

**PRAY FOR  
THE SICK**



### **Anniversaries:**

Monica Mary Joan Bright, Fred Khan, Mario Zeppa, Thomas Grey, Mary Dionysius, Birdie Godfrey, Joseph Osborne, Helena Proseinski, Edith Demetrius, John Easby, Stephen Garrett, Alice Smith, Teresa Glock, Michael O'Donovan, Lelia Ryan, Gordon Bowler, Mary Hallard, Leanne Mackenzie, Sister Josephine O'Dowd, Bastian Thambynayagam, Richard D'Souza.

### **Franciscan life: Invitation**

The Franciscan Community invite enquiries from single Catholic people aged 18-40 years pondering a possible vocation in the religious and/or priestly life, and Franciscan life; (website: [www.friar.org](http://www.friar.org)). If interested and need guidance, please talk to one of the Friars or contact *Br Dónal ofm* via email - [brdonalofm@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:brdonalofm@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Lost Property**

Items which have been left in the Church will be placed on a table in the Lobby this weekend. Items not claimed will be disposed of.

### **Mass Timetable**

*The masses on Saturday evening and Sunday at St Thomas' are live streamed*

### **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 10.30 to 11am  
and  
5.15 to 5.45 pm

### **BAPTISMS**

1st and 3rd Sundays  
of the month

### **Retiring Collection this weekend The earthquake**

Obviously the plight of the people of Turkey and Syria top our prayers today. We will take a retiring collection after all masses today and speed your generosity to make it effective.



**ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY**

Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Parish Office: 020 8504 1686

Friary: 020 8504 1688

Email: [parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org](mailto:parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org)



Website: [www.stthomaswoodford.org](http://www.stthomaswoodford.org)

Facebook: @STOCWoodford

Twitter: @STOCWoodford



### **Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) 12th February 2023**

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

If we would be true followers of Christ we are encouraged to look below the surface of things, to get to the heart of what our belief truly asks of us.

#### **First Reading** Ecclesiasticus 15:15-20

We are given the choice of life or death.

#### **Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

The gift of the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

#### **Gospel** Matthew 5:17-37

Our virtue must go deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees.

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

They are happy who follow God's law



## The people of God

That is how Vatican II described the essence of our Catholic Church. But are we convinced of this?

Currently we see two schools of thought. The first is the vision of Vatican II. The people of God are the large number of lay people. Bishops and priests also belong, in the role of being your servants. The other is one of heavy inflexible rules dominated by authority. It sees the clergy in charge, ordering the life of the faithful, and inevitably in control.

## Bishop Alan

Of these two, Bishop Alan reminds us today, only the first is feasible. It was the basis of the reordering of the Diocese when it commenced several years ago. The need for it is certainly being reinforced by what is sometimes called "the shortage of priests". Priests are ageing and retiring and dying and not being replaced. Even if we wanted the old authoritarian style there are not priests to do it. Yet the signs are that few can see this. We are sleep-walking into decline and decay.

For us the vision Bishop Alan presents is that our 3 parishes – StoC, St Anne Line and Wanstead are to be a partnership served by only 2 priests.

## The Diocesan Plan

Just think how this could work. Only if lay people seriously take over preparation for the sacraments, care for the sick, lonely, bereaved, and poor. Thank God much of it is in your hands here at SToC. We are definitely a Vatican II church. But the catechists carers organisers and the rest are all ageing. The next generation has not yet emerged to pick up the tasks.

## Responsibility

In addition there is a need to accept the responsibility for organisation. We are in fact 3, each close-knit communities. It seems unrealistic that we can become one. So Pastoral Councils are essential. They are the replacement for the previous organising priests. The number of priests wearing out goes on relentlessly. The process of replacement, not only of priests but now also of those maintaining each of the operations of parish, has stalled for several years. Faith and hope obviously are the way ahead. But they only work if we take them and use them. We need to talk.

## Lent

Begins on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. A good thought is to plan ahead and make yourself a programme of Living Simply. Good for your purse, good for the environment.

- **Dates for your diary**

**Ash Wednesday** 22 February  
Mass at 10am & 7.30pm

**Lenten lunches** each Friday commencing on 24th February 12.15pm.

All Proceeds go to Mary's Meals

**Stations of the cross** every Friday during lent at 8pm

**World day of Prayer** 3rd March at All Saints Church

**Family Fast Day** 3rd March, Cafod envelopes will be available

**Parish Retreat** in the Becket Centre 4th March 2.30 pm to 5.30pm

- **Walk with Me**

A booklet of thoughts for each day of Lent is on sale: £1.



## Mass Intentions

**Sunday 12th February**

8.30am Kathy Howes ill  
10am James Sullivan RIP  
11.30am Bernard Duffy anniversary

**Monday 13th February**

Caleb anniversary

Funeral 11am Eufemia Mastroddi

**Tuesday 14th February**

Grandad's intentions  
Sister Christine RIP

**Wednesday 15th February**

Richard D'Souza anniversary

Funeral at 10am Margaret Land

**Thursday 16th February**

Stephen Garrett anniversary  
Kathleen O'Donnell anniversary

Funeral 1.30 pm Jordan Farrell

**Friday 17th February**

Thomas Gray anniversary  
Mary McGarrell RIP  
Bryde Heavey RIP

**Saturday 18th February**

10am Dennis Bryan anniversary  
6 pm Maureen Hollebrand RIP

**Sunday 19th February**

8.30 Mrs Trofimena McGhee RIP  
10 Eufemia Mastroddi RIP  
11.30 Bill Green RIP

## Church Cleaning

### Friday 17th February at 9am

Claire Hobbs, Julia Bever, Susanna Barnoin, Liz Atkinson, Michelle Liddle, Agatha Emohare, Susan Juffs

### Parish table tennis club commences on 22nd February 2023

Children (9 – 13 years) from our parish are invited to join the table tennis club which takes place on Wednesdays between 4-5pm in the Scout Meeting Hut. Parents must stay for the duration of the session with the children. There is a £2 charge per child. If you are interested, please email [tania@stthomaswoodford.org](mailto:tania@stthomaswoodford.org) to reserve a place. Spaces are limited as there are only 2 tables available.

## Vacancies

- Trinity
- Assistant Headteacher - Behaviour & Attitudes  
Please visit the School website for more information
- SVP
- SVP Membership Support Officer (MSO), Please contact [lancep@svp.org.uk](mailto:lancep@svp.org.uk) for more information.

- Cleaner

Elderly catholic couple is looking for an honest, reliable person to help clean their flat in Chigwell for 2 or 3 hours per week at £13 per hour. If interested, please call 0208 500 5670 for a little chat or interview