

## PRAY FOR THE SICK

### Anniversaries:

Gordon Bowler, Mary Hallard, Leanne Mackenzie, Sister Josephine O'Dowd, Bastian Thambynayagam, Robert Browne, Sister Kieran Pilkington, Daphne Taylor, Margaret Wilson, Tina Wolf, Michael Fitzgerald, Mary Weedon, Sr Francis Regis Lehane, Aaron Basha, Mary Benn, Florence Du Casse, Andrew Lamarque, Ernest Verney, Dennis Bryan, Eric Cooper, Gerald Mooney, Sister Teresita Mullins, Josephine Burke, Bryan Rooney, Wilfred De Souza

### Lent

**Lenten lunches** each Friday commencing on 12.30pm.  
All Proceeds go to Mary's Meals

**Stations of the cross** every Friday during lent at 7.30pm

**Family Fast Day 23rd February**, Cafod envelopes are available at the back of Church

**Parish Retreat** in the Becket Centre 24th February 3—to 5pm

**World day of Prayer 1st March** at Highams Park Methodist Church, Winchester Street E4 9JP at 10.30am

### Mass Timetable

*The masses on Saturday evening and Sunday at St Thomas' are live streamed*

### 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

### Thank you

### Retiring Collections

For your kind donations to Lourdes Pilgrimages £807 and the Crib £328



**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](http://www.stthomaswoodford.org)

Facebook: @STOCWoodford

Twitter: @STOCWoodford



## First Sunday of Lent (B) 18th February 2024

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

We come together as a community in loving relationship with our neighbour and with all living creatures. "Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary" (Pope Benedict XVI). We trust in God's compassion and mercy. Time spent in reflection during the season of Lent can help us to change and to grow in faith.

### First Reading Genesis 9:8-15

God establishes a covenant with Noah, his descendants and every living creature. God sets a bow in the clouds as a sign of the covenant.

### Second Reading 1 Peter 3:18-22

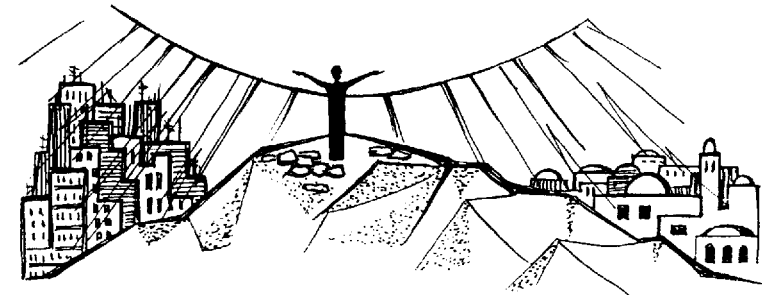
Peter gives hope to his listeners. As we prepare to renew our baptismal vows at Easter, we are called to repent, to change and to believe in the Gospel.

### Gospel Mark 1:12-15

Jesus stays in the desert for forty days. He emerges to tell the crowds that the kingdom of God is close at hand.

### Responsorial Psalm

Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your



## Repent and Believe the Good News

In Mark's Gospel today, Mark does not say what the subject of Christ's temptation was. Pope Benedict based on St Matthew's account of the temptation says, "It is the proposal to exploit God, to use him for one's own interests, for one's own glory and for one's own success. And therefore, essentially to put oneself in God's place, removing him from one's own existence and making him seem superfluous. Each one of us must therefore ask him- or herself: what place does God have in my life? Is he the Lord or am I?"

Overcoming the temptation to subject God to oneself and one's own interests, to put him in a corner or to be converted to the correct order of priorities, giving God first place, is a journey that each and every Christian must make over and over again. "Repent" is an invitation we shall often hear in Lent, it means following Jesus in such a way that his Gospel is a practical guide for life; it means letting God transform us, in order to stop thinking that we are the only ones to build our existence. It means recognizing that we are creatures, that we depend on God, on his love, and that only by "losing" our life in him can we gain it. This requires us to make our decisions in the light of the Word of God.

Today it is no longer possible to be Christian as a mere consequence of living in a society that has Christian roots: even those who are born into a Christian family and receive a religious education must every day renew their decision to be Christian, that is, to give God first place in the face of the temptations that a secularized culture constantly suggests to them and in the face of the critical opinion of many of their contemporaries.

The trials to which society today subjects Christians are indeed numerous and affect their personal and social life.

It is far from easy to be faithful to Christian marriage, to practice mercy in daily life, to make room for prayer and inner silence; it is far from easy to oppose publicly the decisions that many take for granted, such as abortion in the case of unwanted pregnancy, euthanasia in the case of serious illness and embryo selection in order to prevent hereditary diseases. The temptation to set faith aside is always present and conversion becomes a response to God that must be strengthened several times in life.

As an example and an incentive we have important conversions such as that of St Paul on the road to Damascus, or of St Augustine; yet, in our epoch of the eclipse of the sense of the sacred, God's grace is at work and works marvels in the life of so many people. The Lord never tires of knocking at man's door in social and cultural milieus that seem engulfed in secularization.



## Mass Intentions

**Sunday 18th February**  
8.30 Bro Raymond RIP  
10 Thomas Gray anniversary  
11.30 Mrs Emily Dempsey 100

**Monday 19th February**  
Philip Musonza missing  
Julian Dromgoole recovery

**Tuesday 20th February**  
Mary McKenna anniversary  
Fr Andrew McMahon OFM

**Wednesday 21st February**  
C.W.L  
Tessa Murphy intentions

**Thursday 22nd February**  
Sherva Cooray RIP  
Trinity intentions

**Friday 23rd February**  
Dennis Bryan anniversary  
Steve Gorman RIP

**Saturday 24th February**  
10 Mary Bradley RIP  
6 Mick Cusack RIP

**Sunday 25th February**  
8.30 Rose Bulla RIP  
10 Brendan & Maura Conaghan RIP  
11.30 Carl Knights RIP



## Church Cleaning

**Friday 23rd February at 9am**  
Claire Hobbs, Julia Bever,  
Susanna Barnoin, Susan Juffs,  
Agatha Emohare & Michelle Liddle



**Refreshments after  
10am mass, Friday**

**23rd February**

In February 2009, St Thomas parish was certified as a Fairtrade parish by CAFOD and the Fairtrade Foundation. Come and join us in the William Scott room after mass for a friendly chat and to celebrate this event - and 30 years of the Fairtrade mark in the UK - with a cup of Fairtrade and organic tea or filter coffee, including decaf.

## Sound system

The new sound system, installed in December, has now been re-tuned and is hopefully performing optimally for everyone. If that is not the case, there are other things that can be done - so please feed back by email to the parish office if you have any criticisms. This new system was installed by DS&V and cost approx. £45,000.

We are hoping to be able to live stream weekday masses from next Monday.