

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Truci Abrahams, Peter Anderson, Baby Oliver Barker, Angela Barrett, Miss Terry Bennett, Sandra Bourke, Arlene Bowman, Angela Bromfield, Geoff Brown, Gerry Cook, Tony Daws, Irene de Freitas, Don Dourado, Betty Halliday, Doris Harriss, Margaret Jones, Ronald Luxton, Margaret McDonnell, Camille Malone, Jutta Menzies Dr. Douglas Murphy, Betty Norton, Greta O'Donnell, Maureen Pestell, Maureen Pollock, Joan Reynolds, Debbie Smythe, John Stokes, Madelaine Sydric, Astrid Turner, Rita Watkins.

Anniversaries: Maria Ludwig, Isabelle Tudisca, Pamela Taylor, Charles Collins & Pauline O'Shea

Lately Dead: Ophelia Nazareth, Mary Luxton, Francis Burns & Maria Belen Theodorou

Mary Luxton's funeral will be on Tuesday 22nd July at 10am mass in St Thomas'

***There will be no Assisi
Lunches during July and
August***

CHURCH CLEANING

Friday 9am 13th July

Margaret Chung, Jennifer Sorrell, Christabel Wijeweera, Francesca Cushion & Liz Atkinson

ST ANTONY'S SCHOOL MASQUERADE BALL

Following the news of her impending retirement, the parents of St. Antony's School are organising a Ball in honour of Ms Chris Curtis. St. Antony's Masquerade Ball will be taking place on Sat. 16th Dec. 2017 at the Prince Regent Hotel. Tickets £65 per person for champagne reception, 3 course dinner and a half bottle of wine p.p. plus live music from Hot Stuff. Please contact Aine Wood on ainewood4@gmail.com should you wish to join us in celebrating Ms Curtis' dedication over the past 22 years to St. Antony's School.

ST. THOMAS' FOOTBALL

Still looking for players of all ages Year 1-10 to join our growing club. Training is Tuesday evenings at Ashton Playing Fields. More info Matt Tallon 07855170256 or chairman@stcyfc.com.

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

St Thomas of Canterbury

557/559 High Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0RB

Served by the Franciscans



A FAIRTRADE PARISH

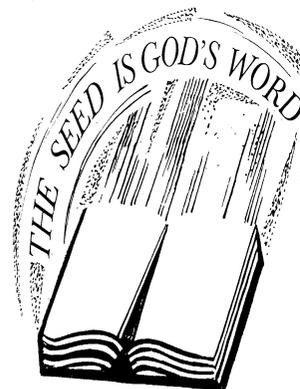
Tel: 020 8504 1686 Fax: 020 8504 1844



Email: parishoffice@friar.org Web: www.stthomaswoodford.org

15TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME CYCLE A

16TH JULY 2017



Jesus, who is the Word of God, gives himself to us; and Jesus' own words take root in us, producing by God's grace the fruits of good works and holiness.

First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-11

God's word succeeds in what it is sent to do.

Second Reading

Romans 8:18-23

We ourselves and the whole of creation retain the hope of freedom and glory.

Gospel

Matthew 13:1-23

Christ, the Word of God, the seed of the sower, produces an astonishing crop.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
**Some seed fell into rich soil,
And produced its crop**

UNDERSTANDING OUR FAITH

The think-tank has been busy. What do we need to know, understand, develop in our faith and prayer-life? In the autumn we will arrange another series of discussions. We found there is more to be said from where we left off before Easter. We have started the shift of perspective to see all through Pope Francis' eyes and it is very different from what many of us learnt at school. Also - There is to be another synod of bishops before Christmas. Its topic: Youth! We made a significant contribution to the last 2 Synods. Can we do it again?

ABORTION

It is seriously wrong. In our parish there are two groups actively engaged in attempting to counter this practice. One demonstrates actively, and prayerfully, advertising monthly. The other goes quietly about showing understanding of the dilemma of those faced with an unwelcome pregnancy. They offer help for an unwelcome child, should one come to birth. And they also offer support to anyone suffering the many kinds of trauma that can follow an abortion. Of old the canonical practice was to condemn and, by technical "censures", to make absolution difficult. Pope Francis has led the way by opening immediate mercy to anyone repenting of involvement in abortion. And equally important, practical help and support.

MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE

7 Nights half board, flights & airport transfers September & October. Flying from Gatwick to Split. **€495.00** per person. Email jackiemulort@btinternet.com or call 020 3239 8662

Or from March through to October 7 nights B&B and Airport Transfers **€279.00**
Call 020 3239 8662 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Reading the "signs of the times" it is clear that organisation and management of parishes must increasingly be in the hands of the laity. For some years our parish has been moving in that direction. That is the reason why today's meeting in Becket after the 11.30 Mass is so important. We have made progress in the past year. The Parish Council has achieved much. There is more that is still at various stages of development. Today we need to hear what you want, what you are prepared to do and give so that the Council can plan and lead into the future. Once the Council has received your approval it will meet on Monday evening to lay its plans for the coming year. I anticipate it will continue to work through sub-committees. You will be approached to join in one or other of these. Already you have heard many appeals in recent weeks for new participants in several of the established groups and works of the parish.

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

Yes it is next Saturday, 22nd July even though the letter pilgrims received said *September*. You are not surprised I think at my blunders. The bus leaves promptly at 8 am. Pilgrims need appropriate clothing as weather dictates. Also the food and drink you will need for the day. You have to carry with you all day everything you have brought since the bus will be banished to safe parking. At 1.30 we walk the pilgrim mile arriving at the Abbey grounds where Mass will be celebrated at 3 pm. No seating provided so bring your own - if you can carry it! We hope to be picked up speedily thence - sometime after 4.30 and will waste no time in returning to our church.

1ST HOLY COMMUNION 2017-2018

Applications are now available from the back of the church. If your child will be in Year 3 in September, please take one and return it to the parish office a.s.a.p. Closing date for applications is Friday, 1st September 2017.

Applications after this date will not be accepted REPOSITORY

To celebrate the Centenary of Our Lady of Fatima we are now able to order statues for those who would like one in their home. Two small samples are available to view.

CATHOLIC HISTORY WALKS

For King and Country

Wednesday 19th July 6pm. Catholics and politics: St. Thomas More, Guy Fawkes, Pugin, Parliament and the Abbey. Meet on the steps of Westminster Cathedral. Nearest Tube: Victoria

ENGLISH TEACHER AVAILABLE

Very experienced English teacher available over the summer holidays for tutoring. If your child is transitioning from primary to secondary school and needs some preparation to make sure they are well equipped for challenges they will face, if your child is preparing for their GCSE or A level years, or if you simply want to give them some more support in any area of their English education, I am able to adapt my teaching for what they need. I can travel to you and am flexible with times and days. Call Jennifer on 07590078130.

SOUP RUN

Wednesday 26th July. Donations of men's clothing, trainers, toiletries, sandwiches, sweets, biscuits all gratefully received. Please bring to the parish office on Wednesday between 9.30am - 1.30pm or 7pm to the Becket Centre.

NO SOUP RUNS IN AUGUST

IN TOUCH

Please send articles for IN TOUCH magazine to the Editor by August 1st. Photos of the Parish Fayre would be most welcome editor@myintouch.co.uk.

FRANCISCAN MISSIONS

So far the appeal by Fr. Cornelius on behalf of the Franciscan Missions has raised £7,034.71. A big thank you to all who have made offerings. The mission envelopes are still available for anyone who missed the appeal and would like to contribute.

ACROSS

Charity to provide transport and support to enable those with special care needs to go on pilgrimages to Lourdes. Requires a HR/Admin Administrator. For further information please email contactus@across.org.uk. To apply for the role, please submit a CV and covering letter to Debbie Hourihan via email as above. Closing date 10th July.

TELCO

St Thomas of Canterbury telco team are working with a team of other faith organisations in Redbridge in a community sponsorship project. This is a government scheme whereby local communities are involved in the welcoming and resettlement of a vulnerable refugee family fleeing war. The group is looking to recruit befrienders for the family and would welcome applications from parishioners who would be willing to dedicate some regular time to the family; experience in working with refugees/vulnerable people would be helpful but not essential. If you have any additional experience/skills helpful to such a family (teaching English/translating/play therapy/house maintenance for example) please contact us - gembourdillon3@hotmail.com