

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Lately dead: Michael Glynn

May he rest in peace

Anniversaries:

Rose McGranaghan, Paz Mingay,
Ronald Murphy, Mrs R Wren, Kathleen
Bradley, Robert (Robin) Davidson, Peter
Martin, Jeffrey Carlile, Catherine
Nelson, Daniel Kilvington, Mary
Dennehy, Jacqueline Duncan, Christie
Nichol, Laura Pert, Joanna Elflain,
Stephen Wheatley, David Keenan.

Trinity vacancies:

- Teacher of Physics,
- Teacher Media & Computing,
- Teacher of Art,
- Teacher of English,
- Teacher of Maths

Please visit the school's website for more details.

Mass Timetable

All services at St Thomas of Canterbury are live streamed

SUNDAY MASSES

1st Mass: 6pm Saturday;
8.30am; 10am & 11.30am Sunday
(The 11.30am Mass is recorded)

10am Chigwell Convent

WEEKDAY MASSES

10am St Thomas'
9.30am Chigwell Convent

CONFESSIONS

After 10am Mass on Saturdays

BAPTISMS

1st and 3rd Sundays
of the month

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). If interested and need guidance, please talk to one of the Friars or contact *Br Dónal ofm* via email - brdonalofm@yahoo.co.uk

Young Child's bikes

Two small bicycles were abandoned in the Friary grounds recently. Are they yours? Or would you like one? Please contact the parish office for details.



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 (C) 15th May 2022

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

Jesus gave us a single commandment. Love one another, he said; love as I love.

First Reading Acts 14:21-27

The first Christians were badly treated, but Paul and Barnabas lifted their spirits. We all go through many hardships, they said, on our way to glory.

Second Reading Apocalypse 21:1-5

There is to be no more suffering in God's new creation. Heaven will no longer be remote when God comes to dwell among humankind.

Gospel John 13:31-35

Jesus helped his disciples to understand true glory. Selfless love was to be their rule of life.



Responsorial Psalm

I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

Refugees from Ukraine

Henrietta Duchess of Newcastle built our Friary large to accommodate friar-students. When the Friary was re-ordered – in the past Century! – to form the Becket Centre a small self-contained flat was constructed. Now we propose to offer it to an extended family driven from their homes in Ukraine. Red-tape abounds. But a persevering group is working relentlessly to meet all the requirements to bring them in.

The visa applications that have cost them many hours work are with the immigration authority. Our group's experience in introducing the refugee family from Syria several years ago is proving invaluable. Do pray for the success of this venture. And then be ready when there is need of help, but for the moment wait till we find out what they need rather than satisfy our own feel-good.

Back to normal?

Not, I think, altogether. Covid is still widespread and we are particularly aware of danger when crowds meet in confined areas such as our church. The bishops have written a letter about the so-called obligation of attending Sunday mass. I avoid talking of Holydays of Obligation and a Sunday Obligation. If someone comes to visit you only because they are obliged you surely would prefer them to stay away.

We visit each other because we want to. And that is why you come to Mass. The bishops recognise that there are still some who are highly vulnerable and so must keep away from even modest groups. They must do so. We should pray for them. Streaming will continue for them.

But for us with the gift of good health?

Perhaps we have become a bit accustomed to the convenience of watching a streamed mass. No traffic and parking. No need to dress up. A comfortable armchair. Some of these can perhaps help prayer. But Jesus did not sit comfortably in heaven. He came down to the sweaty mess that human encounters can sometimes be. Jesus was emphatic:

Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood you have no life in you.

It is time to come back, for communion and all that it means. The world moves to virtual reality, and expectation that I can have all my whims granted. Jesus' answer is the bread of communion, and the Calvary struggle to express love. We are in that.

Summer weather

While enjoying the unusually sunny days we have been blessed with we are hoping for good weather for two major Parish events. On Sunday 12th June we will leave the church empty as we celebrate Mass all together in the garden. This mass gives us the cosy family feel when there is room for all. A picnic follows and more entertainment is in the planning. Then on Saturday 25th June St Antony's school and St Thomas' parish join for a bumper Garden Fair. Keep these dates free. Pray for good weather. And remember well that it is much more fun to be involved in the organisation than to be a mere customer. Come and join the gang with whatever you can bring even if it is only empty hands.



Mass Intentions

Sunday 15th May

8.30 Bruna Roberts RIP
10 Jason Brown very ill
11.30 Deceased of Hagger family

Monday 16th May

Joe Martin RIP
Vi Bullett RIP

Tuesday 17th May

Mrs Baxter Cushion RIP
Margaret Fagan very ill

Wednesday 18th May

Stubbings family thanks
David Powell RIP

Thursday 19th May

Felix McMahon RIP
Kathleen Blanchfield
Trinity intentions

Friday 20th May

Doris Anderson anniv
Donagh Corcoran RIP

Saturday 21st May

Viv Lovell surgery
Kitty Malott anniversary

Sunday 22nd May

8.30 Olga Machado RIP
10 Soldiers in Azovstal, Mariupol
11.30 Nicholas Windsor

Church Cleaning

Saturday 21st May at 10.30am

Rachel Woolf & Kathleen Mahoney

Foster for Redbridge

Redbridge Foster Carers share what it is like to be part of the Redbridge Fostering Community and caring for the Borough's most vulnerable children as part of the #FosteringCommunities campaign. Take a look at what our foster carers say youtu.be/4rnBZ3YpqbI
If you have a place in your heart and home to foster, please call us on 020 8708 6068 or email fostering@redbridge.gov.uk or join us on our next virtual information session on 27 May 2022 10am to 11am. Visit www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/foster-for-redbridge-coffee-morning-270522-10-11am-tickets-240063615737 to book a place.

Situations vacant

We now have 3 altar servers. Good. We expect a surge of enthusiastic young people who love Jesus and want to serve him. There are dozens of clean albs of different sizes waiting for you young people to come and serve mass.

Gift Aid Annual Statements

We emailed the statements last Friday. If you did not receive one, please get in touch with the parish office.