

Austin O.F.M.

Whether you are a parent, a teacher, a priest, an advocate for justice, or simply a friend to someone in need, there are countless times when you come face to face with your own inadequacy, when you are helpless in the face of all that you should be doing. At times like that, it is important to remember that God alone is adequate, that you are not God, and that God is more parent, teacher, minister, priest, advocate for justice, and friend than you are. Obvious as this is, it is not always evident to us, as our history of needless worry, being angry, feeling overly self-important, intent on doing it my way, living with ulcers, and being chronically overextended give ample testimony.

Don't be afraid. We are inadequate! To accept this is to make a little prayer. It is both healthily humbling and uplifting to accept the fact that we are not God and that we are not asked to try to be.

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

Will be on Monday, 15th December at 7.30pm in St. Thomas'.

FR. AUSTIN'S TALKS

The third of Fr. Austin's talks will be on Wed. 17th Dec. at 7.30pm in the Becket Centre.

IN CONVERSATION WITH BISHOP ALAN

Thursday, 18th Dec. an evening for young adults aged 17-35 with a unique opportunity to hear Bishop Alan share his vocational journey. Bishop Alan has served as a school chaplain, Uni chaplain, parish priest, shrine director and superior of his religious order. He is a mountaineer and a scientist. Hear his story on Thurs. 18th Dec., Cathedral House Conference Room 7.30-10pm including fish & chip supper. The evening is free but registration is required.

Call Fr. Dominic, 01268 281732 or frdominic@brentwoodvocations.org.

SACRISTANS FOR 11.30AM MASS

We are in need of two new team members to join the 11.30am Mass Rota. Sacristan work is not arduous but is vital to the proper and smooth operation of every Mass. Full training and continuous coaching will be provided by the experienced Sacristans. Please ask Paul or Yvonne Crighton if you feel that you can join the team. They will give you some general guidance as a start. Alternatively, give your name and contact details to Fr. Brian or the Parish Office.

CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST. THOMAS'

Calling all Readers, Ministers of Communion, Ushers and Sacristans. We now have sufficient help with both the Midnight and 8.30am Masses, but still need help with the others. If you will be attending the 5pm and 7pm Mass on Christmas Eve or the 10am or 11.30am Mass on Christmas Day, please check the list, located on the table at the back of the church to see if you can help.

WELCOME

We welcome to the parish community Luke Roman James Wyszomierski, Ellen Mary Baynton, and Theo William Khamis who were baptised in St. Thomas' last weekend.

SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL TRIP

Thank you for your support in helping Marie get to her goal to go to Switzerland with the Girl Guides. The generosity of the congregation has really shown her the charity you all have. The winners from the hamper raffle are:-

- 1st Prize Brown Family
- 2nd Prize McGurk Family
- 3rd Prize Barkham Family

Thank you Marie Morris

SCAFFOLDING!

As you entered the Church today, you would have seen the scaffolding covering the whole front of the Church. The problem is that the apex of the church (with the cross on it) is leaning forward. We will not know the extent of the damage until the scaffolders have finished and we can get up there, but it is suggested that the ties have become rusted. The gable will have to be rebuilt with perhaps stainless steel ties. The opposite end of the church has been inspected and there is no problem. The work may not be finished before Christmas. We apologise to parishioners for any inconvenience this may cause.

ACROSS VACANCY

Are looking for a Pilgrimage Co-ordinator to join its newly relocated office in Beckton, East London. You will be a key contact for our many travellers, and responsible for all aspects of planning pilgrimages, general administration, as well as assisting with the marketing and promotion of the charity. Knowledge of Lourdes essential. Experience of working with the sick or unable preferred. Salary from £22,000p.a. on skills and experience. Job description www.across.org.uk/across/work-for-across.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Trinity School on achieving outstanding results in the Ofsted Report.

IN TOUCH

The Christmas issue of the parish magazine is on sale at all Masses this weekend. See that you get your copy early. Price remains at £2.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

If anyone would like to join the rota for composing the Bidding Prayers at St. Thomas', please contact the parish office.

URGENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Repository urgently needs volunteers for the 6pm Mass and Sunday after 8.30am, 10.00am and 11.30am Mass. Please leave your details with the parish office if you are interested in joining a rota.

If you no longer are a volunteer for the repository, please return the keys to the parish office.

PRAISE & BLESS

Booklet of Prayers of St. Francis now available from the Repository price £1 each.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES 2015

Are now available from the repository price £2.75.

CHRISTMAS FLYERS

Are available from the back of the church giving the times of Masses etc., over the Christmas period. Please take one as you leave.

TELCO NEWS

Have you seen the Waitrose Christmas TV Advert? What do you think of it? We think that it portrays a false representation as it claims that "...everyone who works at Waitrose owns Waitrose..." Not so for the cleaners or kitchen staff working for Waitrose & John Lewis. Sadly, they are not partners or even paid a living wage! We have written to the chairman of the JL Partnership, Sir Charlie Mayfield, Carlisle Place, London SW1P 1BX asking that he pays all his staff a "Living Wage". If you are moved by this injustice, why not send Sir Charlie a Christmas card asking him to pay the Living Wage.

Many thanks to the 324 parishioners who recently signed the Syrian Refugee Crisis petition and to those who attended last Sat. morning when the petition was presented to the Deputy Leader of the Redbridge Council, Councillor Wes Streeting.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick:- Sheila Abrams-Batley, Benjamin & Teresa Bonaventhor, Portia Brighten, Angela & Kerry Bromfield, Julia Croft, Irene & Carter de Freitas, Don Dourado, Ros Drew, Joan Farrelly, Ray Finney, Fr Jim Fitzpatrick, Judy Gilmartin, Kevin Godkin, Joan Green, Pat Greene, Stephen Gunn, Doris Harriss, Christine Hewstone, Rowland Hill, Phyllis Kelly, Sadie Kelly, Fr. Austin Kinsella, Della Kerr, Linda & Grandson Jenson, Roger Machin, Lisa Maguire, Mary McKay, John Meneghan, Jutta Menzies, Kay Meyler, Harry Moody, Patrick Moran, Patricia Morgan seriously ill in WX, Miriam Mullally, Fr Con O'Connell OFM, Mary O'Donnell, Gary Peile, Anneli Prowse, Lily Reding, Joan Reynolds, Jacky Rott, Debbie Smythe, Joan Steadman, Bert Suffield, Grace Taylor, Sr. Tian (Cold Ash), Teresa Warnock, Claire & Lauren, Kian Wright.

and for all the sick and housebound of the parish.

Lately Dead.: Craig Lobo, George O'Brien, Mary Scannell,

Anniv: Desmond Hand, James & Kathleen Murchan,

PRIVATE TUTOR

Available to teach English, Maths, French and Italian to GCSE. Also qualified to teach ESOL. Please contact Silvia on 07545 581410.

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.

CHURCH CLEANING

Thursday 10.30am 18th December Liz O'Toole, Mary Charter, Dianne Molloy, Dorothee Gabriel, Florence Kiggundu.

PLEASE NOTE

The Christmas Clean of the church will be on Tuesday, 23rd December at 10.30am. Please put this date in your diary. Don't leave it to the few—just half an hour of your time would make a big difference. Thank you.

SOUP RUN FOR THE HOMELESS

We have now completed the last Soup Run of the year and want to say a big thank you for the fantastic response we have received from parishioners supplying food, clothing and donations.

Next year we celebrate our 20th year and without your ongoing support this would not have been possible.

A special thanks to Moya Moffat and Jerry Bacon for their hard work behind the scenes and all the volunteers.

DISABLED TOILET

Please note that the disabled toilet is for the use of **ALL** disabling conditions that need access to this facility. It is **NOT** just for wheelchair users.

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



St Thomas of Canterbury

557/559 High Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0RB

Served by the Franciscans



A FAIRTRADE PARISH

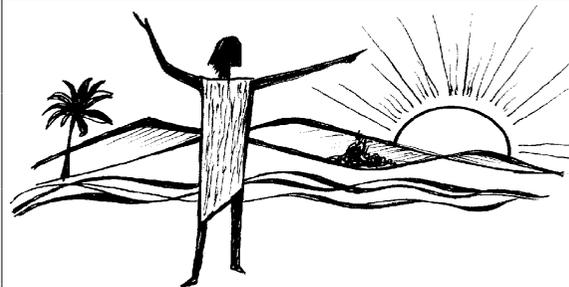
Tel: 020 8504 1686 Fax: 020 8504 1844



Email: parishoffice@friar.org Web: www.stthomaswoodford.org

3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT CYCLE B

14TH DECEMBER 2014



Advent is the season of new things. So it is the season of hope. Hope is the virtue that knows that there is more to come.

First Reading (Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11)

Hope can feel a little bit like fear, the sort of joyous fear a bride and groom feel on their wedding night.

Second Reading (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24)

Where there is peace, there is God. Where there is God, there is peace.

Gospel (John 1:6-8 19-28)

God sent John. We are part of that sending. To be a Christian is to have a mission.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM My soul rejoices in my God.