



LATELY DECEASED

Fiona Montague
May she rest in eternal peace

ANNIVERSARIES:

Josephine Ferrari, Raymond Finney, Martin Grant, Damien Copping, Helen Auty, Lorcan Canavan, Colette Collins, Harold McMahon, Eugenie Nadlu, Matthew Rooney, Alfred Dayton, Mary Fletcher, Thomas Anderson, Mary Armond, Rima Atkociuniene, Aldo Cara, Laraine Templeman, Stephen Brown, Robert Fields, Myrtle Goad, Elizabeth Brown, Bernard Holford, Cecilia Hucks

CELEBRATE FESTIVAL

15 - 19 August 2026, Worth School, West Sussex, a Catholic festival for all the family. CELEBRATE Trust is a Catholic ministry that inspires and equips people of all ages to live an authentic Christian life in the power of the Holy Spirit, in support of the family, to form the next generation and encourage local community. For more info & tickets go to: <https://www.celebratetrust.org>

YOGA

Yoga classes at the Beckett centre: Monday, Wednesday Friday. Special offer 2 for 1 in July and August. Find out more. Contact Claudia 07973 122322 Or @soulfullyyogaandfitness.com

Second Collection - Stella Maris

Raised £742.32

Thank you for your donations and kind generosity.

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

Parents completing July's baptism course please contact the parish office after to confirm when you would like to book your Baptism. August course dates to be released soon.

Baptism Course Dates

Dates yet to be announced

CAFOD:

Global Debt Crisis

Thank you to everyone (100+ parishioners) who signed the petition to the prime minister. If you missed the chance to do so, you can find out more and sign it online at: <https://cafod.org.uk/campaign/the-global-debt-crisis>

Refreshments after 10am mass on Wednesday, 29th July

Refreshments after mid-week 10am mass. As a Fairtrade certified parish, St Thomas uses and promotes Fairtrade products. Come and join us in the **William Scott** room after 10am mass on **Wednesday 29th July** for a friendly chat and a cup of Fairtrade tea or filter coffee, Including decaf.

.Retreat

Who do you think you are?

A short retreat to discover your unique gifts and appreciate those of others Saturday 5th September, 2026 at 10am to 4.30pm. Further details coming soon



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



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

SUNDAY 26TH JULY 2026

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

Today is World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly. Appropriately, our scripture readings speak of wisdom and knowing what really counts in life.

First Reading 1 KINGS 3:5-6a. 7-12

King Solomon has his priorities right: instead of power and self-interest, his focus is on living and acting wisely.

Responsorial Psalm: PSALM 119 (118)

O Lord, how I love your law!

Second Reading ROMANS 8:28-30

All things work together for good for those who love God, for those who are called according to God's plan.

Gospel Matthew 13:44-52

The kingdom of heaven is hidden treasure, the pearl of great price. We are called to be whole-hearted and joyful in our commitment to it.



**POPE FRANCIS EXPLAINS THE PARABLE
OF THE TREASURE HIDDEN THE FIELD
AND THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE**

The brief similes proposed in today's liturgy conclude the chapter of the Gospel of Matthew dedicated to the parables of the Kingdom of God (13:44-52). Among these are two small masterpieces: the parables of the treasure hidden in the field and of the pearl of great value. They tell us that the discovery of the Kingdom of God can happen *suddenly* like the farmer who, ploughing, finds an unexpected treasure; or *after a long search*, like the pearl merchant who eventually finds the most precious pearl, so long dreamt of. Yet, in each case the point is that the treasure and the pearl are worth more than all other possessions; and therefore when the farmer and the merchant discover them, they give up everything else in order to obtain them. They do not need to rationalize or think about it or reflect: they immediately perceive the incomparable value of what they've found and they are prepared to lose everything in order to have it.

This is how it is with the Kingdom of God: those who find it have no doubts, they sense that this is what they have been seeking and waiting for; and this is what fulfills their most authentic aspirations. And it really is like this: those who know Jesus, encounter Him personally, *are captivated, attracted* by so much goodness, so much truth, so much beauty, and all with great humility and simplicity. To seek Jesus, to find Jesus: this is the great treasure!

Many people, many saints, reading the Gospel with an open heart, have been so struck by Jesus they convert to Him. Let us think of St Francis of Assisi: he was already a Christian, though a "rosewater" Christian. When he read the Gospel, in that decisive moment of his youth, he encountered Jesus and discovered the Kingdom of God; with this, all his dreams of worldly glory vanished. The Gospel allows you to know the real Jesus, it lets you know the living Jesus; it speaks to your heart and changes your life. And then yes, you leave it all. You can effectively change lifestyles, or continue to do what you did before but *you* are someone else, you are reborn: you have found what gives meaning, what gives flavour, what gives light to all things, even to toil, even to suffering, and even to death.

Read the Gospel. Read the Gospel. We have spoken about it, do you remember? To read a passage of the Gospel every day; and to carry a little Gospel with us, in our pocket, in a purse, in some way, to keep it at hand. And there, reading a passage, we will find Jesus. Everything takes on meaning when you find your treasure there, in the Gospel. Jesus calls it "the Kingdom of God", that is to say, God who reigns in your life, in our life; God who is love, peace and joy in every man and in all men. This is what God wants and it is why Jesus gave himself up to death on the cross, to free us from the power of darkness and to move us to the kingdom of life, of beauty, of goodness and of joy. To read the Gospel is to find Jesus and to have this Christian joy, which is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

Dear brothers and sisters, the joy of finding the treasure of the Kingdom of God shines through, it's visible. The Christian cannot keep his faith hidden, because it shines through in every word, in every deed, even the most simple and mundane: the love that God has given through Jesus shines through. Let us pray, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, that His Kingdom of love, justice and peace may reign in us and in the whole world.

**** Christmas Fayre
2026 ****

We urgently require new organisers and volunteers to help with this years Christmas Fayre. Please contact the parish office for more information.

THANK YOU

To the CWL, Maria in the Parish Office and volunteers for their help organising Father Brian's 100th birthday party celebration.



Mass Intentions

26th July to 2nd August

Sunday 26th July

8.30am - Peggy Carrig RIP
10am - William Freeman anniversary
11.30am - People of the parish

Monday 27th July

Thanksgiving M M Oliver Conway

Tuesday 28th July

Chigwell Lea & Nish

Wednesday 29th July

Kingsley Gomez RIP
Tony Meyler RIP

Thursday 30th July

Sheila & Mike Murphy anniversary

Friday 31st July

Nesther Murackikwa

Saturday 1st August

10am - Joe McCarthy
6pm

Sunday 2nd August

8.30am
10am - People of the parish
11.30am - Helen Lally RIP

Church Cleaning
Saturday, 1 August at 10.30am
Kathleen Mahoney, Bernie Siggins,
Riannon Blackwell

First Holy Communion 2026/2027
CLOSING DATE

******Tuesday, 8th September******

Applications are now open for registration for children who will be going into **Year 3 in September 2026**. The application form can be found on the Parish website at;

<https://www.stthomaswoodford.org> or click

on the link below.

<https://www.stthomaswoodford.org/fhc2026>

**** VOLUNTEER APPEAL ****

Our parish urgently needs more volunteers.

To start with, we are seeking parishioners to help on the Parish Council, the Becket Centre Committee, the Fabric Team, a new Liturgy committee and Spiritual Formation & Evangelisation team. Background details of what would be involved can now be found on the parish website (www.stthomaswoodford.org). Apologies these were missing from the website last week. If you would like to know more, please contact the parish office.



**Final Places – Summer Holiday
Opportunity.**

The St John Bosco Children's Camp is held near Brentwood. It is an activities camp including archery, fishing, Aqua Park visit, football, kayaking and much more. Final places are currently available for children currently in school year 5 – 7 (i.e. aged 9 - 12) on 31st August 2026, to spend a week at camp. Week One: 25th July – 1st August or Week Two: 1st – 8th August. The camp is run with a Catholic ethos and is for all children, especially those who may not otherwise have a summer holiday. Suggested donation £200, but fully funded places are also available thanks to generous grants. All application details are at www.boscocamp.co.uk