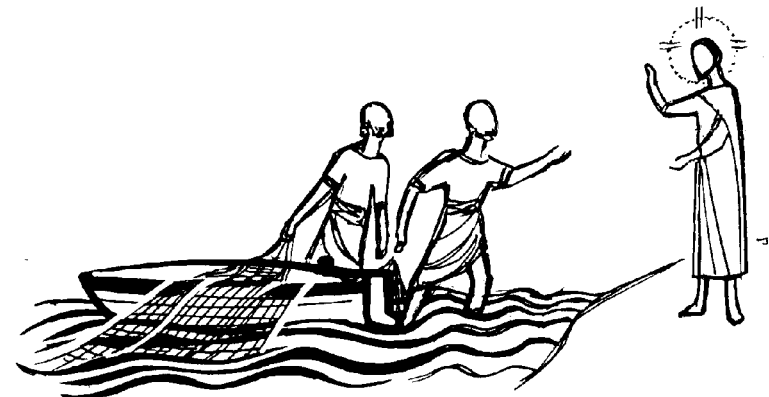
Life is short. Do not waste it on passing things.

**Gospel:** Mark 1:14-20

Jesus calls Peter, Andrew, James and John to follow him.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Lord, make me know your ways.



## POPE FRANCIS PREACHES ON CHRISTIAN UNITY

After the Last Supper, He prayed for His own, "that they may all be one" (Jn 17:21). This was His prayer before the Passion, we could call it His spiritual testament. Let us note, however, that the Lord did not command that His disciples be united. No, He prayed. He prayed to the Father for us, so that we might be one. This means that we are not able to achieve unity with our own strength. Above all, unity is a gift, it is a grace to be requested through prayer.

Each one of us needs it. In fact, we know that we are not capable of preserving unity even within ourselves. Even the apostle Paul felt a painful conflict within himself: wanting the good but inclined toward evil (see Rm 7:19). He had thus grasped the root of so many divisions that surround us – between people, in families, in society, between nations and even between believers – and inside us. The Second Vatican Council stated, "the imbalances under which the world labours are linked with that more basic imbalance which is rooted in the heart of man. For in man himself many elements wrestle with one another. Hence he suffers from internal divisions, and from these flow so many and such great discords in society" (Gaudium et spes, 10). Therefore, the solution to these divisions is not to oppose someone, because discord generates more discord. The true remedy begins by asking God for peace, reconciliation, unity.

And this is valid, first of all, for Christians. Unity can be achieved only as a fruit of prayer. Diplomatic efforts and academic dialogue are not enough. These things are done, but they are not enough. Jesus knew this and opened the way for us by praying.

Our prayer for unity is thus a humble but trusting participation in the Lord's prayer, who promised that any prayer said in His name would be heard by the Father (see Jn 15:7). At this point, we can ask ourselves: "Do I pray for unity?" It is Jesus's will but, if we inspect the intentions for which we pray, we would probably realise that we have prayed little, perhaps never, for Christian unity. And yet, the world's faith depends on it; in fact, the Lord asked that we be one "so that the world might believe" (Jn 17:21). The world will not believe because we will have convinced it with good arguments, but if we will have borne witness to that love that unites us and draws us near, yes: it will believe.

### Service for Christian Unity

The service for Christian Unity will take place at Woodford Methodist Church, Derby Road, South Woodford, on **Sunday, January 21st at 6.30 pm.** There will be light refreshments to follow. All are welcome.

### BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL LENTEN TALKS:

A series of 4 talks on the recent Synod on Synodality, which took place in Rome last October has been organised for the Holy Lenten season this year. The dates these will take place at the Cathedral are as follows:

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>February</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>February</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>March</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>March</b>

All the Talks will take place at Brentwood Cathedral at 7.30pm. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about the Synod on Synodality, and this invitation is open to the whole Diocese.

### Mass Intentions

#### Sunday 21st January

8.30 Sebastiano Maggi RIP  
10 Narishta Ratnanather RIP  
11.30 Robert Taylor RIP

#### Monday 22nd January

Gerry & Suzanne Kavanagh Golden Wedding anniversary  
James Armstrong RIP  
Sarah & Tim McArthy

#### Tuesday 23rd January

Eamonn Cunningham RIP  
Eileen Collins intentions

#### Wednesday 24th January

Frank Fitzpatrick RIP  
Kathleen Bradley RIP

#### Thursday 25th January

Fr Isidore  
Trinity intentions

#### Friday 26th January

Mick Cusack sick  
Bro Raymond RIP

#### Saturday 27th January

10 Cathy Dempsey RIP  
6 Mrs Lourdes Emmanuel RIP

#### Sunday 28th January

8.30 Patricia Metsiwodzi  
10 Narishta Ratnanather RIP  
11.30 Lynda Delaney anniversary

### Important reminder Confirmation Enrolment Mass

A reminder for candidates, parents and sponsors that the confirmation enrolment Mass will take place on **25th January 2024.** Please register your attendance and be seated by 7.15pm

### Church Cleaning Friday 26th January at 9am

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

### 15th Woodford Rainbows

If you wish your daughter to join rainbows Please go to [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) And fill out the form to register your daughter and put in the 15th Woodford as your choice of unit Girls start the term they are 5 If you have any questions please call Janet on 07803810666

### 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](http://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](mailto:brdonalofm@yahoo.co.uk)

### Year 12 Retreat 'Life to the full'

Walsingham House are running a retreat for students in Yr12 on the weekend of the 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> February. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet other young people from across the diocese, to make new friends and to take time out from their busy lives to reflect and pray. The cost of the retreat is £35. For more information and to apply please see the website <https://bcys.net/events/yr12retreat/>