

**Lately dead:** Johanna Roedl, Mary Howey and Jennifer Mary Kilbane

**Angelina Pallottolo** will be welcomed into Church the night before at 4.30pm. The funeral will take place on the 3rd of February at 11.30am.

#### **Anniversaries:**

Joseph Byrne, Annie Hill, Eric Leary, Ann Selfe, Hilda Stratford, Sister Coleman Brosnan, Dennis McCarthy, Brian Connell, Victor Palmer, Margaret Land, Edith Playle, Cornelius Sullivan, Patricia Tugby, Louis Black, Maureen Graham, John O'Neill, Iris Hodges, Joan Noblett, Ronald Page, Angell Angell, Alfredo Crivellari, Maura (Mary) Gilligan, Mark O'Grady, Helen Taylor, Aida Testro,

#### **CAFOD**

Join CAFOD to find out about our work in Ukraine and the 2026 Lent Fast Day appeal. Josie O'Reilly will talk about CAFOD's Ukraine Emergency Programme. Jane Crone from CAFOD in Brentwood will talk about the Lent Appeal on Saturday 14 February 2026. Coffee from 10.45 am, starting at 11 am, finishing around 1pm. Join us at The Beckett Centre St Thomas of Canterbury Church 557-559 High Rd, Woodford Green.

**All Welcome**

#### **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

#### **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

#### **Refreshments after 10.00am Mass, Wednesday 28th January**

As a Fairtrade certified parish, St Thomas uses and promotes Fairtrade products. Come and join us upstairs in the **William Scott** room after 10.00am mass and help us celebrate over 30 years of the Fairtrade mark in the UK with a cup of Fairtrade tea or filter coffee, including decaf.



**ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY**  
Woodford Green

**A FAIRTRADE PARISH**

Parish Office: 020 8504 1686

Friary: 020 8504 1688

Email: [parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org](mailto:parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org)



Website: [www.stthomaswoodford.org](http://www.stthomaswoodford.org)

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

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



Served by the Franciscans

### **THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) 25th January 2026**

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

Firstly in prophecy, and later in truth, the Light of the World is shining, driving away the former darkness. This light is, of course, Jesus Christ.

#### **First Reading** Isaiah 9:1b-4

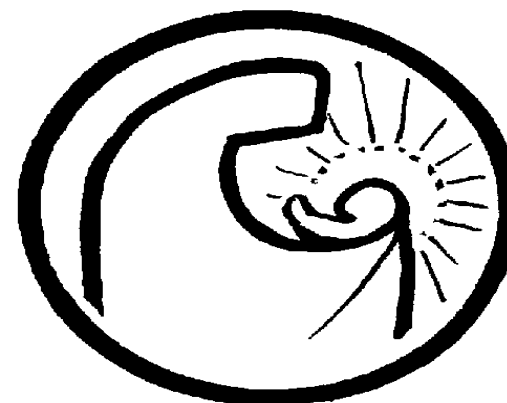
On the people who dwelt in a land of deep darkness light has shone; the Lord has multiplied the nation and increased its joy.

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

The Lord is my light and my salvation

#### **Second Reading** 1 Corinthians 1:10-13. 17

Paul's exhortation to the church in Corinth is, as usual, practical, addressing the divisions that have arisen in the community; as the Church is the Body of Christ, it cannot be divided.



## **UNITY OF CHRISTIANS AND THE NICEAN CREED**

In November Pope Leo made a pilgrimage to Izbek in Turkey to celebrate the 1,700 anniversary of the First Council of Nicea; a Council that promulgated the Nicene Creed. On that occasion in the presence of Christians of several denominations he gave this address: -

At a period of history marked by many tragic signs, in which people are subjected to countless threats to their very dignity, the 1700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea is a precious opportunity to ask ourselves who Jesus Christ is in the lives of men and women today, and who he is for each one of us personally.

This question is especially important for Christians, who risk reducing Jesus Christ to a kind of charismatic leader or superman, a misrepresentation that ultimately leads to sadness and confusion. By denying the divinity of Christ, Arius reduced him to a mere intermediary between God and humanity, ignoring the reality of the Incarnation such that the divine and the human remained irremediably separated. But if God did not become man, how can mortal creatures participate in his immortal life? What was at stake at Nicaea, and is at stake today, is our faith in the God who, in Jesus Christ, became like us to make us "partakers of the divine nature"

This Christological confession of faith is of fundamental importance in the journey that Christians are making towards full communion. For it is shared by all Christian Churches and Communities throughout the world, including those which, for various reasons, do not use the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed in their liturgies. Indeed, faith "in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages... consubstantial with the Father" is a profound bond already uniting all Christians. In this sense, to quote Saint Augustine, in the ecumenical context we can also say that, "although we Christians are many, in the one Christ we are one" Consequently, with an awareness that we are already linked by such a profound bond, we can continue our journey of ever deeper adherence to the Word of God revealed in Jesus Christ, under the guidance of the

Holy Spirit, in mutual love and dialogue . In this way, we are all invited to overcome the scandal of the divisions that unfortunately still exist and to nurture the desire for unity for which the Lord Jesus prayed and gave his life. The more we are reconciled, the more we Christians can bear credible witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is a proclamation of hope for all. Moreover, it is a message of peace and universal fraternity that transcends the boundaries of our communities and nations. Today, the whole of humanity afflicted by violence and conflict between nations is crying out for reconciliation. The desire for full communion among all believers in Jesus Christ is always accompanied by the search for fraternity among all human beings. In the Nicene Creed, we profess our faith "in one God, the Father." Yet, it would not be possible to invoke God as Father if we refused to recognize as brothers and sisters all other men and women, who are created in the image of God There is a universal fraternity of men and women regardless of ethnicity, nationality, religion or personal perspectives. Religions, by their very nature, are repositories of this truth and should encourage individuals, groups and peoples to recognize this and put it into practice. Furthermore, we must strongly reject the use of religion for justifying war, violence, or any form of fundamentalism or fanaticism. Instead, the paths to follow are those of fraternal encounter, dialogue and cooperation.

### **ALPHA**

There is still room for more guests! Come and try it—no obligation to commit to series. It's free and it's fun! **Every Friday at 7.15pm**

### **Altar Linen**

We are looking for two additional volunteers to join our team to help with the cleaning and care of the altar linens.

### **Baptism Course**

For first time parents will take place on 11th & 18th March. Applications forms are on the website.



## **Mass Intentions**

### **Sunday 25th January**

8.30am - Sheila Miles RIP  
10am - Angelina Pallottolo RIP  
11.30am - Patrick Mc Laughlin RIP

### **Monday 26th January**

The Meyler family  
Brenda Correia (Birthday)

### **Tuesday 27th January**

Kennedy Correia (Birthday)  
Jude Oronsaye

### **Wednesday 28th January**

Johanna Roedl RIP  
Sonia Malone RIP

### **Thursday 29th January**

Mrs Anne Brown RIP

### **Friday 30th January**

Angelina Pallotolo (month's mind)  
Chigwell Peter Hickey Anniversary

### **Saturday 31st January**

10am - Martha Charles RIP  
6pm - Mick, Mike & Josie Cusack RIP

### **Sunday 1st February**

8.30am - Bill Green Anniversary  
10am - Anne-Marie Fletcher RIP  
11.30am - Brendan Molly RIP

**Church Cleaning**  
**Saturday, 31st January at 10.30am**  
Rosie O'Connor, Charmaine Turnell

### **Parish Administrator- Our Lady of Compassion- Upton Park**

The post will be part-time working 10 hours per week. The closing date for applications is 12pm on 31st January 2026. If you would like to apply, please send your CV by email to [uptonpark@brcdt.org](mailto:uptonpark@brcdt.org).

### **Trinity Vacancies**

- Teacher of Geography
- DT Technician
- Teacher of Spanish

Please visit school website for more information.

### **Parish Administrator for the linked parishes of Our Lady Immaculate, Holy Name and St Augustine – Chelmsford**

require a Parish Administrator, with financial experience full time working 35 hours per week, The full job description is available on the website

[www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us)

### **BCCS Afternoon Tea**

The Brentwood Catholic Children Society is delighted to kick off the year with an invitation to Afternoon Tea. Hosted in the opulent surroundings of the Roslin Beach Hotel in Southend-on-Sea on Tuesday 17th February 2026 (13:30-15:30).

Tickets are £35 per person - to book your place search [www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/](http://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/) or contact Julie [jabbott@bccs.org.uk](mailto:jabbott@bccs.org.uk).

### **Cleaner Wanted Local Family Home**

We are looking for a reliable and friendly cleaner to help maintain our family home. 14 hours per week. Previous experience preferred, attention to detail. Please contact Emma on 07787524868.