

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Lately Dead: Mary Barry-Gregory

Anniversaries:

Laurence Bolger, Suzanna Linehan, Salih Raymond, John Tracy, Patrick Brolly, Winifred Talbot, Mary Coughlan, Sister Valeria Morris, Rory Roberts, Stanley Negus, Colm O'Herlihy, John Walsh, Aldo Iervolino, Marion Peachey, Jack Poulter, Eileen Punter, Patrick Redican.

Support for parishioners

Just a little note to let you know that our Volunteers reported that they found this a very positive experience, Those receiving support are very appreciative and the continued contact with the parish through the parish office and the allocated volunteer

If anyone is in need to help please contact the Parish Office

TELCO

During Lockdown, Telco organisations have been proactive across East London including responding to a call from Barths NHS Trust to support the NHS response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. We have worked together to reach community organisation's and disseminating information translated in a number of languages. We have also helped organise a successful linked in meeting of Faith Leaders across East London with representation from Brentwood Diocese. Some of our parishes and local communities have suffered the highest incidence and deaths from Covid-19 compounding the effect of poverty and overcrowding. St Stephen's in Manor Park is located at the epicentre of the worst hit ward in the country! In other places such as the Marks Gate estate, one of the poorest estates in London, families are struggling to meet basic needs of providing food for their children. We have also seen that the digital divide is a real issue which has had an impact on children's learning which had to be put online during the lockdown. Teachers and parents in membership of TELCO tell us that this is a serious issue which is here for the foreseeable future. We also know that some services like the Newham Breastfeeding support project is struggling connect and support new mothers who do not have access to IT equipment. **We are fundraising to support TELCO organisations that are delivering frontline responses to coronavirus. If you wish to help: Donate here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/TELCOCovid-19>**



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

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Pentecost Sunday Cycle A Sunday 31st May 2020

Today we celebrate the wonderful birthday of our Church. This is the feast when we recall the Holy Spirit being given to the disciples, enabling them to speak the word without fear.

First Reading Acts 2:1-11

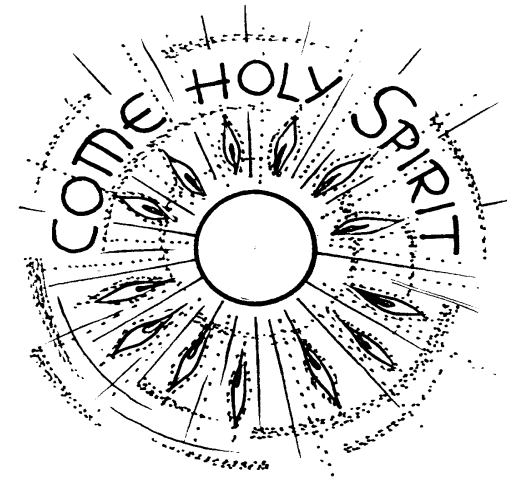
All people heard their own language being spoken by the disciples from Galilee.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12:3-7. 12-13

There are many different spiritual gifts but always the same Spirit.

Gospel John 20:19-23

The Lord says to the disciples twice, "Peace be with you," then he says, "Receive the Holy Spirit" and gives them authority.



In our lockdown spiritual communion is a blessing. It is no substitute for the real tangible communion of body and blood. We are blessed to have so many airwave opportunities to meet our loved ones: still we want to meet, to share, to hug.

I picture God humming Julie Andrews to himself: *"Words Words Words. I'm sick of hearing words. Don't talk of love. Show me!"* So he gives us tangible vehicles - bread, wine etc – and ministers to im-personate the person who comes with and through them.

There is a further dimension to God's way of dealing with us through sacraments. He comes always in and through the family. Occasionally you will hear talk of a *Sunday obligation*. To be more specific: *Every catholic must attend (? participate in) mass every Sunday*. That is a distortion. In fact each Sunday our Father invites us to a celebration, a party. We tell the children to count all the elements that are common to mass in St Thomas' and a party at home. There is a table well decorated with candles and flowers, food and drink, a welcome, songs and special dress, caring, sharing, giving and receiving. Children watch what you parents do and imitate you. They like to join in with the cooking, the DIY.

Streaming is good for those physically impeded from being part of this real sharing. It can never substitute for the real thing.

Similarly we each have a share in making Jesus every time he joins us to make the mass. When we go to a party we like to share in making it rather than being passive spectators. Jesus' body is fully fleshed out when participants in the mass read, serve, minister, sing and respond in the conversation with the priest, give and receive, care and share. It is only through this actual involvement of all present that Jesus comes alive among us. We all contribute to making his body. For spectators it is boring. For those who engage it brings joy, life, energy for good and a hunger for more.

Mass Intentions

Sunday 31st May

People of the parish
Patrick Harris RIP

Monday 1st June

Natalia & Tetiana Khorvat
Sr Lorna

Tuesday 2nd June

Julia Ives ill

Wednesday 3rd June

Felix McMahon

Thursday 4th June

Trinity intentions
Catherine Debold RIP

Friday 5th June

Daria Boiko
C W L

Saturday 6th June

Sylvia Brickell RIP

Sunday 7th June

People of the parish
Mrs Shirley Fay Byrne RIP

We hear of measures being taken in other countries to relax the rigour of lockdown and permit some use of churches and church services. At present we have no direction from our bishops other than the limitations you already know. So we must observe these still. We are eager to resume normal life and practice just as soon as is possible. And also to take small steps that will begin the return to normality. But over-riding all else is your security, that of all who come or wish to come to church and parish activities, and our own. So for the present: St Thomas' church remains closed though preparations are in hand for the day when individual visits at least will be permitted. We still cannot admit anyone to Church, Friary or Becket. We see grandparents greeting visiting children through their closed window, they only being allowed as far as the garden. That must continue to be our practice as far as entry is concerned.

However: **There is now the possibility of meetings in the open air.** Boris Johnson announced that two households might meet in the open with a maximum of 6 people, always keeping at least 2 metres apart and no physical contact! Parish life is full of meetings and brief encounters. This opens an opportunity for us of the Friary to meet you should you so wish. God is being very generous with his sunshine. I suggest that if you wish to meet any of us you ring the parish office to arrange a time. We will provide chairs and a table if need be.

At present the office is only accessible by phone or email. But soon we hope to have it set up so that physical visits are safe. We are not quite sure when this will start, but we hope soon.

Join us for Mass
on-line live this
Sunday at 10am



Rosary rally relay This Sunday

Following the call of Pope Francis for families to pray the Rosary together during the month of May, a Rosary Rally has been organised inviting the faithful across England, Wales and Scotland to pray the Rosary on Pentecost Sunday from 9am to 9pm.

The faithful in the Diocese of Brentwood are invited to pray the Rosary from **11am to 12 noon on 31st May**

We appreciate the difficult decisions about returning to school that you have to face. Our constant prayer is for the safety of everyone of our parish community. -

Life is good in the Friary. The regular life and our dependence on each other is a healthy experience. You have seen through the streamed masses that we have had a friar from South Korea – Stephen – with us. He insisted on doing all the washing up – we told him he has a degree in it. He returned to Korea last Saturday. Then sent us photos of stages of his journey and the quarantine in which he now sits. We miss him.

