# 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 Chiqwell 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@vahoo.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.



A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Parish Office: 020 8504 1686 Friary: 020 8504 1688 Email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org

#### 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 friarstudents. When the Friary was reordered – 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?

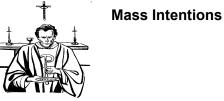
Perhaps we have become a bit accustomed to the convenience of watching a streamed mass. No traffic and parking. No need to dress up. A comfortable armchair. Some of these can perhaps help prayer. But Jesus did not sit comfortably in heaven. He came down to the sweaty mess that human encounters can sometimes 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 **25<sup>th</sup> 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.



Sunday15th May8.30Bruna Roberts RIP10Jason Brown very ill11.30Deceased 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 21stMay

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/4rnBZ3Ypqbl 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-forredbridge-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.