

## PRAY FOR THE SICK

**Lately Dead:** Josefa Vargas.

**Anniversaries:** Sister Francis Marie Kavanagh, Anne Hickford, Mary Quaine, Sam Sebutt, Richard Routledge, Francis Jackson, Mary Tucker, Vera Butler, Alice Bryant, Sister Maurita O'Leary, Sister Mary Halligan, Danny O'Leary, Harry Kenyon, Lajos Szukics, Rosa Meriano, Michael Millar, Raymond Stokes, Mary Sullivan, Gabriel Arcanjo Noronha, Lilia Armenia De Sa, Braz Joseph De Sa, Bernie Hauser .

### Funerals at St Thomas's

**Ellen McMurdoch's** funeral will take place on 5th April at 11am.

**Joan Collin's** funeral will take place on 11th April at 10am.

**Lynn Chaplin's** funeral will take place on 16th April at 12pm.

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**May they rest in peace**

### SUNDAY MASSES

**St. Thomas'**

1st Mass Sat. 6pm; 8.30am;

10am (Children's Liturgy)

11.30am

**Chigwell Convent**

10am

**St. James URC**

**(Buckhurst Hill)**

9am (Children's Liturgy)

### WEEKDAY MASSES

**St. Thomas'**

10am

**Chigwell Convent**

9.30am

Saturday 10am

(1st Weds of the month)

No morning Mass

**Trinity High School**

8.20am on Lower Site.

### SATURDAY

**CONFESSIONS**

**St. Thomas'**

10.30am - 11.30am

5.00pm - 5.45pm

**Chigwell Convent**

After 10am Mass

**BAPTISMS**

1st and 3rd Sundays

Of the month

## Mass Online

The next masses that we intend to record are:

**8.30am Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April (provisional)**

**6pm Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

### Newsletter by email

To receive the newsletter by email please sign up on our parish website

[www.stthomaswoodford.org](http://www.stthomaswoodford.org) or mail

[parishnews@stthomaswoodford.org](mailto:parishnews@stthomaswoodford.org)

### Flat wanted

I am looking for a 2 bedroom flat to rent. We are a nice family who moved to the area recently. Sonia 07721473291.

### Paris and Prague with the Valentine Singers

Saturday 6th of April at 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church (IG1 3PE). Advance tickets £15, on the door -£17, free admission for under-16s. [valentinesingers.org.uk/tickets](http://valentinesingers.org.uk/tickets)

### Easter Scavenger Hunt -14th April

Come along to our Easter themed afternoon on Sunday 14th April at 3pm - 4pm we shall be having a scavenger hunt . The tickets are £4 on sale from the parish office. Children under the age of 12 need to be accompanied by an adult.



**ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY**

Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Parish Office: 020 8504 1686

Friary: 020 8504 1688

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

Facebook: @STOCWoodford

Twitter: @STOCWoodford



Served by the Franciscans

### 4th Sunday in Lent Cycle C

**31st March 2019**

Lent is an ideal time for us to draw closer to God. This is a season to reflect upon the direction our lives have taken and perhaps repent of some aspects. God always gives us a second chance to live fruitful lives in the love of God.

### First Reading

Joshua 5:9-12

The people prepare to celebrate Passover – a final act of the nation prior to possession of the promised land.

### Second Reading

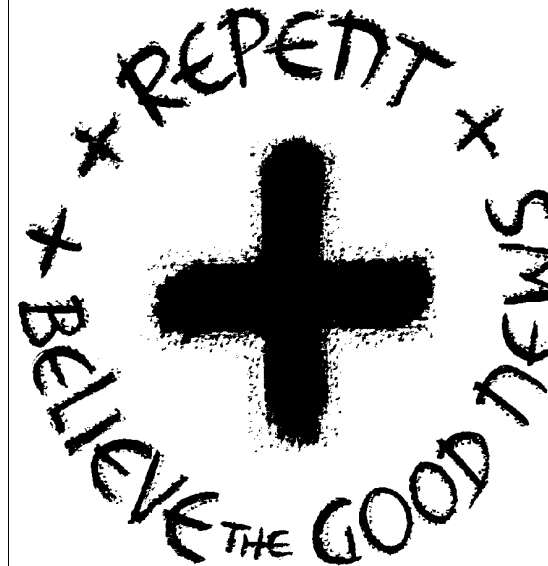
2 Corinthians 5:17-21

We are reconciled to God through Christ.

### Gospel

Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

The story of the prodigal son – a story of repentance and mercy.



### Responsorial Psalm

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

### **Easter Vigil Mass**

It is dramatic. We start in the dark, for Jesus in the tomb and very dead. In this chilling remembrance we go back in history to the start of creation. What is God doing? We read the story of the 6 days of creation. At each stage of God's work we sing out: And God saw that it was **Good**. And **very good** when it comes to Adam and Eve.

Still in the dark we listen to the story of people of Israel who were led by a column of cloud by day and a column of fire by night. So, in the dark church a fire springs up two or three feet high, (fire extinguishers at the ready though, quite safe) to focus us on the old journey and realise it is happening to us, on our journey from baptism.

### **Major refurbishment**

You know your homes need regular maintenance. Through the years the Church, Friary and the rest have received this regular attention. But some more areas that have served us long are now crying for replacement. We are about to embark on the first stage of a major renewal of the property. The roof tiles, probably 130 years old, are cracked and many held together with sticking plaster. We did renew most of the church roof when in 1976 we reordered the church. Work will begin this month to replace the tiles on the Friary and chapels not yet restored. It will include bringing insulation up to present standards.

### **Paying the piper**

It will be a big job. Thanks to you we do have some reserves to start paying the immediate bills, but we need to raise a considerable sum. I am looking to gather a team to manage this efficiently. We are fortunate to have many and varied talents within our community. Efficient fund-raising today has special skills. So I ask you, if you have any of the skills that are useful, and are willing to help, do let me know. I have no clue of how to go about it.

### **Parish activities**

- Monday, **1st April** 8pm  
**Parish Council** meeting in Assisi Room
- Tuesday, **2nd April** 12.15pm – 1.30pm  
**Lenten Lunches** in the Becket Centre. Monies raised will go to support Marys' Meals in (Haiti).
- Tuesday, **2nd April** 10.30am  
**Mothers Prayer Group** in Francis Room
- Tuesday, **2nd April** 8pm  
**First Holy Communion** parents' meeting in the Becket Centre
- Wednesday, **3rd April** 7pm  
**Journey of Faith**, William Scott Room
- Wednesday, **3rd April** 8pm  
**Baptism Course**
- Wednesday, **3rd April** 7.30pm  
**Assisi helpers** cheese and wine meeting in the Becket Centre
- Thursday, **4th April** 7.15pm  
**Confirmation 1st Session**  
**Saturday, Sunday Confirmation Retreat**

### **Saturday School**

This provides instruction for children not in catholic schools. Numbers have dwindled. We hope to relaunch the school after Easter. There are very many children in the parish who need it. Parents please think hard. Their faith and life with God are the most important gifts you can help your children to receive. Do not let them miss out. You and they are busy. But their future has many hurdles to surmount, and a basis of faith was never more needed.

### **Maundy Thursday- Washing of the Feet**

We are looking for up to 6 volunteers (male or female). If you would like to take part, please add your name to the list at the back of the church.



*We wish all mothers a happy **Mother's Day**. We pray that your love and selfless giving will be recognised and honoured. May we all learn from you to be caring and generous of ourselves.*

### **Lent 2019**

The special features of our days during Lent are that we devote more time to prayer, make it a time of fasting from something (in addition to the normal Friday fasting) and giving to charity (almsgiving) what we save from such fasting.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**  
Evening prayer and Exposition. Monday to Friday 6 to 6.30pm

### **Stations of the Cross**

Following the 10am Mass and at 8pm on **Fridays** St Thomas's

### **Communion preparation**

Both groups which have come to the Becket Centre on alternate Saturdays since September have now finished the training course. I thank the teachers and their assistants. They have I think drawn much satisfaction and benefit from their task. They have sacrificed their time with much generosity. Easter now takes centre stage and the Masses for first communions will not begin till the end of the month.

### **Easter Triduum**

Readers, Ministers of Communion, Ushers & Sacristans: If you will be attending any of the services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday please add your name to the lists located at the back of the church.

### **Church Cleaning**

#### **Friday 5th April at 9am**

Christine Acons, Claire Hobbs, Julia Bever, Susanna Barnoin.

### **Chigwell Sisters Jumble Sale 13th April at 2pm**

As usual we need your support BUT we no longer have storage facilities. Therefore, we can only accept your donations on Friday 12th April from 9.30am to 5pm or Saturday 13th April from 9am until 1pm in the Becket Centre.

**PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY JUMBLE ANYWHERE BEFORE THESE TIMES**

### **Assisi lunch helpers**

We are in need of volunteers to help with serving a lunch for the elderly in our parish. It is a commitment for of two Fridays per year 9.30am till 3pm, that's all! The teams have fun and the guests enjoy the lunches monthly. Contact Dolly on 07940429815 (eves only).

### **Sunday teas**

We need people to help serve tea after 10am Mass on Sundays. It will be on a rota so you will only be needed once in 9 weeks. You would be in a team of 3 so you won't be alone. Please contact Pat Bell 02085044577 or email [mrmcbell@btinternet.com](mailto:mrmcbell@btinternet.com) Thank you.

### **Quiz Night**

27th of April 8pm in the Becket Centre. Tables up to 8 people. Cost of £5 per person, bring own drinks and nibbles. To book a table ring Sheila Brown on 02085047485.

### **Collection for relief in Africa**

In Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe hundreds have lost home and livelihood and many their lives. Today as you leave each Mass we shall make a special collection to bring them the essentials of life. Please be generous.