



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please contact the Parish Office if you do **NOT** wish to keep your name on the list below

Isla-Rose Dobkin (Aged 4), Belinda Blyth, Bill Collins, Tony Connolly and family, Jackie Collins, Camille Malone, Florence McDonagh, Mary McKay, Francis Noronha, Felicia Vas, Kathy Freeman, Laura Kennedy, Sister Elizabeth O'Connor, Seth Benjamin, Bill Allen, Sylvia Wright, Penelope Merenda (aged 6yrs, receiving treatment)

LATELY DECEASED

Mary Charter

May she rest in eternal Peace

FUNERAL

The funeral of Luis Sanchez Garcia will take place on 22nd October at 11:15am.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Teresa Fitzpatrick, Angela Douglas, Matthew Glendenning, Michael Lynch, Michael Scully, Paul Julien, Georgina Mack, Raymund McGill, Frances McKeown, Constanza Bowman, Susan Gillespie, Kevin O'Brien, Sister Xavier Pitts, Maria Sell, Josephine Beutner, Michael Bullman, Jack Curtis, Timothy Godfrey, Patricia Graves, Leonard Knight, Gordon McCall, Bernard Palmer, Anthony Gibbs, Elisa Heredia, Barbara Maxwell, Aogan Tansey

ROOTED

We're excited to invite young people to a brand-new diocesan day of faith, friendship and adventure: **"Rooted"** (taken from Colossians 2:7 *"Rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."*)

*There will be one day on 24th October for those in years 7-9

*There will be one day on 25th October for those in years 10 - 13

*This event will take place at Walsingham House, Abbotswick between 9:00am-6:00pm.

The cost is just £30 per person and the day will include inspiring faith sessions, prayer, outdoor challenges, archery, axe throwing, creation-care activities, and so much more!!!

[BCYS | Brentwood Catholic Youth Service](#)

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 10.30am - 11am & 5.15pm - 5.45 pm

BAPTISMS

1st and 3rd Sundays of the month

BAPTISM COURSE DATES

The next baptism course will take place on Wednesday, **11th AND 18th November 8.00pm—9.00pm**. Parents are required to attend both dates to complete the course. To register, please visit the parish website or contact the parish office directly.

Second Collection—Prisoners' Sunday

Last week's second collection raised £55.00 as well as envelopes which will be sent to the Charity directly. Thank you for your kind donations.

Second Collection

World Mission Day (Missio)

There will be a second collection after mass on **Sunday, 18th October**

Tutoring: GCSE Maths & Science

Qualified Teacher (QTS), 5+ years classroom experience. Contact: Sarah Polley
learn@sarahpolleytutoring.co.uk

ALPHA

Alpha course coming soon. All are welcome to come and meet new people in your area. Grab some free food and get to know each other; watch a talk that unpacks a big question around life, purpose, and the Christian faith. See what you think - have an open conversation about it and share your thoughts if you want to and hear from others. For more information, contact Peter on 07891 722964



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



TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2026 World Mission Sunday

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

One in Christ, united in mission, today we celebrate the centenary of World Mission Sunday. Jesus sends us to proclaim to the whole world the coming of his kingdom. We choose this opportunity to recommit to supporting God's mission through prayer and sacrifice.

First Reading Isaiah 45:1. 4-6

From the rising of the sun and from the west, there is none besides me.

Responsorial Psalm

Ascribe to the LORD glory and power.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you.

Gospel Matthew 22:15-21

Render to God the things that are God's.



THE DEMANDS OF GOD AND THOSE OF CAESAR

This Sunday's Gospel (Mt 22:15-21) presents to us a new face-to-face encounter between Jesus and his adversaries. The theme addressed is that of the tribute to Caesar: a "thorny" issue about whether or not it was lawful to pay taxes to the Roman Emperor, to whom Palestine was subject in Jesus' time. There were various positions. Thus, the question that the Pharisees posed to him — "Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" (v. 17) — was meant to ensnare the Teacher. In fact, depending on how he responded, he could have been accused of being either for or against Rome. But in this case too, Jesus responds calmly and takes advantage of the malicious question in order to teach an important lesson, rising above the polemics and the alliance of his adversaries. He tells the Pharisees: "Show me the money for the tax". They present him a coin, and, observing the coin, Jesus asks: "Whose likeness and inscription is this?". The Pharisees can only answer: "Caesar's". Then Jesus concludes: "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (cf. vv. 19-21). On the one hand, suggesting they return to the emperor what belongs to him, Jesus declares that paying tax is not an act of idolatry, but a legal obligation to the earthly authority; on the other — and it is here that Jesus presents the "thrust" of his response: recalling the primacy of God, he asks them to render to Him that which is His due as the Lord of the life and history of mankind. The reference to Caesar's image engraved on the coin says that it is right that they feel fully — with rights and duties — citizens of the State; but symbolically it makes them think about the other image that is imprinted on every man and woman: the image of God. He is the Lord of all, and we, who were created "in his image" belong to Him first and foremost. From the question posed to him by the Pharisees, Jesus draws a more radical and vital question for each of us, a question we can ask ourselves: *to whom do I belong?* To family, to the city, to friends, to work, to politics, to the State? Yes, of course. But first and foremost — Jesus reminds us — you belong to God. This is the fundamental belonging. It is He who has given you all that you are and have.

And therefore, day by day, we can and must live our life in recognition of this fundamental belonging and in heartfelt gratitude toward our Father, who creates each one of us individually, unrepeatable, but always according to the image of his beloved Son, Jesus. It is a wondrous mystery. Christians are called to commit themselves concretely in the human and social spheres without comparing "God" and "Caesar"; comparing God and Caesar would be a fundamentalist approach. Christians are called to commit themselves concretely in earthly realities, but illuminating them with the light that comes from God. The primary entrustment to God and hope in him do not imply an escape from reality, but rather the diligent rendering to God that which belongs to him. This is why a believer looks to the future reality, that of God, so as to live earthly life to the fullest, and to meet its challenges with courage...
Pope Francis

Thank you for supporting CAFOD's Family Fast Day!

Thank you for putting your faith into action this Family Fast Day. Your generous donations will help more children stay in school. To find out more about the work that your generosity at Fast Day makes possible visit: cafod.org.uk/parishthankyou

THE CALL TO BE HUMAN: *What does it mean to be a free moral agent?* A talk to be given by Fr Martin Boland. Wednesday 21st October 7.00 – 8.00 p.m. in the parish centre of Our Lady of Lourdes, Wanstead. All welcome. www.ourladyoflourdes.com

170th Anniversary Year History of St Edward the Confessor Catholic Church, Romford. This new booklet is full of facts and insights about one of the oldest parish churches in the Diocese. The cost is £7 including postage. If you would like a copy please email romford@brcdt.org



Mass Intentions 18th—25th October

Sunday 18th October

8.30am - Maria Pellicci
10am - Willy Gillman recovery
11.30am - Peg Martin RIP
Chigwell - Elsie Valles RIP

Monday 19th October

Francis, Alice & Elias Ugwu
Mathew – mother's anniversary
Bridie Linnane RIP

Tuesday 20th October

Mary Raynor RIP
Gabriel Amodio RIP

Wednesday 21st October

Uncle George & Aunt Agnes in memory

Thursday 22nd October

Noel Reilly RIP
Rosa Fitzpatrick RIP

Friday 23rd October

Maria Teresa Teles anniversary
Alexandra Jordash

Saturday 24th October

10am - Maureen Pollock sick
6pm - Mary Cleary RIP

Sunday 25th October

8.30am - Michael Decozer
10am - Meyler family
11.30am - Peg Martin RIP
Chigwell - Luis Sanchez RIP

CAN YOU HELP?

A parishioner would like to attend mass periodically. Can anyone assist with driving her to & from Church please.
Please let the parish office know in the first instance.

Church Cleaning
Thursday, 22nd October at 9.00am
Sue Mansbridge, Jackie John, Srimathie Cruz, Margaret Parkinson, Chelsea Chaplin

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2027

We would like to invite baptised parishioners in Y10-13, who regularly attend Mass, to apply to join our 2027 programme. Sessions will take place on Thursday evenings; all dates can be found on the parish website. Full attendance is required. Please visit our website to complete the application form.

The closing date for applications is **Monday 2nd November 2026.**

St Thomas's Bereavement Service, Sunday, 8th November at 4.00pm

The annual Bereavement Service to remember our dearly departed will be held in church. The names of the deceased in the parish during the last year will be included in the order of service. If you are attending the service and you wish to add any names, please send them to the parish office no later than **Monday, 2nd November** please.

** Brentwood Catholic Youth Service **

The BCYS offers retreats, events and pilgrimages for young people throughout the Diocese of Brentwood. If you'd like to get involved, you can find out more at www.bcys.net or follow @BrentwoodCYS on social media.

VACANCY Accounts Assistant.

To apply please send your CV to Info@vmelevators.com

VACANCY
Special Needs Classroom Assistant
(Term time) St John's School, Turpins Lane 1G8 8AX. For more information please contact: office@stjohnsrcschool.co.uk