

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Anna Appiah, Aichard Abangwu, Mike Angelo, Baby Oliver Barker, Angela Barrett, Miss Terry Bennett, Sandra Bourke, Angela Bromfield, John Browne, Antonia Buck, Claire Merrins, Teresa Daly, Nigel Dillon, Irene & Carter de Freitas, Don Dourado, Antony Dover, Lenny Finney, Garrie Godkin, Cynthia Gregory, Mary Grisdale, Betty Halliday, Doris Harriss, Ethne Hubbard, Jane Kirk, Roger Machin, Camille Malone, Clare Merrins, Patrick McGurk, Mary McKay, Jutta Menzies, David Morgan, Lily Reding, Joan Reynolds, Jacky Rott, Dermot Shean, Debbie Smythe, Astrid Turner, Beryl Vaughan, Rita Watkins, Cian Wright.

Anniv: Bridie Flaherty,

Lately Dead: Carla Doherty, Max Eadon, Roddy Gormley, Philamena Maginess, Marie Somers, Imelda Tierney, Mary Wynne.

We remember in our prayers all the bereaved families who have lost their loved ones at this time.

WHIPPS CROSS HOSPITAL

If you, a family member or friend would like to see a Catholic Chaplain or receive Holy Communion whilst receiving treatment at Whipps, please contact the Chaplaincy Team 020 8535 6988 or St. George's 020 85295877.

SUNDAY MASSES

St. Thomas'
1st Mass Sat. 6pm; 8.30am;
10am (Children's Liturgy)
11.30am
Chigwell Convent
10am
St. James URC
(Buckhurst Hill)
9am (Children's Liturgy)

WEEKDAY MASSES

St. Thomas'
10am
Chigwell Convent
9.30am
Saturday 10am
(1st Weds of the month)
No morning Mass
Trinity High School
8.20am on Lower Site.

CHURCH CLEANING



Thursday, 9am 5th
January Kathleen
Mahoney, Jack Edwards,
Amanda Rae, Emily
Hannon, Kathy Howes.

IRISH DANCING

Will resume on 9th January 2017

NEW TO THE PARISH

If you are new to the parish or have moved within the parish, please contact the parish office so that we can keep our records up to date.

REQUIRED

A Data and Examinations Manager a.s.a.p. for Trinity Catholic High School. The postholder will be a key player in the school and operate as the principle SIMS expert, so experience with both data set management within SIMS and also exam and results' day experience are essential. Any queries, contact Mrs Adesuwa Osagie 8504 3419 ext 153 or adesuwa.osagie@fc.tchs.uk.net Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is Sunday, 8th January.

ALSO School Office Manager—Upper Site a.s.a.p. 36 hours per week. Must be organised, flexible and computer literate. Please contact as above for details.

SATURDAY CONFESSIONS

St. Thomas'
10.30am—11.30am
5.00pm—5.45pm
Chigwell Convent
After 10am Mass
BAPTISMS
1st and 3rd Sundays
Of the month

St Thomas of Canterbury

557/559 High Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0RB

Served by the Franciscans



A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Tel: 020 8504 1686 Fax: 020 8504 1844



Email: parishoffice@friar.org Web: www.stthomaswoodford.org

MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

1ST JANUARY 2017



The whole glorious story of our redemption begins in the womb of a humble country girl. Today we honour her as the Holy Mother of God, who brought forth the saviour of the world

First Reading (Numbers 6:22-27)

The Lord promises his blessing on his chosen people.

Second Reading (Galatians 4:4-7)

Paul shows that we are sons and daughters and heirs, because we are adopted brothers and sisters of Mary's son.

Gospel (Luke 2:16-21)

Mary, kneeling by the manger, is present right at the start of our salvation.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

O God be gracious and bless us

Through this week we friars, have reflected on how astonishingly good you are to us. Thank you for the Christmas church collection. Not content with that generosity we have been deluged with your greetings and gifts. For all of them we thank you very much and note well how fortunate we are to be with you making St. Thomas' parish.

The year now come to its end has been a good one for our parish. In the summer you chose a newly constituted Pastoral Council. Already you have seen some of the good they are doing. More plans are in the pipeline and will slowly become apparent. Some refurbishment of our buildings and surrounds have started and more are in prospect. Among them we do hope to raise the temperature of the church.

The eagerness of applicants for both of our schools bears testimony to their excellence. Allied to this service of the young you lead various ventures to provide them with faith understanding, social and fun activities to bring them into the functioning community. You go out to meet a wide variety of needs, hugely through the great work of the SVP addressing the growing need for visits and support to the increasing number of housebound and dependent on carers; the Soup Run, Bereavement Group, those making us aware of dementia and what can be done. TELCO keeps us involved in the wider social needs and the value of gently persuasive lobbying. We are a parish enjoying much of the good things of the technical world, but also of not a few experiencing its more brutal face.

The life of prayer is well and healthy. The 24 hours adoration surprised many. With three Mass Centres the organisation of church services is demanding.

You have it well organised through many groups. We have heeded Pope Francis leading us into the realisation that we are a totally new church. We are different from the church in which most of us grew up: different in how we approach God, how we see him, talk to him, where we find him.

A quick summary would suggest that a real grasp of God's merciful love and mercy has taken over from sin as the whole focus of our spirit and life. Pope Francis is leading the church at a gallop, and we, though trailing, have made good progress in coming to his vision and practice.

No room to rehearse the whole range of good things in St. Thomas'. We will get round to them. As for the year now beginning, I suggest two areas on which we should concentrate: our personal and collective prayer. And our learning to see with the eyes of Pope Francis, and to act accordingly.

CHILDREN PRAY FOR PEACE

The General Minister of the Order wrote us a Xmas message. He did no more than relay a letter he had received from a mother of a family in Aleppo. Under bombs and starvation she and her family had moved from trauma to disaster many times only eventually to find refuge in the friars' church together with scores of others. It was a letter of gratitude and hope.

The Minister has asked us to organise a world-wide exercise of prayer. We are to arrange that at the children's Mass on one Sunday each month the children will pray for peace, especially in the Middle East. So, as a start, next Sunday we will do this at the 10am Mass.

THANK YOU

To the volunteers who turned up to clean the church, the tree and crib—the work of the Parish Council and friends, the flower arrangers, choir and music group, readers, ministers, servers, ushers and sacristans—thank you for responding in such good numbers.

PARISH NEWS



Our Communications group are publishing a quarterly newsletter to keep us updated with events and parish news. It will be sent out by email, with a few copies printed for those not having email access. If you would like to be among the first to receive it and keep up to date with what is going on in the parish, please send a mail to parishnews@friar.org or scan in the QR code.

REMINDER 1ST HOLY COMMUNION CATECHISTS

There is a meeting on Wednesday, 4th January 2017 at 8pm in the William Scott Room. This is for ALL catechists. Please do your best to attend.

BAPTISMS

If you need to attend a baptism course for your first child, please contact the parish office for details. Baptisms take place on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month.

WELCOME

We welcome into the parish community Florence Dutton who was baptised in St. Thomas recently.

*The next Assisi Lunch will be on 27th
January 2017.*

SOUP RUN FOR THE HOMELESS AND NEEDY

The next soup run is on Wednesday, 11th January 2017.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA ST ANTONY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

The consultation for our Admissions Criteria for 2018/2019 is now available on our school website on the Admission page. www.stantonyscatholicdps.co.uk. If you wish to comment please send your responses by emailing admin.st-antonys@redbridge.gov.uk or posting it to the school address. Deadline for all responses is 27th January 2017.

SCRIPTURE SHARING GROUP

Next meeting 19th January in the William Scott Room at 7.30pm. All are very welcome to study and share the Word of God.

IN TOUCH

There are still copies available for the exciting Christmas edition of In Touch featuring a personal letter to the parish from H.M. Queen Elizabeth. Price £2.

SERENITY PRAYER

God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the
pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world
As it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right
If I surrender to His Will;
That I may be reasonably happy in this life
And supremely happy with Him
Forever in the next

Amen