

## **CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST. THOMAS'**

Calling all readers, Ministers of Communion, Ushers & Sacristans. Many thanks to all who offered their services last weekend. We do however need more volunteers!

If you will be attending Mass at St. Thomas' on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, please indicate your availability by adding your name to the list located on the table at the back of the church.

## **PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL (Bidding Prayers)**



If anyone would like to join the rota for composing the Bidding Prayers at St. Thomas' please contact the parish office.

## **CHRISTMAS FLYERS**

Are available from the back of the church giving the times of Masses etc., over the Christmas period. Please take one as you leave.

## **PENITENTIAL SERVICE**

Monday, 16th December 7.30pm in St. Thomas'.

## **PENSIONERS**

The Pensioners' Advice Service held in Durning Hall, Forest Gate, every Thursday between 10.30am and 1pm will be closed for the Christmas period and will re-open for advice on Thursday, 9th January 2014. Also the Irish Pensioners Forum of East London's monthly social for pensioners will return on Thursday, 9th January to Durning Hall at 1.30pm.

## **ST. ANTONY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL RECEPTION APPLICATIONS**

For those children whose dates of birth fall between 1st Sept 2009 and 31st August 2010. Applications are made on line [www.redbridge.gov.uk](http://www.redbridge.gov.uk).

The parish office requires completed Forms A & B, together with copy of child's baptism certificate and non-returnable family photo. Closing date is 15th January 2014.



## **CHURCH CLEANING**

Friday 9am 20th December  
Maureen Insloe, Claire Hobbs, Julia Bever, Christine Acons, Sheila French.

## **CHRISTMAS CLEAN**

It is the BIG clean of our church for Christmas on Monday, 23rd December at 10.30am. **PLEASE PLEASE** help if you can. Last year we had very few people to get the church done, with more help it will not be such a big job. Don't leave it to the few—just half an hour of your time would make a big difference. Hoping to see you there. Thank you.

## **CHRISTMAS SOUP RUN FOR THE HOMELESS**

Thank you for your fantastic response throughout 2013. During the year we saw numbers increasing as more and more people use soup runs to help them with their daily needs. The next soup run is on Wednesday, 8th January 2014.



Special thanks to all the helpers and in particular to Moya Moffat and Jerry Bacon for all the help they do behind the scenes to ensure the soup run continues.

## **JOURNEY OF FAITH**

On Monday we have the Christmas social gathering for the JOF. Anybody who has had any association with the JOF over the years is welcome to come along. We gather at 8pm in the William Scott Room in the Becket Centre and at about 8.30pm when the church is cleared after the reconciliation service, we will have a short advent service in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Bring some food and drink that we can have back upstairs after the advent service.

## **IN TOUCH**

The Christmas issue of In Touch, the parish magazine, contains many surprises this year. It is an updated new design with a memorable front cover. It is on sale at all Masses this weekend price still only £2.

## **LOURDES 2014**

The 25th Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage runs from 26th—31st July 2014. From £618 by air with full board for six days, five nights, or from £418 by coach. This pilgrimage includes an experienced medical team and plenty of help for those with mobility needs. It is also ideal for couples, individuals, and groups of friends. There is a full programme to opt in and out of, and everyone is welcome. For more information visit [www.brentwoodlourdes.org](http://www.brentwoodlourdes.org) to order a brochure.

## **NEW TO THE PARISH?**

Please register with the parish office. Grateful thanks.

## **REPOSITORY**

Christmas cards, candles etc., are available. Also 2014 Diocesan Directories.

## **CHURCH PORCH**

We ask parishioners not to leave jumble in the church porch unless it is requested. The next jumble sale will be in February 2014.

## **15TH UNIT WOODFORD BROWNIES**

Are looking for a 3rd adult Leader and an additional young leader. Meetings are every Tuesday 6.30pm—8pm in the Becket Centre. Please contact Rachael on 07949 739549 or Fiona on 07834 731324 if you are interested.

## **RAINBOWS**

If you desire for your daughter to join a Rainbows Unit and she is 3 or under, we would recommend that you apply using the following website to register your interest <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/getinvolved/volunteer/registerwryourinterest.aspx>. A Leader will contact you and will answer any questions you might have.

## **RAINBOWS, BROWNIES, GUIDES**

Are having a Hamper raffle after all Masses this weekend. Tickets are available £1 a strip. The proceeds will allow them to attend Alexandra Palace for the Society's Thinking Day celebrations.

## **CHRISTMAS FAYRE RAFFLE PRIZES**

Green 276-280  
Green 331-335  
Green 366-370  
Green 416-420  
White 126-130  
White 406-410

Please collect from parish office.

## **SCHOOL CHAPLAIN REQUIRED**

As soon as possible in St. Bonaventure's, Forest Gate. A full job description and person specification will be on the school website [www.stbons.org](http://www.stbons.org) from Monday, 16th December. Deadline for Application forms is Monday, 6th January 2014 at 4pm.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**Sick:-** Phil Archer, Ellen Armstrong, Mary Barnes, Alice Binder, Moira Bisset, Angela & Kerry Bromfield, John Burnham, Liz Channer, Chris Callow, Elsie Carey, Claire, David Clancy, Violet Clark, Sue Crail, Kathie Crowley, Chanelle Conway, Alan Cornish, Noreen Coyle, Kate Crowley, Mary Cullis, Siobhan Davids, Tomoko Dawson, Karen Davies, Donald Dourado, Mary Duffy, Françoise Duprey, Michael Durcan, Harold Elston, Alan Farmer, Ray Finney, Fr. Jim Fitzpatrick, Irene & Carter de Freitas, Nora Gaiger, Martin Garnar, Judy & John Gilmartin, Kathleen Gissane, Stephen Grave, Joan Green, Pat Greene, Amelia Halfyard, Doris Harriss, Rowland Hill, Veronica Hutchison, Stephen Jannece, Derek Jones, Laura Kennedy, Fr. Austin Kinsella O.F.M., Jacqui Lebaz, Lauren, Daniel Lucey, Fr. Austin McCormack O.F.M., Dennis McMullen, Mary McKay, Anne McShea, James McTierwal, Ron Mallett, Hannah Martin, Paul Mason, Sadie Meade, Jutta Menzies, Kathleen Meyler, Pat Meyler, Jean Morgan. Maureen Noden, Anthony O'Boyle, Mary O'Boyle, Joanne O'Boyle, Mary O'Connor, Katie O'Neil, Lucy Owen, Georgia Perera, Lily Reding, Mark Pateman, Anneli Prowse, Jacky Rott, Ann Rowley, Sandra Sifflett, Debbie Smythe, Karen Spencer, Carmel Sweeney, Mary Taylor, Alfi Thompson, Eileen Vallely, Terry Wauer, Monica Worsefold.

**And for all the sick and housebound of the parish.**

### 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

**Lately Dead:-** Emma Henry, Roger Higgins, Craig Lobo.

Roger's Requiem will take place on Tuesday, 17th December at 10.00am in St. Thomas'. **May he rest in peace.**

It is with great sadness that we have to announce the sudden death of Craig Lobo who died on Wednesday. Our thoughts love and prayers go out to the Lobo Family at this time of great sorrow.

**Anniv:** Jack Kenny, Pauline and Timothy O'Regan, Joe Linnane.

### CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Do you need help with cleaning & ironing? No job too small. Domestic chores and ironing—very reliable cleaner—good rates and references available. Please call Lisa on 07988453839.

### BECKET CENTRE

A reminder to all groups and societies who use the Becket Centre on a regular basis. If you haven't submitted your dates for 2014 please do so a.s.a.p.

The charges are Mon-Fri up to 7pm £17per hr. Mon-Thurs from 7pm £24per hr. Fri from 7pm £27per hr. Sat. & Sun £27 per hr. with a refundable deposit of £60.

The meeting rooms upstairs are £9 per hr.

# St Thomas of Canterbury

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Served by the Franciscans



A FAIRTRADE PARISH



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## 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT CYCLE A

15TH DECEMBER 2013



The expectancy of the coming of God is fulfilled in Jesus who brings joy through love and compassion to all who are in need.

### First Reading (Isaiah 35:1-6. 10)

Although this third extract from the prophecy of Isaiah will give hope and courage to those who are downhearted or restricted in some way, when Isaiah refers to the blind, the lame, etc, he is talking of the whole community. The Christian sees this prophecy fulfilled in Christ, who came to restore us, as a community of faith, to wholeness and integrity. As is usually the case, the Psalm picks up the same theme as the First Reading.

### Second Reading (James 5:7-10)

St. James says that like a farmer we must be patient as we wait for Christ's second coming. In the Bible the idea of harvest is often used as a picture for the Day of Judgement. We should wait patiently for this day and not make judgements ourselves about other people.

### Gospel (Matthew 11:2-11)

John the Baptist sends his disciples to find out who Jesus is, if He truly is the Messiah. Jesus tells them to look at the evidence of their own eyes. The point He is making in the final sentence of this Gospel is that in the coming kingdom of God the little ones who believe in Jesus Christ will have the same standing as an important figure such as John

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**  
**Come Lord and Save Us**