PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

ANNIVERSARIES:

Bertha Aplonia Noranha, Bosco Batptista, Sheila Davighi, Sister Liquori Sinnott, Cecil Ayles, Patricia Anne Freeman, Guilielmuis Latore, Jeremiah Murphy Mario Castelletti, Sister Cronin, Susan Kemp,Palmira Pieroni, Mary James, Douglas Bacon,BrianBeveridge Honoria Mathieson, MaureenNoden, Michael O`Meara, Luca Marrai, EdwardPestell, Brian Skelt, Angelo Francescotti, MargaretWright

JOURNEY OF FAITH

There is a growing number among people of different faiths and none wanting to know about our Catholic church and its practice. For them now is a good time to join the Journey of Faith where a good new nucleus has just started. We meet every Wednesday at 7pm starting with tea and cake. With input and sharing we are learning what our church is: for each and for the world in the 21st Century. If you know anyone who might be interested invite them to give it a try.

Confirmation Programme 2027

**** CLOSING DATE EXTENDED ****

We would like to invite baptised parishioners in Y10-13, who regularly attend Mass, to apply to join our 2027 programme. Sessions will take place on Thursday evenings; all dates can be found on the parish website. Full attendance is required. Please visit our website to complete the application form. The closing date for applications has been **extended** to; Monday **23rd** November 2026.

SUNDAY MASSES

1st Mass: 6pm Saturday;
8.30am; 10am & 11.30am Sunday

Join us for tea/coffee after Sunday Mass in theBecket Centre



10am Chigwell Convent

WEEKDAY MASSES

10am St Thomas'
9.30am Chigwell Convent except on Saturday's when mass takes place at 10am

CONFESSION

Saturday 10.30am - 11amand5.15pm - 5.45pm

BAPTISMS

1st and 3rd Sundays of the month

Baptism CourseDates

The next baptism course will take place on **Wednesday,11& 18Nov**th**ember.** Parents are required to attend both dates to complete the course. To register, please visit the parish website or contact the parish office directly.

Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary

The next meetingwill take place on **9**th**November at 2.00pm** in Chigwell convent.

St Vincent De Paul Society

Are you in urgent need - finanical or other? Please call 07547 491 067 and leave a message - we will call you back.

VACANCY

PA to the Parish Priest- Our Lady of Lourdes- Wanstead

A vacancy has arisen for a PA to the Parish Priest. The closing date for applications is 10th November 2026. If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV to wanstead@brcdt.org

VACANCY

Chancery & Tribunal Assistant

Avacancy has arisen for an assistant in the Diocese of Brentwood Chancery & Tribunal Offices. Please contact hr@brcdt.org for more information

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Woodford Green

Served by the Franciscans

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Parish Office: 020 8504 1686
Friary: 020 8504 1688
Email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org
Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org
Facebook: @STOCWoodford
Twitter: @STOCWoodford

THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2026

Pleasenotethenearest FireExit toyouwhilstyou are inthe Church

Today is Remembrance Sunday and so we pray for those who lost their lives in service and sacrifice in warfare. In this month we pray for the deceased members of our families; for friends, parishioners and those who have no one to pray for them. We continue to pray for peace in our world

First Reading Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is radiant and unfading. She is easily discerned by those who love her and is found by those who seek her.

Responsorial Psalm:

For you my soul is thirsting, O'LORD, my God.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring to new life those who have fallen asleep.

Gospel Matthew 25:1-13

So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.



AM I PREPARING TO MEET THE LORD?

Today's Gospel offers us a story regarding the meaning of life of each person. It is the parable of the 10 maidens, called to go out to meet the bridegroom (cf. Mt 25:1-13). Living is this: a great preparation for the day when we will be called to go to Jesus! In the parable however, five of the 10 virgins are wise and five are foolish. Let us see what constitutes wisdom and foolishness. Wisdom in life, and foolishness in life.

All those bridesmaids are there to welcome the bridegroom, that is, they want to meet him, just as we too desire a happy fulfilment of life: the difference between wisdom and foolishness is therefore not in goodwill. Nor does it lie in the punctuality with which they arrive at the meeting: they were all there. The difference between the wise and the foolish is another: preparation. The text says: the wise "took flasks of oil with their lamps" (v. 4); the foolish, on the other hand, did not. This is the difference: the oil. And what is one of the characteristics of the oil? That it cannot be seen: it is inside the lamps, it is not conspicuous, but without it, the lamps have no light.

Let us look at ourselves, and we will see that our life runs the same risk: many times, we are very careful about our appearance — the important thing is to take good care of one's image and make a good impression in front of others. But Jesus says that the wisdom of life lies elsewhere: in taking care of what cannot be seen but is more important; taking care of the heart. Nurturing an inner life. This means knowing how to stop and listen to one's heart, to keep watch over one's own thoughts and feelings. How often are we unaware of what has happened in our heart on a [given] day? What happens within each one of us? Wisdom means knowing how to make room for silence, in order to be able to listen to ourselves and to others. It means knowing how to give up some of the time spent in front of television screens, to look at the light in the eyes of others, in one's own heart, in God's gaze upon us. It means not falling into the trap of activism, but devoting time to the Lord, to listening to his Word.

And the Gospel gives us the right advice so as not to neglect the oil of inner life, the "oil of the soul". It tells us that it is important to prepare it. In fact in the story, we see that the maidens already have the lamps, but they have to prepare the oil: they have to go to the sellers, buy it, put it in the lamps… (cf. vv. 7-9) It is the same for us. An inner life cannot be improvised, it is not a matter of a moment, of once in a while, of once and for all. Inner life has to be prepared by dedicating a little time every day, with constancy, as one does for every important thing

So, we can ask ourselves: what am I preparing at this moment in life? Within myself, what am I preparing? Perhaps I am trying to put aside some savings, I am thinking about a house or a new car, concrete plans… They are good things; they are not bad things. But am I also thinking about dedicating time to the care of the heart, to prayer, to service to others, to the Lord who is the destination of life? In short, how is the oil of my soul? Each one of us, let us ask ourselves this: how is the oil of my soul? Do I nourish it, do I keep it well?

May Our Lady help us to cherish the oil of inner life.

YOUNG VINNIES

The Young Vinnies parish group is starting again this weekend. If you are year 9-11 and would like to be involved in volunteering and supporting your community please come and learn more on Sunday 8th November 3.30pm - 5.30pm in the Clare room (upstairs of the Beckett centre).
Please email Louise for more details
Louise.cherry5@gmail.com

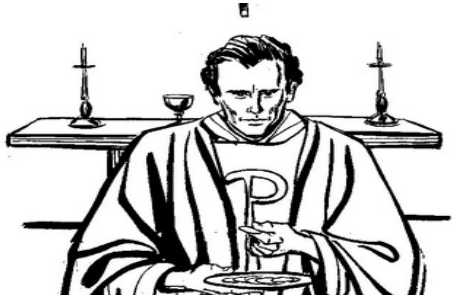
Interested in becoming a Westminster Cathedral Chorister?

Join our next Chorister Zoom Information Session on **Wednesday 18th November at 6.30pm.** Register here - https://tinyurl.com/2zsf92j8. Or contact Lucy Freeman on 020 7798 9081, LFreeman@choirschool.com or visit www.choirschool.com

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Thank you to everyone who has donated so far! No more cuddly toys are needed.
We are looking for new donations such as unopened toiletries, gift sets, jewellery sets, bottles etc.
Food items such as cakes, biscuits are also welcome on the day!
We require volunteers to help with the set up on Friday, 27th and putting away on Saturday 28th - anyone who can spare some time please contact Susie on 07504990906





Mass Intentions
8th - 15th November

Sunday 8th November
8.30am - Rifleman Henry Gilbey & Family
10am - Patricia Freeman
11.30am - Harold Hetherington anniversary
Chigwell - Deceased of Dias family

Monday 9th November
Joseph Salmon RIP
AB intention

Tuesday 10th November
Forsuccessin interview
Angela Barnes intention

Wednesday 11th November
Int Gloria McQueen
Marylin Wall

Thursday 12th November
John Patrick RooneyRIP
Rosa & Frank Fitzpatrick RIP

Friday 13th November
Lizzie Hetheringtonanniversary
Josie Cantwell RIP
Daniel Dwain RIP

Saturday 14th November
10am - MargaretMaunsellanniversary
6pm Angela Barnes

Sunday 15th November
8.30am - RitaZanelliRIP
10am - Peg Martin RIP
11.30am - Brian Francis Beveridge anniversary

Mass each day in November for those named before the altar.

Church Cleaning
Saturday, 14th November at 10.30am
Rosie O'Connor, Charmaine Turnell

November Dead List

November is the monthforremembering.

You are invited to writethenamesof all you wish to be rememberedintheenvelopes provided. If you wishyoumayinclude a small donation. All nameswillbeplaced in the box before the altarwheremasses will be offered for themeachdaythrough November. It is the communionofall saints – living and dead.

St Thomas Ber eavement Service
**** Sunday, 8th November at 4.00pm ****

The annual Bereavement Service to remember our dearly departed will be included in the order of service. Refreshments will be available after in the Henrietta suite.

Remembrance Day : Church Parade

TheChurch Parade will take place on

Sunday 8th November at the 10.00am mass. There will be a cake sale after mass for guiding funds.

St Anthony's School Applications

FatherMichaelCoppswillbe availabletosign **certificates of practice** on the following;

17th November at 3.15pm - 5.00pm
18th November at 3.15pm - 5.00pm
7.00pm - 8.00pm

No need to book, just come along to the Church. More dates will be offered in December if needed.

First Holy Communion
**** First Confession ****

Confessions willtake placefrom
30th November to 11th December.
Lookout forfurther details& information of how to book in forthcoming newsletters!