

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Lately dead: Emily Dempsey, Fr Austin McCormack, OFM.

Anniversaries:

Mary Onn, Richard Flynn, Maria Birbeck, Joseph Greene, Catherine Moran, Barbara Smith, Paul Crick, Edward Craft, Hazel Dutta, Mary Kelly, Francis Quinn, Maureen Cowell, John Dunbar, Mary Fuscoe, Rose Moore, Norman Chappell, Pasqua Parsons, John Gavin, Anthony Murphy, James Graham, Margaret Mead, Leila Du Veaux, Marian Proscinski, Bernarda Sekolec,

Parish Bingo

A date for your diary Saturday **18 May 2024**. A Parish Social with Cash Bingo in the Beckett Centre. Entrance £1. Bingo Books £3 for 7 games. Cash on the door. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles. Door opens 7.30pm. Eyes down approximately 8pm.

Lecture on the Letter to the Hebrews

By the Scripture scholar, Fr Richard Ounsworth OP of the Oxford Dominicans. At Guardian Angels Church Hall, Monday 6th May, 8pm.

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

St Bon's reconnect

Join us for St. Bon's Reconnect 2024: Reunion and Celebration Night on the 11th of July 2024, starting at 6:30 PM until late. The ticket price is £35 and it includes welcome drinks, light refreshments, entertainment, entry into a free prize draw and donation to the Alumni Fund. Click [this link to book your ticket](#) as places are limited.

Fr Austin

On the 2nd of May at 10.30pm in the Margaret centre, Whipps Cross Hospital Fr Austin McCormack sadly passed away. Fr Austin had been Minister Provincial in this province for 9 years and lived in this parish for many years. Funeral details will follow shortly. May he rest in peace.



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

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Friary: 020 8504 1688

Email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org



Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org

Facebook: @STOCWoodford

Twitter: @STOCWoodford



Served by the Franciscans

Sixth Sunday of Easter (B) 5th May 2024

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

It's easy to underestimate "the power of one". Without the power of one act of kindness, compassion, mercy or friendship, others wouldn't happen.

First reading Acts 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

We are all invited, regardless of our background, to discover a life of love in God.

Second reading 1 John 4:7-10

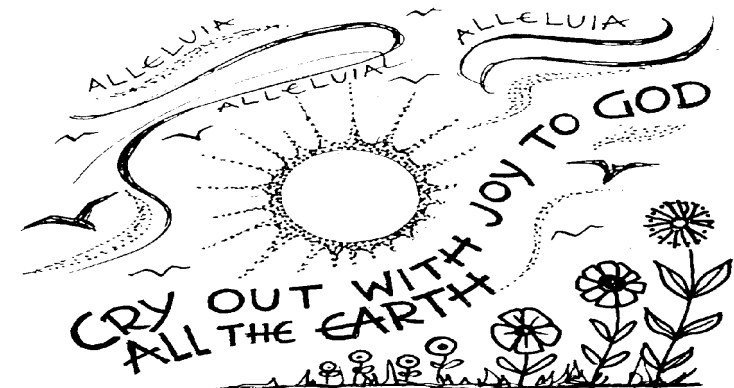
Everyone who loves knows God because God is love.

Gospel John 15:9-17

Our joy comes from knowing that we have been chosen, called, and sent.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.



On Thursday we Celebrate the Ascension

Pope Francis comments on the scriptures we will hear that day

During the Ascension Jesus made the priestly gesture of blessing, and the disciples certainly expressed their faith with prostration, they knelt with bowed heads, this is a first important point: Jesus is the one eternal High Priest who with his Passion passed through death and the tomb and ascended into heaven. He is with God the Father where he intercedes for ever in our favour (cf. Heb 9:24). As St John says in his First Letter, he is our Advocate: How beautiful it is to hear this!

When someone is summoned by the judge or is involved in legal proceedings, the first thing he does is to seek a lawyer to defend him. We have One who always defends us, who defends us from the snares of devil, who defends us from ourselves and from our sins!

Dear brothers and sisters, we have this Advocate; let us not be afraid to turn to him to ask forgiveness, to ask for a blessing, to ask for mercy! He always pardons us, he is our Advocate: he always defends us! The Ascension of Jesus into heaven acquaints us with this deeply consoling reality on our journey : in Christ, true God and true man, our humanity was taken to God. Christ opened the path to us. He is like a roped guide climbing a mountain who, on reaching the summit, pulls us up to him and leads us to God. If we entrust our life to him, if we let ourselves be guided by him, we are certain to be in safe hands, in the hands of our Saviour, of our Advocate.

A second element: St Luke says that having seen Jesus ascending into heaven, the Apostles returned to Jerusalem "with great joy".

This seems to us a little odd. When we are separated from our relatives, from our friends, because of a definitive departure and, especially, death, there is usually a natural sadness in us since we will no longer see their face, no longer hear their voice, or enjoy their love, their presence. The Evangelist instead emphasizes the profound joy of the Apostles.

But how could this be? Precisely because, with the gaze of faith they understand that although he has been removed from their sight, Jesus stays with them for ever, he does not abandon them and in the glory of the Father supports them, guides them and intercedes for them.

THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION 9th May

Masses celebrating the Feast are:
Vigil Mass on
Wednesday 8th at 7.30 pm
and
Mass on the day at 10 a.m. at
St Thomas and at Chigwell.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Last Saturday was the last day of the preparation sessions for Holy Communion. We owe a great debt of thanks to Nicola and Teresa who have been the principal catechists. They put things in a simple clear way which helps me, Father Michael, understand. They do not act alone though and we thank those who do the administration and the parents who volunteer to assist the children. Now we hope that their generous efforts will produce a generous response in adding a new generation of enthusiastic Catholics.



Mass Intentions

Sunday 5th May

8.30 Ted Craft anniversary
10 Valerie Durkin RIP
11.30 Paddy & Phil Callanan RIP

Monday 6th May

Kitty Delaney
Dominic Correia anniversary

Tuesday 7th May

Mary C Francis RIP
Tom Houlihan

Wednesday 8th May

10 Annie Teresa McDonagh RIP
7.30 Valentino Tisi anniversary

Thursday 9th May - Ascension

Doreen Daly
Rosemary O'Connor

Friday 10th May

Teresa Piper RIP
Holy Souls

11 funeral Bridget Sharkey

Saturday 11th May

10 Kay & Nick Stokes RIP
6 Kate Jacobs & family

Sunday 12th May

8.30 Danuta Cassettari RIP
10 Peter McMenemy anniversary
11.30 Armo Collini anniversary

Church Cleaning
Thursday 9th May 9am
Jackie John, Sue Mansbridge,
Srimathie Crusz, Margaret Parkinson
& Mary Charter

Baptisms Congratulations
To the following children who were
baptised in April

Arlo Engierra-Santos, Gracey Rakaj,
Albert Perry & Lilah Ritchie.

PARISH SUMMER FETE
Save the date for this year's summer
fete on

Saturday 6th July 12-4pm.
If you can help in any way, we'd love to
hear from you. Could you donate a
raffle prize?
Can you help out on the day? We need
volunteers to help with setting up and
running stalls on the day and clearing
up.
If you are interested please email
Dana: danaevesteve@hotmail.com

CAFOD Sudan crisis appeal

Millions of families in Sudan, forced to
flee their homes amid conflict, now
face yet another urgent crisis - extreme
hunger. Please give to CAFOD's
Sudan Crisis Appeal in the church or
at Cafod website. Your donation will
help CAFOD's partners to support
more families with food packages and
help to get medicines, as well as
rebuilding water pipelines so clean
water can reach communities who
need it. Because you have had no
notice of this appeal, we will keep the
collection open till this Sunday. Thank
you for your generosity and your
prayers.