

FUNERAL:

The funeral of Audrey Bowler will take place on Tuesday, 10th March at 11.30am

ANNIVERSARIES:

Madelaine Crafer, Nancy Cunningham, Irene De Freitas, Letteria DeCesare, Stanley Desborough, James Dillon, Patrick Donovan, Henry Durrell, Georgine Easter, Teresa Ennever, Francesco Faccini, James Farrell, Walter Fernandes, Cecilia Fernandez, Jane Fulcher, Frank Fuscoe, Elsie Gerrett, Sister Lucille Gicquel., Nancy Glynn, James Griffin, William Hall, Anne Harris, Leslie Harriss, Anne Hickford, George Hoyes, Noreen Hunt-Terry, Jane Iovino, Patricia Kalinaukas, Sister Francis Kavanagh, Sr Mary Keane, Marie Ketteridge, Kate Burke, Gabriel Arcanjo Noronha.

Donations for the Homeless

The parish Young Vinnies group will be visiting the SVP homeless shelter in Southend in March and have been asked for donations of good quality coats, joggers, hoodies, hats, gloves and new socks. If you would like to donate please leave with the parish office until the **23rd March**.

Sunday Teas after Mass

Please let the Parish office know if you are able to help out with Sunday teas after the 10am and 11.30am masses—thank you!

Westminster Cathedral Chorister

If parents of children in Year 4/5 would like to find out more about Westminster Cathedral chorister life, please join the online information session on **11th March at 6:30pm. Register here - tinyurl.com/2zsf92j8**

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

LENTEN LUNCHES

Lunches will be available every Friday in Lent. Homemade soup, French bread and tea/coffee will be served between 12.15 and 1.30pm in the Becket Centre, all for just £5. Please do come and join us. The money that we raise goes to Mary's Meals, a charity that feeds school children in some of the poorest countries in the world.

"YOUR PLACE" SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a second Collection after all Masses this Sunday—Envelopes are available at the back of the church.

AA meeting

If any parishioner needs help with Alcohol, Drugs, Gambling, Smoking or any other addictive compulsive behaviour, you are welcome to attend AA meetings every Friday at 8pm upstairs in the Becket Centre.



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



Served by the Franciscans

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (A) SUNDAY, 8TH MARCH 2026

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

On this holy day, we rejoice in the living water that Jesus invites all of us to drink, and in the promise of eternal life it brings.

First Reading Exodus 17:3-7

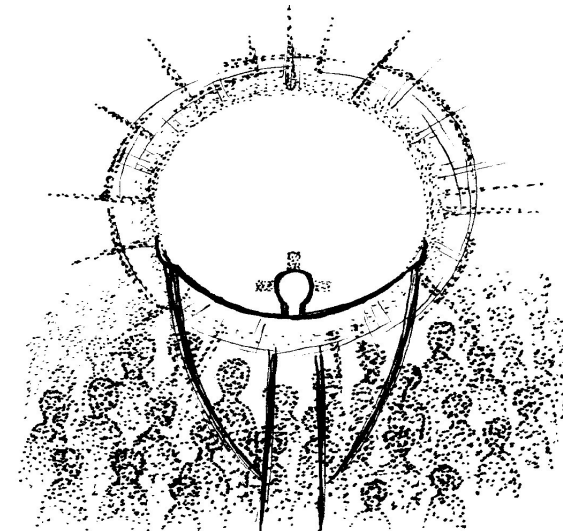
The people doubted the presence of the Lord among them, but Moses followed the Lord's instructions, leading them to the rock of Horeb. Moses struck the rock, and the people drank the water that came from it.

Responsorial Psalm:

O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

Second Reading Romans 5:1-2. 5-8

Christ died for us, revealing God's love for us despite our weakness.



SET DOWN YOUR WATER JAR

Pope Francis uses this image from this Sunday's Gospel to encourage us to set aside the burdens we carry unnecessarily and free ourselves to engage unburdened in the conversation of prayer with the Lord.

The Gospel says that the disciples marveled that their Master was speaking to this woman. But the Lord is greater than prejudice, which is why he was not afraid to address the Samaritan woman: mercy is greater than prejudice. We must learn this well! Mercy is greater than prejudice, and Jesus is so very merciful, very! The outcome of that encounter by the well was the woman's transformation: "the woman left her water jar" (v. 28), with which she had come to draw water, and ran to the city to tell people about her extraordinary experience. "I found a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" She was excited. She had gone to draw water from the well, but she found another kind of water, the living water of mercy from which gushes forth eternal life. She found the water she had always sought! She runs to the village, that village which had judged her, condemned her and rejected her, and she announces that she has met the Messiah: the one who has changed her life. Because every encounter with Jesus changes our lives, always. It is a step forward, a step closer to God. And thus, every encounter with Jesus changes our life. It is always, always this way.

In this Gospel passage we likewise find the impetus to "leave behind our water jar", the symbol of everything that is seemingly important, but loses all its value before the "love of God". We all have one, or more than one! I ask you, and myself: "What is your interior water jar, the one that weighs you down, that distances you from God?"

Let us set it aside a little and with our hearts; let us hear the voice of Jesus offering us another kind of water, another water that brings us close to the Lord. We are called to rediscover the importance and the sense of our Christian life, initiated in Baptism and, like the Samaritan woman, to witness to our brothers

A witness of what? Joy! To witness to the joy of the encounter with Jesus; for, as I said, every encounter with Jesus changes our life, and every encounter with Jesus also fills us with joy, the joy that comes from within. And the Lord is like this. And so we must tell of the marvelous things the Lord can do in our hearts when we have the courage to set aside our own water jar.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the cross will take place every Friday during Lent at **7.30pm** from the 20th February until the 27th March. We will make this journey and would like you to join us.



JESUS RECEIVES THE CROSS

Royal Osteoporosis Society

is hosting an informal event in the Becket Centre on the **26th of March**, 1-3pm. Karen Smith will attend as our guest speaker.

A Day With Mary is taking place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday **14 March 2026** (9.45am to 5.00pm). Further information is available at <https://www adaywithmary.org/> or <https://eventcatholic.com/>

HELPERS : EASTER MASSES

Are you able to help during the Easter masses? If so, please add your name to the list on the notice board at the back of the church - thank you

UNDER 5's

St Thomas under 5's group is running every Tuesday & Wednesday morning at 9.30am—11am term time only.

St Vincent De Paul Society

Are you in urgent need – financial or other? Call us on 07547 491067 and leave a message. We will call you back.



Mass Intentions : 8th to 15th March

Sunday 8th March

8.30am - Bowler family
10am - Friends of Maria Millman (thanks)
11.30am - Denis & Remona Armstrong
Mary Ryder (anniversary)

Monday 9th March

Kate Burke (anniversary)
Liz Browne (anniversary)

Tuesday 10th March

Howey family
Angela Healey RIP

Wednesday 11th March

C.W.L
Anne Harrison RIP
Johnnie Ruddy

Thursday 12th March

Valerie Shearmur RIP
Chigwell - Anita De Sa

Friday 13th March

Peter Dwyer RIP
Jean Farrelly RIP

Saturday 14th March

10am - Sr Mary Slaven H Family RIP
6pm - Annie Teresa Hoban RIP

Sunday 15th March

8.30am - Mary Lee (anniversary)
10am - Willy O'Gorman
11.30am - in memory Patrick Higgins

Church Cleaning
Saturday, 14th March at 10.30am
Kathleen Mahoney, Bernie Siggins,
Riannon Blackwell

VACANCIES:

1. The Ursuline Academy Ilford is looking for an Exam Invigilator. Please see the school website for further information www.uai.org.uk/joining-us/come-work-at-uai
Closing date for applications 20th March.

2. The Governing Body of St. Antony's School have vacancies for a Class teacher and Middy assistant. The closing date for applications is Thursday 19th March. For more information, please visit our website www.stantonyscatholicps.co.uk/vacancies

QUIZ NIGHT

Friends of Trinity Quiz night Friday, **13th March at 7.30pm** in Trinity School, Upper site. Tables of 6-8 people £10 per person.

Parish Social

Parish Social with Cash BINGO on Saturday **28th March in the Becket Centre**. Entrance fee £2.00 and Bingo books £3.00 each for 7 games. CASH only please. Doors open 7.30pm eyes down 8.00pm

(feel free to come along straight after the 6pm mass). All welcome! Please bring your own drinks and nibbles.

FRIARY TENNIS CLUB

Save the date
Quiz Night Saturday, **2nd May**

ALPHA

For the next 4 weeks, from Friday 6th March to the last session on Friday 27th March, inclusive, we are foregoing our supper so that guests may take part in the Stations of the Cross at 7.30pm. We will then start our Alpha session as soon as the Stations finish.