



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Anniversaries:

Richard Langley, Kathleen O'Hara, Hugh Bowler, Anne Hickford, Sister Francis Kavanagh, Mary Quaine, Braz Joseph De Sa, Michael Millar, Danny O'Leary, Sister Maurita O'Leary, Lajos (Louis) Szukics, Mary Sullivan, Sister Mary Halligan, Richard Routledge, Alice Bryant, Vera Butler, Harry Kenyon, Raymond Stokes, Rosa Meriano, Sam Sebutt, Mary Tucker.

Lenten lunches take place every Friday during Lent between 12.15 and 1.30pm in the Becket Centre.



Please come and join us for a choice of delicious homemade soups, French bread and butter and tea or coffee, all for just £5. All proceeds go to Mary's Meals, a charity feeding school children in some of the poorest countries in the world.

Companions meeting

Will take place at Chigwell Covent on 7th April. 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



Stations of the Cross
Each Friday at
7.30pm

Please come along and join us.



Don't Forget that the clocks go forward this weekend



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH



Served by the Franciscans

Parish Office: 020 8504 1686

Friary: 020 8504 1688

Email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org



Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org

Facebook: @STOCWoodford

Twitter: @STOCWoodford

Fourth Sunday in Lent 30th March 2025

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

First Reading Joshua 5:9-12

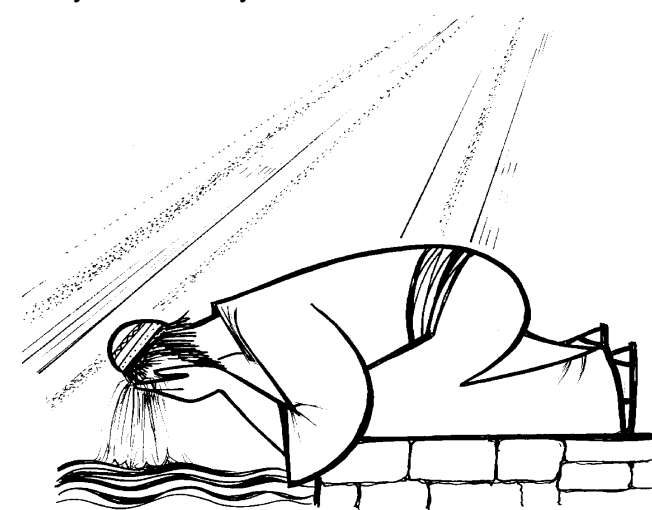
The shame of Egypt is taken away but not the memory of Egypt, which will sustain the new life.

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

The creation of humanity is not yet complete but it continues as an act of reconciliation in Christ.

Gospel Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

The story of the prodigal son is not just his story. It is the story of a whole family; indeed it is the story of the family of humankind.



Responsorial Psalm

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

OUR LADY SHOWS US HOW TO RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Last Tuesday the Church celebrated the Annunciation of the Lord. Mary received the message that she was to be the Mother of the Saviour and how she responded is the example of how we should respond to the Word of God. This is a current concern as in the latter part of Lent we hear of the great works of Jesus Christ to pass on to us the salvation he came to bring.

Humility is the “golden rule”. “Advancing”, for Christians, means “lowering themselves”. It is precisely on the humble path, chosen by God, that love and charity proceed.

The whole history of faith, is made of humility and “speaks of humility to us all”. This likewise applies to the historical event of Jesus' Birth. It seems that God wanted every event “to be concealed, that it not be made public”, that it be, as it were, overshadowed by the Holy Spirit”. This is why, everything happens on the road of humility. God, humble, lowers himself: he comes among us and lowers himself — and he continues to humble himself even to the Cross.

“Mary”, at the Annunciation, also humbles herself: she does not properly understand, but she is free: she grasps only the essential, and says ‘yes’. She is humble: ‘May God's will be done’. She entrusts her soul to God's will”. “Joseph, her betrothed, also lowers himself and takes this great responsibility upon his shoulders”. Joseph “also says ‘yes’ to the angel when in his dream the angel tells him of this truth.

The attitude of Mary and Joseph shows that “to reach us, God's whole love takes the path of humility. The humble God who wanted to walk with his people”. “God, humble and so good. The patient God. This is different from the attitude of idols; idols are powerful and make themselves heard: ‘it is I who command here!’”.

Our God — for he is true, he is not a false God, he is true; he is not a wooden God made by men, he is real — thus he opted for the path of humility. All this love comes from this way of humility. Being humble does not mean following the road with one's eyes cast down: no, no! Humility is what God as well as Mary and Joseph teach us. “Humility”, is Jesus' humility which ends on the Cross, and this is the golden rule for Christians: to persevere, to advance and to humble themselves. There is no other path. Unless I humble myself, unless you humble yourself, you are not Christian.

I think we should say “lowering ourselves”. Let us look at Jesus and ask for the grace of humility. If humility is absent love has no access; let us ask for the grace of humility — from Our Lady, from St Joseph and from Jesus.



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

From Friday at 6pm until Saturday. Please come along and spend time with our Lord.

Next Cell Group

Will meet on **Sunday 13th April** at 3pm Contact Peter on 07891 722964 or Donna on 07749 795777 for details.



Mass Intentions

Sunday 30th March
8.30 Norman Picton
10 Tom Cruz RIP
11.30 Mary & Paul Affleck

Monday 31st March
Anthony Marren RIP
Len Wiggins

Tuesday 1st April
Alec Murphy anniversary
Maureen De Silva anniversary

Wednesday 2nd April
C.W.L
Denis & Remona Armstrong

Thursday 3rd April
Bill Naismith anniversary
Bernie & Martin McDonagh RIP

Friday 4th April
Tim McCarthy
Trinity intentions

Saturday 5th April
10 Cruz family
6 Francis Kilroy recovery

Sunday 6th April
8.30 Pat Martin birthday
10 Sean Walsh RIP
11.30 Liz Brown anniversary



Church Cleaning
Thursday 3rd April 9am
Jackie John, Sue Mansbridge,
Srimathie Crusz, Margaret Parkinson
Chelsea Chaplin & Mary Charter

Baptisms Congratulations
To Nathaniel Jamers & Aidan
Humphries who were recently baptised
at St Thomas'

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.

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.

Marriage—Can you help?

Those preparing for marriage are
currently supported by one of our
Priests. In the past married couples
have also helped, and we want to
restart this. If you are a couple who
might be prepared to help, please
contact the parish office and we will get
back to you with details of what this
involves and how you will be
supported.

Friary Tennis Club Quiz
Saturday 5th April, 7pm in the
Henrietta Suite.

£8 per person, licensed bar, food at
cost(optional). For more details, please
email ftcwoodford@gmail.com or see
the poster at the back of church.
Then to book, please use the QR code
on the poster, or just email us.