

LATELY DECEASED

Margaret (Peg) Martin, Luis Sanchez Garcia
May they rest in eternal peace

FUNERAL

The funeral of Karen Harwood will take place on 14th October at 12.00pm and Leonard Hampshire on 16th October at 11.00am here at St Thomas of Canterbury Church

ANNIVERSARIES:

Arthur Morris, Liberty Mascoli, Elise Valles, Stanley Dias, Hugh Brett, Bernadette Craft, Bridie Keown, Sheila Murphy, Sister John Vincent MacDonald, Cornelius O'Sullivan, Ellen Clarke, Mary Clegg, Francis Drennan, Michael England, Sister Manning, Sandra Houghton, Anthony Carden, Nino Jomaa, Miss Charlotte Spencer, Catherine Dalli

Prisoner's Sunday—11th October

There will be a Second Collection after mass this weekend in support of people in prison and their families. Envelopes will be available at the back of the church or you can use the QR code to donate directly.



“AWAKE LONDON” A Catholic Bible convention and Healing ministry on Saturday 17th October 2026 from 12.30pm to 4.45pm led by Rev. Fr. Antony Kurian OFM at Catholic Parish of Christ The King, 455 Chingford Road London, E4 8SP. Convention includes: Praise and Worship, Holy Mass, confession, Healing service and Eucharistic Adoration, spiritual sharing, sessions for children (www.afcmuk.org). Free car parking available.

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 10.30am - 11am & 5.15pm - 5.45 pm

BAPTISMS

1st and 3rd Sundays
of the month

Baptism Course Dates

The next baptism course will take place on Wednesday, **11th AND 18th November 8.00pm—9.00pm**. Parents are required to attend both dates to complete the course. To register, please visit the parish website or contact the parish office directly.

Parish Council Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday,
12th October at 7.30pm

Second Collection

World Mission Day (Missio)

There will be a second collection after mass on
Sunday, 18th October

Second Collection

HARVEST FAST DAY

Raised £629.00 as well as the many envelopes that will be sent to CAFOD directly. Thank you to everyone or your donations and kind generosity.

Irish Dancing

Held in the Beckett Centre every Monday 5pm—6pm. Any boys and girls interested can just turn up or for more information call Pauline on 07846 603 259.

Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary

Next meeting will take place on 12th October at Chigwell Convent at 2.00pm



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Parish Office: 020 8504 1686

Friary: 020 8504 1688

Email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org



Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org

Facebook: [@STOCWoodford](https://www.facebook.com/STOCWoodford)

Twitter: [@STOCWoodford](https://twitter.com/STOCWoodford)



TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) SUNDAY, 11TH OCTOBER 2026

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

A great feast is spread before us, a banquet in which we can all participate. As we gather today we give thanks for the generosity of God, who provides for us everything that we need and shows us how to live a life of service to our neighbours, near and far.

First Reading Isaiah 25:6-10a

God will provide for all people and will wipe away their tears and destroy death for ever

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23 (22)

In the LORD's own house shall I dwell for length of days unending.

Second Reading Philippians 4:12-14. 19-20

Paul writes that he knows what it is to be well fed, but also to be hungry. He reminds his readers that God will provide whatever they need.

Gospel Matthew 22:1-14

The feast is laid out in front of all of us, and we are invited to share in it. But we are asked to be ready and willing to participate.



GOD LOVES EVERONE HE HAS MADE

With the narrative of the Parable of the Wedding Banquet, in today's Gospel passage (cf. Mt 22:1-14), Jesus outlines the plan that God envisaged for humanity. The king who "who gave a marriage feast for his son" (v. 2) is the image of the Father who prepared for the entire human family a wonderful celebration of love and communion around his only begotten Son. Twice the king sends his servants to call the invited guests, but they refuse; they do not want to go to the feast because they have other things to think about: fields and business. We often also put our interests and material things ahead of the Lord who calls us — and he calls us to a feast. But the king in the parable does not want the hall to remain empty, because he wants to offer the treasures of his kingdom. So he tells his servants: "Go therefore to the thoroughfares, and invite to the marriage feast as many as you find" (v. 9). This is how God reacts: when he is rejected, rather than giving up, he starts over and asks that all those found at the thoroughfares be called, excluding no one. No one is excluded from the house of God. The original term that Matthew the Evangelist uses refers to the limits of the roads, or those points at which the city streets end and the paths begin that lead to the area of the countryside, outside the residential area, where life is precarious. It is to this humanity of the thoroughfares that the king in the parable sends his servants, in the certainty of finding people willing to sit at the table. Thus the banquet hall is filled with the "excluded", those who are "outside", those who never seemed worthy to partake in a feast, in a wedding banquet. In fact, the master, the king, tells the messengers: "Call everyone, both good and bad. Everyone!". God even calls those who are bad. "No, I am bad; I have done many [bad things]...". He calls you: "Come, come, come!". And Jesus went to lunch with the publicans, who were public sinners; they were the bad ones. God is not afraid of our spirits wounded by many cruelties, because he loves us; he invites us. And the Church is called to reach the daily thoroughfares, that is, the geographic and existential peripheries of humanity, those places on the margins, those situations where the hopeless remnants of humanity camp out and live. It is a matter of not settling for comforts and the customary ways of

evangelization and witnessing to charity but rather of opening the doors of our hearts and communities to everyone, because the Gospel is not reserved to a select few. Even those on the margins, even those who are rejected and scorned by society, are considered by God to be worthy of his love.

He prepares his banquet for everyone: the just and sinners, good and bad, intelligent and uneducated. However, the Lord places one condition: to wear a wedding garment. Let us return to the parable. When the hall is full, the king arrives and greets the latest guests, but he sees one of them without a wedding garment, that kind of little cape that each guest received as a gift at the entrance. The people went as they were dressed, as they were able to dress; they were not wearing gala attire. But they were given a type of capelet, a gift, at the entrance. That man, having rejected the free gift, excluded himself: thus, the king could do nothing but throw him out. This man accepted the invitation but then decided that it meant nothing to him: he was a self-sufficient person; he had no desire to change or to allow the Lord to change him. The wedding garment — this capelet — symbolizes the mercy that God freely gives us, namely, grace. Without grace we cannot take a step forward in Christian life. Everything is grace. It is not enough to accept the invitation to follow the Lord; one must be open to a journey of conversion, which changes the heart. The garment of mercy, which God offers us unceasingly, is the free gift of his love; it is precisely grace. And it demands to be welcomed with astonishment and joy: "Thank you, Lord, for having given me this gift".

Pope Francis

**** Brentwood Catholic Youth Service ****

The BCYS offers retreats, events and pilgrimages for young people throughout the Diocese of Brentwood. If you'd like to get involved, you can find out more at www.bcys.net or follow [@BrentwoodCYS](https://www.instagram.com/BrentwoodCYS) on social media.



Mass Intentions

11th-18th October

Sunday 11th October

8.30am - Bernadette Craft anniversary
10am - John Ruddy RIP
11.30am - Len Hampshire RIP
Chigwell - Intention Anselm Dias

Monday 12th October

Johanna Costello anniversary
William Herbert Derbyshire anniversary

Tuesday 13th October

Teresa Kearns 90 years old

Wednesday 14th October

Persecuted Christians
Funeral - Karen Harwood

Thursday 15th October

Anthony Gaughan RIP
Gabriel Amodio RIP

Friday 16th October

Angela Bromfield - 80th birthday
Stella & Charles McKay RIP
Funeral - Leonard Hampshire

Saturday 17th October

10am - Maureen Pollock sick
6pm Maggie O'Mahoney

Sunday 18th October

8.30am - Maria Pellicci
10am - Willy Gillman recovery
11.30am Thomas Patrick Milne
Chigwell Elsie Valles RIP

THANK YOU for your kind wishes expressed on our Feast Day and for your gifts. Also thank you for coming to our Holy Hour on Friday, the Transitus on Saturday and the Feast on Sunday.

Church Cleaning
Wednesday 14th October at 10.30am
Rosie O'Connor, Charmaine Turnell

VACANCY

Special Needs Classroom Assistant
(Term time) St John's School, Turpins Lane 1G8 8AX. For more information please contact: office@stjohnsrcschool.co.uk

Hatha Yoga for Mind, Body & Soul

Wednesdays 9.30am—10.30am,
7th October - 11th November 2026. NO CLASS on 21st October. Suitable for all ages and abilities. For further details contact Dawn Boulanoff
dawnyoga4you@hotmail.co.uk

****Confirmation Programme 2026/27 ****

Full details of this years Confirmation Programme will be published in next week's newsletter. Registration will be open the following week.



Repair Cafe - St Mary's South Woodford

Come along from **10am-1pm, Saturday 17 October** where a volunteer fixer will help bring your broken items back to life. It's FREE, everyone is welcome

CAN YOU HELP?

A parishioner would like to attend mass periodically. Can anyone assist with driving her to & from Church please. Please let the parish office know in the first instance.

**** 2026 National SVP Summer Raffle ****

It is our pleasure to announce £108,045 was raised for the Society through this years Summer Raffle. The winning numbers are;

£5,000.00	601018
£1,000.00	453036
£100.00 (15 winning tickets below)	
504031	535111
595895	510788
478543	540090
609979	457117
580493	450007
509133	458960
520472	582943
539265	