

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Lately dead:

- ◇ Ya Kouame Rene
- ◇ Moira Bissett

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries:

Robert Browne, Sister Kieran Pilkington, Daphne Taylor, Margaret Wilson, Tina Wolf, Michael Fitzgerald, Mary Weedon, Sr Francis Regis Lehane, Aaron Basha, Mary Benn, Casse Du, Andrew Lamarque, Ernest Verney, Dennis Bryan, Eric Cooper, Gerald Mooney, Sister Teresita Mullins, Josephine Burke, Bryan Rooney, Bruno Celaschi, Jean Newman.

Turkey/Syria Disaster

Thank your for your generosity last weekend. £3k has been sent to the Disaster Emergency Committee.

Free furniture

One or two single beds are available for anyone who is able to collect from the Friary. Please contact the parish office.

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

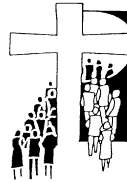
10am Chigwell Convent

WEEKDAY MASSES

10am St Thomas'
9.30am Chigwell Convent except on Saturday's when mass takes place at 10am

Each Friday in Lent

we conduct the Way of the Cross at 8pm commencing on 24th February.



CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 10.30 to 11am
and
5.15 to 5.45 pm

BAPTISMS

1st and 3rd Sundays
of the month

Next Baptism Course

The next baptism course for first time parents will take place on 8th & 15th March 8 to 9pm in the Becket Centre. Applications forms are available from the Parish Office.



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

Facebook: @STOCWoodford

Twitter: @STOCWoodford



Served by the Franciscans

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) 19th February 2023

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

Today's readings set out the standards of holiness that are set before the people of God. There is nothing trivial about them. It seems a tall order to try to be as perfect as God. Of course we can't manage this on our own, but Jesus himself is our perfection and our holiness.

First Reading Leviticus 19:1-2. 17-18

The book of Leviticus can seem rather dry. It begins with the command to be as holy as God. This is an impossible command, but the point is to allow God to live that holiness within us by making space for God in our lives.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Paul writes to the Corinthians, a community made up of common people with no pretensions to greatness. He reminds them that their dignity comes from being temples of God.

Gospel Matthew 5:38-48

Jesus sets out the implications of living as his disciples. He reminds us that God gives the same grace to good and bad people alike. The choice is ours, on a daily basis, whether to respond to it or not.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is compassion and love



Bishop Alan's letter of Feb 12th

Where are we in our bishop's vision? His ringmaster forecasts that in the not distant future only 2 priests will be available to serve Wanstead, S Woodford and ourselves. God is telling us something similar. For he allows us priest dwindle as some fall ill, some retire, some die and there are few newly-ordained to fill the gaps. It all points to there being a new style of church. Not a disaster but an opportunity and a stimulus for a better build.

By Laws?

Some of Canon Law's dictates are obsolete, though not all know it. There are canons that give a PP the final say in all things. They say a Finance Committee and a Parish Council are only advisory. If heeded the page tends to produce a dictatorship. Pope Francis is leading us out of that vision and practice. We are a family. Priest and people must discern in discussion together what is for the Common Good. Personally I know the powers – of veto – given to a Parish Priest and am careful not to use them. We are to be a Synodal church. A wholly different relationship between priest and people from what sometimes pertains. Remember the dismal prospect that you will only have two-thirds of a priest sometime soon. You have to grow to take over responsibilities and be accountable for meeting them regularly.

Not altogether new

In fact you will not find it so strange because SToC is well-launched into being that kind of church. It is the Parish Pastoral Council that coordinates all the groups, societies, services and responsibilities that comprise a parish. In all important matters of strategy and governance I try carefully to avoid any trace of controlling. I have to put into the pot my views from a priest's perspective. But the Holy Spirit speaks through every one of us, and principally through the little ones, those often considered outsiders. All must be listened to, and decisions reached with deference and charity. Rarely will it please all. But you know how it is in a good family. That is what we are trying to be. And if we are loving – that wins out.

Are you ready?

Are you ready to be that kind of church? It cannot continue without you. It calls for a degree of commitment that is less in evidence now than a few decades ago. The choice is clear. Either a sufficient number come forward to be that vibrant church Pope Francis leads, or we moulder slowly into extinction. Just look at how many churches round us are closing their doors for the last time.

Talks during Lent

I have been asked what talks I am providing for Lent. Uncomfortably I say: I have failed to provide any. But surely there is enough in the above reflection to give us food for thought, and most importantly Talk. Discussion among ourselves, leading to practical conclusions. That will be the best Lenten exercise. Can you do it?



Mass Intentions

Sunday 19th February

8.30 Mrs Trofimena McGee RIP
10 Eufemia Mastroddi RIP
11.30 Bill Green RIP

Monday 20th February

Mary McKenna anniversary
Gerry Maher RIP

Tuesday 21st February

Alfredo Crivellari RIP
Kathleen Lynch RIP
Funeral 11am Frank Saville

Wednesday 22nd February

Ash Wednesday



10 John Potter RIP
7.30 Therese Whitehouse RIP

Thursday 23rd February

Camille Malone ill
Maureen Hollebrand RIP
Trinity intentions

Friday 24th February

Patrick Smith RIP
Tony Ogdin RIP
Peter & Petrina

Saturday 25th February

10 Dennis Bryan anniv
6 Dee Miles RIP

Sunday 26th February

8.30 Bill Green RIP
10 Michael & Bridget McLoughlin RIP
11.30 Denis & Remona Armstrong

Church Cleaning
Saturday 25th February at 10.30am
Rosie O'Connor & Charmaine Turrell

Trinity vacancy

Part Time Teacher of Psychology & Sociology specialist KS4/KS5.
Please visit the school website for more information.

Activities at St Thomas' this week in the Becket Centre

- **Confirmation Candidates** Introductory session on Thursday **23rd Feb** at 7.15pm i
- **Lenten lunches** commence **24th February** 12.15pm £5.00 proceeds to Marys Meals
- **FHC Group B Saturday 25th February** 10 to 12 noon
- **Parish table tennis club** commences on **22nd February**. To reserve a place Please email tania@stthomaswoodford.org
- St Thomas' Under 5s **WILL NOT** be taking place on 21st & 22nd February. They will return the following week as usual.

Other events

The Companions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus & Mary will meet on 23rd February at 2pm, Chigwell Convent.

"AWAKE LONDON" Saturday 25th February 2023 - 3 pm to 5pm at Christ The King, Chingford.

World day of Prayer 3rd March at All Saints Church, Woodford

Family Fast Day 3rd March, Cafod envelopes will be available

Parish Retreat in the Becket Centre 4th March 2.30 pm to 5.30pm