

Lately Dead
Maria De Sousa
May she rest in peace

Funeral
The funeral of Maria De Sousa will take place on Tuesday, 5th May at 2.00pm

ANNIVERSARIES:

Helena James, Peggy Hall, Sarah Glyde, Lita Hayde, Liza Ford, Margaret Murphy, Sandra Sifflet, Margaret Kivineen, Emily Dempsey, Garrett Godkin, Frederick Simmons, Dominic Correia, Patrick Lennon, Michael Glynn, Terence Lewis, Luciana Dodge, Jessie Anderson, Eileen Hands, Ann Starr, Anthony Fair, Maureen Morgan, John Green, Anne Loftus, Mary Onn.

Thank you from Tania

I just wanted to say a heartfelt thank you for the wonderful send-off. I truly appreciate the time, effort and kindness that went into making it so special. It has been a pleasure meeting you all during my time as Office Administrator and I'm grateful for the support, friendships and memories I'll take with me. Wishing you all the very best for the future.

**** ADVANCE NOTICE ****

Local Elections on Thursday, 7th May

St Thomas will be used as a polling station from 6am—10.30pm. The Becket Centre will be CLOSED and there will be no pick up OR drop-off facility permitted for parents on the day.

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

BAPTISM COURSE DATES
6th and 13th May.
Both dates must be completed

Baptism Congratulations
To the following children who were baptised at St Thomas in **April**; Noah Benjamin, Brayan Peraj, Braelynn Peraj, Reina Peraj

Wedding congratulations
To Catherine Still & Joseph Hall who were married in St Thomas' during April.

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine & Co. Mayo
Led by Bishop Alan Williams
Monday 15th June 2026 to Friday 19th June 2026. 4 nights in Knock House Hotel, with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Visit Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre. Price £799.00 per person
Contact: Patricia Tel: 01268 762 278 Mob: 07740 175 557 knockpilgrimages@gmail.com



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Woodford Green
A FAIRTRADE PARISH



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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)
SUNDAY, 3RD MAY 2026

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

As we gather here together today, we hold each other and the needs of the world in mind. As we celebrate together, we consider what it is that makes us a community – both local and global. And we trust in Christ as our foundation.

First Reading Acts 6:1-7

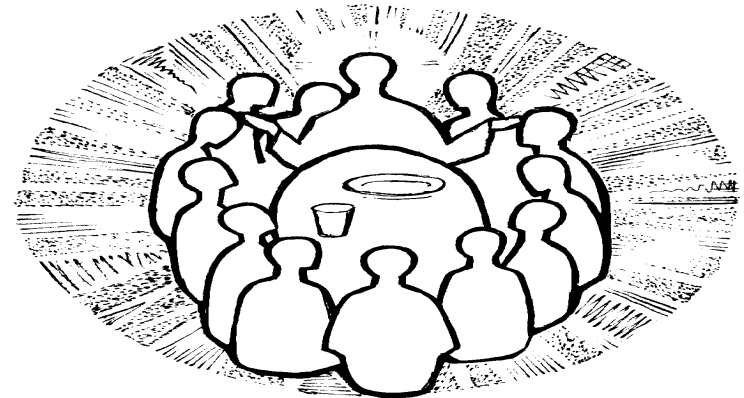
A daily distribution of food has been set up to serve the community, but some people are accused of getting more than others. Seven people, including Stephen, are appointed to ensure goods are allocated fairly and no one is left out.

Responsorial Psalm:

May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you O'LORD

Second Reading 1 Peter 2:4-9

Christ is the cornerstone, the foundation of the Christian community. To grow in love for Christ is to work to rid ourselves of whatever keeps us from him and damages the community.



I AM THE WAY THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

This week's Gospel is an extract from the conversation He had with the Apostles on the night before He died. It is an assurance while He is not with us in the flesh, that He is with us in the Spirit.

First of all, Jesus asks his disciples to not let their hearts to be troubled, to have faith and trust in Him and in his deeds. He then speaks about his "Father's house," and says that He is going there "to prepare a place for you" (v. 2). There is nothing wrong with thinking about Heaven in the midst of tribulation. "Our Lord speaks frequently to us of the reward which he won for us by his Death and Resurrection," Saint Josemaria reminds us. "Heaven is the final destination of our path on earth. Jesus has gone ahead of us and awaits us there, in the company of Our Lady and of Saint Joseph, whom I so much revere, and of all the angels and saints."

In response to Thomas's question about the way to reach the place where Jesus is going, Our Lord reveals to his disciples that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Saint Augustine comments on these mysterious words: "the Word of God, who is Truth and Life next to the Father, has become the Way by taking on human nature."

Hence to follow Jesus requires grasping the mystery of his Person and Mission. Pope Francis said that "getting to know Jesus is the most important work in our life." We need to discover the intimate union between the Son and the Father: "He who has seen me has seen the Father" (v. 9). Jesus is the way because everything in his Person reveals the Father and unites us to the Father. Jesus has made the invisible God visible for us, through all his deeds and words. He reveals God to us through a human face, and looks upon us with love and calls us his friends, in order to make it easy for us to get to know Him, love Him and become one with Him. The truth is not grasped as a thing, the truth is encountered. It is not a possession; it is an encounter with a Person."

Truth and Life are united in a Person whom we can come to know and love. Thus, we go forward on the way to the Father by identifying ourselves with his Son.

Choir members needed

The 11.30 choir is looking for enthusiastic singers to join this friendly group. We sing at the 11.30 Mass two/three times a month, at Christmas, Easter services and have occasional Thursday evening choir practices. We need more singers in all voice parts to enable us to sing dedicated choir items/anthems at special Christmas & Easter services and on other occasional Sunday mornings. If you enjoy singing, do come and have a chat after 11.30 Mass. We would love to meet you.

Gift Aid annual statement 2025/2026

The annual statements are being prepared and will be sent to parishioners by email/Post. If you require Gift Aid Statement and have not received one, please email parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org. Please include your full name and address in the email.

UNDER 5's

St Thomas under 5's group is running every Tuesday & Wednesday morning at 9.30am—11am term time only.

St Vincent De Paul Society

Are you in urgent need – financial or other? Call us on 07547 491067 and leave a message. We will call you back.

Holy Communion Masses 2026

There are a handful of volunteers still needed. We require **TWO** altar servers; **TWO** ushers and **THREE** Sacristans. Please check the list at the back of the church to see which masses still require your help, and add your name. Thank you!

ALPHA

Our post-Alpha group wanted to carry on as a group to continue to meet and share their faith with such a loving, and supportive group of people. First session **Friday, 1st May** in the Henrietta Suite starting at **7.30pm**. Then meeting every two weeks. Come along and join us ... **everyone welcome!**



Mass Intentions

3rd—10th May

Sunday 3rd May

8.30am - Peg Carrig RIP
10am - Anne McShea RIP
11.3am - Ron Gillingham RIP
Chigwell - Helena O'Reilly anniversary

Monday 4th May

Michael Morrissey RIP
Desmond D'Souza ill

Tuesday 5th May

Ted Craft anniversary
Joyce D'Silva RIP
Paddy, Margaret & Pat Ward

Wednesday 6th May

C.W.L
Kathy Howes

Thursday 7th May

Simon Cross anniversary
Ann Potter RIP
Winnie Tom

Friday 8th May

Marie Tisi RIP
John Sheehan int
Chris & Hannah Lobo (intention)

Saturday 9th May

10am - Marie Murphy RIP
6pm - Tania, departing, thank you to parishioners

Sunday 10th May

8.30am - Patricia Addison anniversary
10am - Anne McShea RIP
11.30am - Mrs Molly Charles RIP
Chigwell - Ron Gillingham RIP

Church Cleaning

Saturday, 9th May at 10.30am
Kathleen Mahoney, Bernie Siggins,
Riannon Blackwell

VACANCY

The Ursuline Academy Ilford are looking to recruit a TEACHER OF SCIENCE From: September 2026. Please see school website for further details [The Ursuline Academy Ilford - Come work at UAI!](#)

Redbridge Foodbank's Community Connect & Support Fair

If you or someone you know could use support, this is a great opportunity to find out what help is available locally! **15th May 2026, 11:00 – 13:30** Jubilee Church, 14 Granville Road, Ilford IG1 4JY
Get help with: Benefits, Debt, Education, Finding work, Housing, Health & Wellbeing. Learn more [here](#).

50th Anniversary Celebration

Trinity Catholic High School is proudly celebrating 50 years of serving our community. To mark this important milestone, they are hosting a 50th Anniversary Black Tie Ball, an elegant evening bringing together students, families, alumni, and local supporters on **Friday, 15th May** at **Woolston Manor**. Please contact Avril on 07805296582 for more information

* SAVE THE DATE *

Trinity Festival on 4th July

Community event with food, drinks, bouncy castle, fireworks and lots more!

SUMMER FETE on 11th July

This year's summer fete will take place on the 11th of July, 12-4pm. We welcome any donations of prizes for the raffle. William Rose will sponsor £10 per advertising board. For more information on how to get involved or help, please contact; friendsofstantonys@gmail.com and / or avril.leary@yahoo.co.uk.