

PRAY FOR THE SICK



Lately dead:

- ◇ Mable Harris
- ◇ Mollie Wood

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries:

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

Mass Timetable

All our services are live streamed

Monday

Open for 10am Mass

Wednesday

Open for 10am Mass
followed by the Rosary

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

8am Mass no public
live streamed ONLY and recorded

Saturday

Open for Mass at 10am & 6pm

Sunday

8.30am, 10am & 11.30am
(The 11.30am Mass is recorded)

**Remember when attending Mass
that there is a one way system in
operation and the stewards will
direct you to a seat**

Please wear a facemask, sanitise your
hands, observe appropriate distancing
& follow the instructions of the
Stewards.

Confessions

Are taking place by Appointment.
Please call the parish office to arrange.



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



Fifth Sunday of Easter (B)

2nd May 2021

The Holy Spirit of God's love calls us into a unity of life and love, which Jesus describes as a fruitful vine. We belong to God. We belong to each other. Today let us ask the Lord to open our eyes to the possibilities and responsibilities this gives us.

First Reading Acts 9:26-31

Barnabas introduces Saul to the apostles, preparing the way for the mission of the future apostle, Paul.

Second Reading 1 John 3:18-24

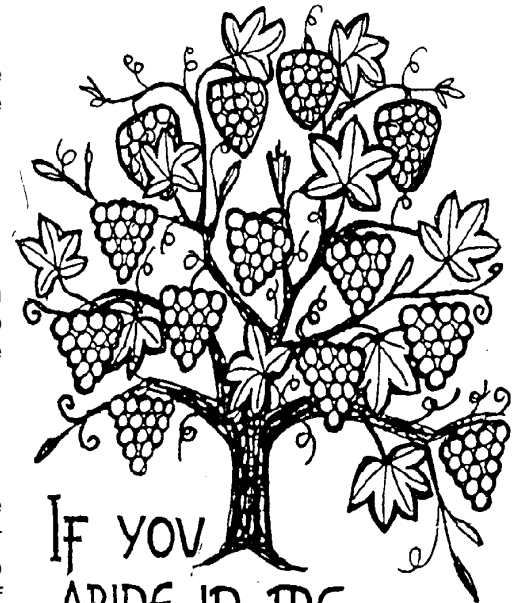
We know that God lives in us when the Holy Spirit enables us to believe in Jesus and love one another as he told us to.

Gospel John 15:1-8

Just as the branch has to be attached to the vine if it is to bear fruit, so we have to be united to Christ if we are to bear the fruits of love.

Responsorial Psalm

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly



**IF YOU
ABIDE IN ME
YOU WILL BEAR
MUCH FRUIT**

Church capacity

Some said they were puzzled when I suggested a capacity of 500 in last week's letter. I thought it plain: 5 separate opportunities to take part in one of 5 masses between Saturday 10 am and Sunday noon. Each can welcome just over 100, respecting distancing and all requirements. Over last weekend, counting women, men, children and babes in arm there were in total 360.

Surely you have picked up my real concern. We have hundreds of families in the parish. Just the annual tally preparing for First Communion is over 100. They have parents and siblings so do the maths. All these children are going to be very much in need of Jesus through their entire future. It is very easy to lose good habits – as you are experiencing. I cannot see how your children are being adequately prepared and nourished for a mature future if they do not come to mass regularly. Jesus was not kidding when he said: "Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you cannot have life in you." Our newspapers are full of "successful" men who have no life in them.

Thank you

Thank you for your gift of £310.31 last Sunday for the work of encouraging and training candidates for the Diocesan priesthood.

ICHTHUS

The Children's ICHTHUS for May is now available on the website.

A watershed

The pandemic has acted as a watershed in St Thomas parish. The component parts and agencies have to differing degrees hibernated though some have worked more intensely. Looking to resume three masses on a Sunday caused consternation: Do we have the necessary people to serve? We had plenty of ministers of communion, readers, singers and instrumentalists and all the rest. Some move away, age and illness sap energies, circumstances change. It is inevitable. We need to replenish each of the groups which together make St Thomas such a great parish. It is by engaging in one or more of these services that you find interest, joy, a sense of achievement that generally escapes those who merely receive the service.

This said, I must add: I am daily aware of so many who have given their time energy and love generously, and now find the increasing years prevent them continuing as they would love to. They have moved on to an even more important task, like Martha's sister Mary in the Gospel. Simply to listen to the Lord and pray for us and all.

Card payments

The parish Office can now take card payments

Church Cleaning

Friday 7th May at 9am

Claire Hobbs, Christine Acons, Julia Bever, Susanna Barnoin, Liz Atkinson, Josie Kiernon & Michelle Liddle.

Mass Intentions

Sunday 2nd May

People of the parish
Michael Butterworth RIP
Phyllis Corrigan RIP

Monday 3rd May

John Steel RIP
Rosalind Johnson RIP
Gill Nicholas

Tuesday 4th May

Una Rooney RIP
Sr Maureen Gavin
Deceased brethren

Wednesday 5th May

Ted Craft anniversary
Pat Backhouse RIP
Holy Family Sisters intentions

Thursday 6th May

Chris Nestor RIP
Maureen Elliott RIP
Trinity intentions

Friday 7th May

John Stubbs surgery
Patricia Pearce RIP
CWL

Saturday 8th May

Tony Gilbertson
Charlotte Dewberry
Allen Charles RIP

Sunday 9th May

People of the parish
David Scoggins
Maureen Cowell intentions



School Vacancies Trinity

- Teacher of English, F/T
- Teacher of French, F/T
- Teacher of Home Economics, P/T
- Teacher of Science, P/T & F/T

St John's RC School, Woodford Bridge

Vacancies for Full time Class Assistants.

St Anthony's

Early Years (Nursery Teacher).

Loyola

Midday assistance.

Please visit the relevant school websites for more information.

Pope Francis writes:

"A sign is something that stands out and strikes us. A sign of hope in this crisis is the leading role of women... What might the Spirit be saying to us?.. I think of the strength of the women in the Gospel following the death of Jesus. They were not paralysed by the tragedy... Like so many women in this pandemic they were able to hold it together, get around obstacles, keep hope alive... Could it be that in this crisis the perspective women bring is what the world needs at this time to face the coming challenges? Could the Spirit be prompting us to recognise, value and integrate the fresh thinking that some women are bringing to this moment" Pope Francis *Let us dream* p. 62f.