

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Lately dead: **Bernice Anning**

May she rest in peace

Anniversaries:

Angela Brincat, William Nolan, John Dunne, Henri Haydonsk, Francis Keane, Martin Thomas, Lena Tyson, Ruth Comorford, Roger Higgins, Elizabeth Stoffel, Lucia Nie, Patricia Greene, Katherine Delaney, Martin Fuller, Joan Hayes, John Martin

**BCYS Advent Concert,
Sunday 6th December 4pm, and
throughout Advent on YouTube:**

Featuring favourite carols, with music led by Art from Brentwood Cathedral, as well as Gabi, Felishia and Erin from the BCYS and Walsingham House team, along with readings and poems, the concert will be a prayerful and delightful way to journey through Advent. And, of course, you can sing along to your heart's content at home! Free to watch, with donations welcome: money raised will be split between the Trussell Trust, supporting food banks across the Diocese, and the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. Full details and links: www.bcys.net/events/adventcarols

Church lockdown arrangements until 2nd December

The Church is closed to the public

However, join us daily via

<https://www.stthomaswoodford.org/watch-mass-live>

For Mass every day at 10 am

And at 6pm for evening prayer with exposition of the blessed sacrament

We will also record the 10am Mass on Sunday

Confessions can take place by appointment



**Prayer of spiritual
communion**
(St Alphonsus Liguori)

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Woodford Green
A FAIRTRADE PARISH



Parish Office: 020 8504 1686 Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org
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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) 29th November 2020

As we begin the season of Advent, we ask God to prepare us for change in our lives so that we maybe ready to greet the child Jesus when he comes in Bethlehem at Christmas.

First Reading
Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

The prophet prays that God would tear open the heavens and come down.

Second Reading
1 Corinthians 1:3-9

St Paul prays that his community will be open to God's Spirit as they await the coming of Christ.

Gospel
Mark 13:33-37

Jesus tells his disciples to stay awake as they await the return of their master.

Responsorial Psalm

God of hosts; bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

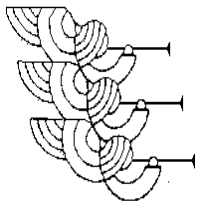


Advent

We enter a new year with a season of hope. Hope only works when the future is not clear, when we cannot see but rely totally on faith. This describes pretty well where we are with Covid. And Covid can help us to use the season of Advent well.

Usually December is swamped by preparations for Christmas, with celebrations, dinners and parties enjoying ourselves as if it had already come. Instead now we expect to be cautiously keeping our distances, avoiding unnecessary contacts and enduring a good deal of privation of the company of those we love. So we have time to think what Advent is for. What we really want lies in the future. It is ourselves we have to prepare. There is still self-indulgence in me that can be turned to generosity.

Even in normal times when commercialism is getting it wrong, charities know December is a month when purse-strings are loosened for the poor. We are not all bad..



Advent & Christmas Masses

These have now been published, information can be found on our website. Please note that booking is essential.

Post Lockdown Church Opening

Normal services will resume with effect from 5th December with 10am Mass. More information will be available on the website shortly.



Communion preparation

It is time to start on chapter 6 of the workbook. It is about listening. When Jesus gives himself to us in Holy Communion it is not just through the bread and wine. He gives himself to our minds and hearts through the words we hear at Mass. If someone just takes the host without thought he will gain very little.

That is why at mass we listen to readings. Most important is the Gospel. Then the letters of Paul and others from the New Testament. And even the Old Testament helps. This month in the workbook you read the story of Samuel. At mass the priest's job is then to spell out how the bible words relate to a world suffering covid and illness and violence; still also enjoying the beauty of creation and God's bounty. Children need to be helped to listen in many ways to many things. It happens at home; it happens in church. I hope that we will be able to open the church doors to you again next week albeit with restrictions. It is very important that as your children learn about communion, they see it happening with you in the real.

Your children are the priority for the weekend masses.

Do bring them whenever possible.

Mass Intentions

Sunday 29th November

People of the parish
Gerard Brunning RIP
Joseph Jay Doyle RIP

Monday 30th November

Pierina Kavanagh RIP
Anna Rod RIP

Tuesday 1st December

Cindy Johnson RIP
Morris family

Wednesday 2nd December

Brian Bolton sick
Trinity intentions

Thursday 3rd December

Denis Burns anniversary
Paul Bloomberg RIP

Friday 4th December

John Potter RIP
C W L

Saturday 5th December

Angela Lloyd anniversary
Coeur de Lion family: thanks

Sunday 6th December

People of the parish
Carla Doherty anniversary
John Martin anniversary



Available from the Parish Office

- **Advent Day by Day.** The booklet has daily readings for contemplation throughout Advent. The price is £1.
- **Christmas cards and advent calendars**
- **Parish Diaries** for 2021
- **Mass Cards**
- **Brentwood Diocese Directory 2021**

Keys found

A set of house keys have been found in the car park. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

Foodbank

Donations can be left in the Parish Office for the Redbridge foodbank

Certificates of practice St Anthony's

Please let us have a family photo with details of the masses you would normally attend. Provide the full name of you child, his/her date of birth, and your current address. This can be emailed to

parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org.

ICHTHUS

The ICHTHUS for December is now available on the website