

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Fr Austin has returned to the Friary and is well.

Anniversaries:

Maria Birbeck, Joseph Greene, Catherine Moran, Barbara Smith, Paul Crick, Edward Craft, Hazel Dutta, Mary Kelly, Francis Quinn, John Dunbar, Rose Moore, Norman Chappell, Pasqua Lina Parsons, John Gavin, Anthony Murphy, James Graham.

Pray the Rosary to unite in prayer for the pandemic to end



Live Mass

To view Live Mass go to www.stthomaswoodford.org/watch-mass-live.

Recorded Mass

To watch a mass or other service which has previously been recorded go to <https://www.stthomaswoodford.org/watch-the-mass> Then click 'Watch Mass Online to view Sunday, Easter or Christmas masses Or click 'Special Services' to see other masses, prayer services or events.

Parish News — The Word

Parishioner's mentioned viewing difficulties with colours please note there will be a plain text version of The Word uploaded to the web in pdf format.

Gift Aid statements

have now been issued by email If you have not received one please let the parish office know by email— parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org

Redbridge Mutual Aid

Please see details on the website of a local foodbank etc. which is in need of supplies.



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

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Friary: 020 8504 1688

Email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org



Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org

Facebook: @STOCWoodford

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Served by the Franciscans

4th Sunday of Easter Sunday Cycle A Sunday 3rd May 2020

We are used to thinking of Jesus as the good shepherd, leading his flock to safety. In today's Gospel he also refers to himself as the gate of the sheepfold. It is through him that we reach the safety of life with his Father and our salvation.

First Reading Acts 2:14. 36-41

It is from Christ that we receive forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Second Reading 1 Peter 2:20-25

Christ suffered for us, offering us an example to follow.

Gospel John 10:1-10

Jesus is the gate through and by which we enter into salvation.



Responsorial psalm

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The nation that knows not its history is set to repeat its mistakes

The summer of 1940 was glorious; as has been our recent weather. Hitler's troops stood triumphant at all points along Europe's western shores. With a non-aggression pact with Russia secured, it would have been a simple task for his victorious army to cross the channel and conquer the whole of Britain. My father, a First World War veteran enlisted in Dad's army. He came home armed only with an arm-band and a pickaxe handle. That was how Dad's army was first equipped. Hitler thought he lacked air superiority. So the Battle of Britain took place in the air. Of it Churchill commented "Never was so much owed by so many to so few". We still honour and remember the courage of the fighter pilots outnumbered, life expectancy very short, who saved us.

Will we similarly remember the much greater number of medics, carers and support staff who are now heroically sacrificing themselves in their duty to the sick? Memory can be very brief. I see a difference between the two situations. We watched the battle of Britain; saw brother and foe crash in flames to an agonising death. But, apart from getting on with wartime restrictions we did not have to do anything about it.

Now it is different. Everybody is saying: Life will not be the same. This time it is we who have to make the change. We live in a society of distorted values. A society which sets financial numbers to the value of people in their life-styles and roles. A footballer's skill, fragile as the morning dew, is assessed at an annual salary of a size that would build a small hospital. The leaders of industry, law and others vote themselves enormous bonuses. Even the administrators of charities do the same. The carers get peanuts.

Will they voluntarily change this unjust system of values to benefit the poor? Some individuals will (perhaps remembering a little better the daily tally of health-workers fallen victims to Covid) but we are all deeply entrenched in original sin and its selfishness. Old habits die hard. The attraction of more money; envy of falling behind what others are getting. These will not disappear.

So what should be our reaction? No point in blame or talk. Nothing is achieved by envy. It is Pope Francis who is now the shepherd best placed to lead the policy-makers and us into the labyrinth of the post-covid world.

To start with he offers three priorities:

- To give up being avid consumers.
- To respect and cultivate the natural world.
- To stop waste.

Anyone who makes that their daily objective will most effectively honour those who are making the supreme sacrifice in this hour of need.

Good Shepherd Sunday

This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday when we traditionally pray for vocations to the priesthood for our diocese.

Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and to the religious life and also that all of us may be able to hear what God is asking us to do.

Mass Intentions

Sunday 3rd May

People of the parish
Stubbings Family thanksgiving

Monday 4th May

Ted Craft Anniv
Andrew Blanchfield

Tuesday 5th May

Rod Perryman ill

Wednesday 6th May

Teresa Judge RIP

Thursday 7th May

John Burnham RIP
Sr Sandra's intentions

Friday 8th May

Kay Stokes RIP
Tony & Maureen Crossinggum RIP

Saturday 9th May

Timothy Pride RIP

Sunday 10th May

People of the parish
Tracey Jane & Ressa

Mass intentions/mass cards

If you would like a mass said please put the details in an envelope and post through the parish office door. We can also send mass cards for you, however, you will need to provide details of the recipient and their address. Cards cost £1.00.

Franciscan Vocation

Interested in the Franciscan way of life? Perhaps God may be inviting you to know more about the Franciscan vocation of a Franciscan Friar, Sister, Lay member? If so, contact:

vocations@friar.org



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

Pope Francis, speaking last month to his biographer:

"We have a selective memory. I want to dwell on this point. I was amazed at the 70th anniversary of the Normandy landings, which was attended by people at the highest levels of culture and politics. It was one big celebration. It's true that it marked the beginning of the end of dictatorship, but no one seemed to recall the 10,000 boys who remained on that beach.

"At this time in Europe when we are beginning to hear populist speeches and witness political decisions of this selective kind it's all too easy to remember Hitler's speeches in 1933 which were not so different from some of the speeches of a few European politicians now.

"We need to recover our memory because memory will come to our aid. This is not humanity's first plague; the others have become mere anecdotes. We need to remember our roots, our tradition which is full of memories. St Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises are a conversion through remembrance. I am worried by the hypocrisy of certain political personalities who speak of facing up to the crisis, of the problem of hunger in the world, but in the meantime manufacture weapons.

This is a time to be converted from this kind of functional hypocrisy. Either we are coherent with our beliefs or we lose everything"