

### **Austin O.F.M.**

A school principal called the house of one of his teachers to find out why he was not in school. He was greeted by a small child who whispered: "Hello?"

"Is your Daddy home?" asked the principal. "Yes," answered the whispering child. "May I talk with him?" the man asked. "No," replied the small voice. "Is your Mommy there?" he asked. "Yes," came the answer. "May I talk with her?" Again the small voice whispered, "No." "All right," said the man, "Is there any one there besides you?" "Yes," whispered the child, "A policeman." "A policeman? Now, may I speak with the policeman?" "No, he's busy," whispered the child. "Busy doing what?" asked the principal. "Talking to Daddy and Mommy and the fireman," came the child's answer. "The fireman? Has there been a fire in the house or something?" asked the worried man. No whispered the child. "Then what are the police and fireman doing there?" Still whispering, the young voice replied with a soft giggle, "They are looking for me."

It would be pretty hard for the "rescuers" to find this child as long as the child keeps hiding from them. In today's gospel we see John the Baptist in the desert calling out to the people of Judea to come out into the open desert and let God find them.

### **FR. AUSTIN'S TALKS**

The second of Fr. Austin's talks will be on Wed. 10th Dec. at 7.30pm in the Becket Centre.

### **ADVENT FLYERS**

Please take a flyer giving the times of Masses during the festive period.

### **DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES 2015**

Are now available from the repository price £2.75.

### **ECUMENICAL ADVENT CAROL SERVICE**

This afternoon (Sunday) at 4.30pm at St. Thomas'. The choirs of All Saints Church and Loyola Boys' School will be in attendance and light refreshments will be available afterwards in the Becket Centre. All are welcome.

### **THE HOLY FAMILY SISTERS CHRISTMAS PRESENTS**

The Sisters of 5 The Green are very grateful to all their friends who give them Christmas presents each year. This year, because we are aware of the present situation of the world where so many are in need and also because we are fewer in number, we would ask you that instead of giving us presents, you make a donation to a charity of your choice. We take this opportunity to thank you for your kindness and generosity to us and to wish all of you a very happy and blessed Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

### **SACRISTANS FOR 11.30AM MASS**

We are in need of two new team members to join the 11.30am Mass Rota. Sacristan work is not arduous but is vital to the proper and smooth operation of every Mass. Full training and continuous coaching will be provided by the experienced Sacristans. Please ask Paul or Yvonne Crighton if you feel that you can join the team. They will give you some general guidance as a start. Alternatively, give your name and contact details to Fr. Brian or the Parish Office.

### **YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU NOW!**

### **ASSISI LUNCH**

Friday, 12th Dec. in Becket Centre.

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

Calling all Readers, Ministers of Communion, Ushers and Sacristans. 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 lists located on the table at the back of the church.

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

Next Wed. is the last Soup Run of 2014. We would be grateful to receive sandwiches, cakes, biscuits, sweets and warm men's clothing. Items can be left in the parish office or in the Becket Centre between 7pm and 8pm on Wed. night. As this is our last trip before Christmas we would like to provide each person who needs our help a selection pack to take away with them. If you can help with this appeal we would be very grateful.

### **BRENTWOOD NEWS**

Are available from the back of the church. Please take one.

### **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

The next meeting will be held on Thurs. 11th December in the Becket Centre. (downstairs) at 7.30pm. We are a small supportive group and we usually welcome between 8 and 10 bereaved people who are at various stages on their journey of loss. The meetings last an hour and those who come have an opportunity to talk about topics of concern in their bereavement in an understanding environment. Then we have a cup of tea and a more informal chat together. We meet once a month on the second Thursday at 7.30pm. If you have any questions or want more information you are welcome to phone Angela on 020 8505 0356.

### **URGENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The Repository urgently needs volunteers for the 6pm Mass and Sunday after 8.30am, 10.00am and 11.30am Mass. Please leave your details with the parish office if you are interested in joining a rota. If you no longer are a volunteer for the repository, please return the keys to the parish office. Christmas cards, 2015 Church Calendars, Advent Calendars and Advent candles are now available from the Repository.

### **CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE.**

Tickets on sale at the back of the church after Mass this weekend. The money is going towards helping Marie Morris to go to Switzerland with the Girl Guides next July. Thank you for your support.

### **CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

Once again, the Christmas Fayre was a great success. To date £5,214.22 was taken. Our grateful thanks to Philippa, Jackie, Nicky and helpers who worked so tirelessly to achieve such a wonderful result.

Thank you from Mary & Catherine to all who came and supported the home produce stall. Over £250 was raised which will be split between the parish, St. John's School and the Chigwell Sister's Philippines Mission.

Also a big thank you to parishioners who helped and came along to enjoy the festivities. It would not be possible without your continued support and generosity. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and as a thank you there will be mince pies after 10am Mass today (first come, first served!).

*Parish Fayre Team*

### **FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Loyola School Choir and pupils will be joining us for Mass on Monday 8th Dec. at 10am to celebrate the Feast.

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR**

**Sick:-** Sheila Abrams-Batley, Benjamin & Teresa Bonaventhor, Portia Brighten, Angela & Kerry Bromfield, Julia Croft, Irene & Carter de Freitas, Don Dourado, Ros Drew, Joan Farrelly, Ray Finney, Fr Jim Fitzpatrick, Judy Gilmartin, Kevin Godkin, Joan Green, Pat Greene, Stephen Gunn, Doris Harriss, Christine Hewstone, Rowland Hill, Phyllis Kelly, Sadie Kelly, Fr. Austin Kinsella, Della Kerr, Linda & Grandson Jenson, Roger Machin, Lisa Maguire, Mary McKay, John Meneghan, Jutta Menzies, Kay Meyler, Harry Moody, Patrick Moran, Patricia Morgan seriously ill in WX, Miriam Mullally, Fr Con O'Connell OFM, Mary O'Donnell, Gary Peile, Anneli Prowse, Lily Reding, Joan Reynolds, Jacky Rott, Debbie Smythe, Joan Steadman, Bert Suffield, Sr. Tian (Cold Ash), Teresa Warnock, Claire & Lauren, Kian Wright.

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

**Lately Dead.:** Viki Cotton, Oscar De Souza, Fr. Tom Flynn, Adrienne Kavanagh, Roz Drew, Kathleen Slater, Betty Walsh.

**Anniv:** Kay Murchan,

### **PRIVATE TUTOR**

Available to teach English, Maths, French and Italian to GCSE. Also qualified to teach ESOL. Please contact Silvia on 07545 581410.

### **CHURCH CLEANING**

Friday 9am 12th December Maureen Insole, Claire Hobbs, Julia Bever, Christine Acons, Lisa Robinson.

### **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Sing Immanuel Sat. 20th Dec. Start at 5pm at St. James' URC, Palmerston Road, Buckhurst Hill. Tickets £5(includes mulled wine and mince pies) at the door.

### **LOCAL THERAPIST**

Reflexology and Indian Head Massage.  
Treat your loved ones—will travel local.  
Call Hema 07841 863702.

### **FINAL REPORT ON FUNDRAISING**

We wish to thank all mothers who have selflessly helped with our fundraising efforts. As well as the Mothers we want to extend our deepest gratitude to this brilliant and absolutely wonderful parish community. We reached our target for the Bench Appeal and all our fundraising is now complete. Over the last 6-9months we have fundraised and completed our targets for five worthy causes; namely the water source for the school in the Philippines; the renovation of the churches in the Philippines; Breast Cancer; 95 displaced families living in the Catholic Church in North Iraq and the Bench Appeal. Thank you and God Bless

*Mothers of St. Thomas' "MOST"*

#### **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

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## **2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT CYCLE B**

**7TH DECEMBER 2014**



This Advent, how are we preparing to celebrate the Good News of Jesus Christ? God's messenger, John the Baptist, reminds us of the need for repentance and simplicity as we "prepare a way for the Lord".

### **First Reading (Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11)**

The prophet Isaiah announces that God's glory is about to be revealed, and calls on the people to prepare for it.

### **Second Reading (2 Peter 3:8-14)**

The followers of Jesus are called to lead holy and good lives while waiting for the new heavens and new earth, where righteousness rules.

### **Gospel (Mark 1:1-8)**

The first verses of Mark's Gospel announce the "beginning of the Good News" of Jesus Christ, and tell of the witness of John the Baptist.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**  
**In his days justice shall flourish**  
**And peace till the moon fails**