

Austin, ofm

Ash Wednesday. If I'm serious about the Gospel in my life, it's going to mean letting go of doing it my way - even our way - for intimacy with **the way** – Jesus says: *I am the way, the truth, the life...* Life is not a series of tasks it is a relationship - intimacy with God as Father through Jesus as brother. It is a way guided by:-

Prayer, Fasting and Alms deeds - apply the same principle and see what this means: not my prayer, not my fasting, not my alms giving – not even ours – but **the way** – not I believe in God, but God believes in me – being still within that in the way Jesus knew himself as beloved of Abba – through the gift of the Holy Spirit, this is the prayer. **Fasting** – realizing what I need to let go for this to be real for me. **Alms-giving** – what I need to let go of for this to be real for you – to help you know yourself as beloved of Abba. This is the crucial one – God's presence to each one is unique and unrepeatable elsewhere; cannot be subject to any system or expectation – I am being challenged to walk with you, and to enjoy seeing with you how God is leading you. This is where St Francis' words are so challenging: wherever you go, whatever you are about – remember to worship the God who was there before you came!

LENTEN TALKS

Wednesdays 12th, 19th, 26th March and 2nd, 9th April at 8pm in the Becket Centre.
Fr. Austin “ The Big Question—Why does God allow suffering?”

CWL

NATIONAL COFFEE MORNING

Tea and coffee will be served in the Becket Centre on Sunday, after 10am and 11.30am Masses **TODAY**. Please come and meet us and find out more about this active group in our parish.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Local services will be held on Friday, 7th March at 2.15pm at Woodford Methodist Church, Derby Road, S. Woodford. And at 6pm at Hunter Court Lounge, Homesdale Close, New Wanstead E11 2TL.

1st COMMUNION

Sunday 9th March at 3pm in St. Thomas'. The Mass is for all children and their parents. Fr. Michael O'Kane will be explaining the Mass.

QUIZ NIGHT

In aid of Across Jumbulance in St. Teresa's Parish Hall, Chingford, Sat. 15th March 7.30pm for 8pm. £5 entry. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. To book ring Sheila on 020 8504 3839.

A BIG THANK YOU

To Ann Alfarno and her dedicated team for all the hard work at last week's Jumble Sale for the Chigwell Missions. Over £1,400 was raised—well done!

PLEASE NOTE

Wednesday play group closed due to Ash Wednesday. Tuesday open as usual.

CHURCH CLEANING

Thursday 9am 6th March Cathie Fitch, Michael & Rose Doherty, Rosanna Baker, Leah Bettis, Lucy Robinson.

15TH WOODFORD RAINBOWS, BROWNIES AND GUIDES

All the girls thank the leaders for taking them to Alexandra Palace for Thinking Day last Saturday. We all had a great time.

ASH WEDNESDAY 5th March

Obligatory Day of Fasting and Abstinence from all meat.

Chigwell 9.30am

St. Thomas' 10am

Solemn Opening of Lent 8pm.

*Please take a Lenten Leaflet giving you
times of the Masses and Services during
Lent.*

LENTEN LUNCHES

Tuesdays in Lent commencing 11th March—15th April) in the Becket Centre 12.15pm until 1.30pm. Homemade soup with French bread £2.50 (tea and coffee extra). All funds raised will be sent to Mary's Meals, which feeds schoolchildren in Haiti.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays of Lent. After 10am Mass and at 8pm in St. Thomas'.

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

Monday, 14th April 7.30pm in St. Thomas'. There will be a number of priests available after the service to hear confessions. No further public times for celebrating this Sacrament before Easter.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society charity shop in Highams Park would like a few more volunteers to help keep the work load down. If you could spare a few hours, please call Irene Newell on 020 8550 2620.

CWL

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 12th March at 7.15pm in the Assisi Room. Please note the change of date and time.

FRENCH TUITION

By native French teacher, UK qualified, Valid CRB, 14 years' experience teaching all levels. Call Lauren 07950674947.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

A family with children would like to rent accommodation (2/3 bedrooms) in the Woodford area. Please contact 07975720279 or 07404511427 a.s.a.p.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

8th April—Fund raising for Ovarian Cancer in the Becket Centre at 7.30pm.

WHIPPS CROSS CHAPLAINCY

If you, a family member or a friend would like to see a Catholic Chaplain or receive Holy Communion whilst receiving treatment at Whipps Cross Hospital, Please contact St. George's 020 8520 5877 or The Chaplaincy Team on 020 8535 6988.

MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP

Tuesday, 4th March after the 10.00am Mass in the Francis Room.

CAFOD

Grateful thanks to parishioners for their very generous response to the Typhoon Haiyan Appeal. £3,137.98 was received.

ALSO Harvest Fast Day 2013. £912.72 was raised.

FAMILY FAST 2014 14th March

CHRISTIAN KITCHEN

Needs your support to continue their work in helping the homeless and vulnerable in our community. Find out more at their Facebook page. You may also like to sign an online petition in support. <https://www.facebook.com/ChristianKitchenWF> online petition <http://t.co/VJgCD2sj&Y9>.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick:- Phil Archer, Ellen Armstrong, Mary Barnes, Alice Binder, Moira Bisset, Teresa Bonaventure, Angela & Kerry Bromfield, Siobhan Davids, Rudi de Burgh, John Burnham, Stanley Desborough, Donald Dourado, Mary Duffy, Michael Durcan, Harold Elston, Alan Farmer, Ray Finney, Fr. Jim Fitzpatrick, Philomena Freeman, Irene & Carter de Freitas, Nora Gaiger, Martin Garnar, Judy & John Gilmartin, Kathleen Gissane, Joan Green, Pat Greene, Lyndsy Greck, Amelia Halfyard, Doris Harriss, Maureen Howlin, Baby Harry Johnson, Sophie Jordan, Phyllis & Geraldine Kelly, Fr. Austin Kinsella O.F.M., Claire Lauren, Nora Lucey, Mary McKay, Gloria McQueen, Hannah Martin, Paul Mason, Sadie Meade, Jutta Menzies, Kay Meyler, Jean Morgan. Maureen Noden, Betty Norton, Anthony O'Boyle, Mary O'Boyle, Joanne O'Boyle, Fr. Con O'Connell, Janet Pinfold, Anneli Prowse, Jacky Rott, Debbie Smythe, Karen Spencer, Carmel Sweeney, Mary Sullivan, Christine Thurston, Teresa Warnock, Terry Wauer, Monica Worsefold.

Lately Dead:- Jan Archard, Diane, Mike Burke, Marie Havlac, Eileen Hegarty, Nicki Jacques, Fred Khan, Patrick Meyler.

Anniv: John Golden, Michael & Ann Loftus, Catherine Murnane, Pauline White.

SAINSBURY'S VOUCHERS

Mother & Toddler Group are collecting the vouchers. Please bring into the parish office. Grateful thanks.

CAN YOU HELP?

Anna Halina Turkowska? Polish Navy Billet (1945)

Now an 87year old, she entered the country in 1945 with the Polish Navy. Her first abiding memories of England are of the navy girls being billeted in a large property in Woodford Green. She recalls that about 50 Polish "WRENS" were billeted in this building/house and that they used to turn right when coming out of the entrance and walk for a few minutes to a Catholic Church. Anna Turkowska has never been back since being demobbed but now, as her memories of those years are returning more strongly, she has asked if she could be taken there by her son in Southend. Could anyone possibly help locate the building?

THANK YOU

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society wish to thank parishioners for £402.94 being the proceeds of a retiring collection recently.

REPOSITORY ROTA

Is on the parish website and in the repository. St. Patrick's Cards are now available.

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

8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME CYCLE A

2ND MARCH 2014



Isaiah 49:14-15

Even if God's people ("Zion") feel abandoned by God, in fact God will never forget us.

The Psalm is a song of confidence and trust in God. Perhaps when our faith is weak or we are beset by trials, this would be a good psalm to recite.

Second Reading: Corinthians 4:1-5

In a reversal of our trust in God highlighted in the other Readings, St. Paul says that God shows trust in us. He has made us stewards of his mysteries; will we be found worthy or wanting of this trust?

Gospel: Matthew 6:24-34

After some very difficult and demanding words in previous weeks, and a warning about money, Our Lord in today's Gospel tells us not to worry but to trust in God. These words are among the most powerful and popular in all of scripture. It is demanding being a disciple of Christ, but God generously gives good gifts to his children, so we should not fret ourselves.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

In God alone is my soul at rest