

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Truci Abrahams, Anna Appiah, Aichard Abangwu, Mike Angelo, Baby Oliver Barker, Angela Barrett, Belinda, Miss Terry Bennett, Sandra Bourke, Angela Bromfield, John Browne, Antonia Buck, Claire Merrins, Nigel Dillon, Bernadette Fernandes, Irene & Carter de Freitas, Don Dourado, Antony Dover, Lenny Finney, Trish Gardner, Garrie Godkin, Phyllis Gould, Cynthia Gregory, Mary Grisdale, Alice & John Gyre, Betty Halliday, Doris Harriss, Ethne Hubbard, Peter Jacques, Baby Samuel Keys, Jane Kirk, Eileen Lea, John Leahy, Ruby Lennon, Charles Long, Roger Machin, Camille Malone, Clare Merrins, Angela Meyler, Patrick McGurk, Mary McKay, Jutta Menzies, Janet Morris, Con Mulvahill, Kathleen Ogles, Yvonne Poulter, Lily Reding, Joan Reynolds, Jacky Rott, Dermot Shean, Debbie Smythe, Madelaine Sydic, Astrid Turner, Beryl Vaughan, Rita Watkins, Anne Winzer, Cian Wright.

Anniv. Phil Calanan, Julia Murphy

Lately Dead : Gerry Casey, Richard Churcher, Patricia Collins, Pedro Costa, Thomas Grey, Fr. Dan Moore.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Women's World Day of Prayer, March 3rd, 2017. There will be services at St. Mary's, South Woodford at 2.15pm, and at Hunter Court Lodge, Homesdale Close, New Wanstead at 6pm.

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

CHURCH CLEANING



Saturday 10.30am 4th March. Charmaine Turnell, Rachel Woolf, Khristine Pinnock, Rosie O'Connor, Deborah McNamara

THE MELJON SINGERS

Songs of Farewell Saturday, 11th March 7.30pm at St. John's Church, Epping CM16 5DN. Advance tickets £12. On the door £15/under 18s Free. Box Office 07892 939126 or www.ticketsource.co.uk/meljon

ACROSS JUMBULANCE

An amazing £2.166 was raised last Sunday. Grateful thanks to parishioners for your generosity.

SMILE PLEASE

The very observant will have noticed a few changes around the Church and Friary recently. The Parish Council and Friars have upgraded the CCTV cameras we previously had in the Church area and extended them so the Car Park and Becket Centre are now covered. This we feel will provide increased security in these areas without being too intrusive. The intercom system on the Friary door has been upgraded as part of the same package.

 **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

26TH FEBRUARY 2017



The birds of the air and the flowers of the field flourish under God's watchful eye. Our lives, too, in God's grace can be lived in tranquillity of spirit.

First Reading Isaiah 49:14-15

God's love for us is like a mother's love for her child.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Let us be merciful to one another. The Lord alone is the true judge.

Gospel Matthew 6:24-34

The birds of the air and the flowers of the field have lessons for us.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

In God alone is my soul at rest

There will be an SVP Collection after all Masses this weekend

LENT DISCUSSIONS

“A wide gap has developed between the church’s teaching concerning marriage and the family, and the lived convictions of many Christians. The church’s teaching appears, even to many Christians to be out of touch with the world and with life” So wrote Cardinal Kaspar in 2014 charged by Pope Francis to prepare for the 2 Synods on marriage and family life.

By his practice and especially his letter *The Joy of Love* Pope Francis has provided the way to resolve this apparent impasse. During Lent we hope to explore what he has done and is offering us. When thoroughly grasped it opens a new depth to our personal and community life. Come and help us to stretch our minds to take in his direction.

Wednesdays 6th, 13th and 29th March and Thursday 22nd

ASH WEDNESDAY

Not one of the traditional “holy-days of obligation” (a horrible expression. We come to mass because we love it, not bullied by threats) But always our catholic instinct draws us to Mass on this day. We begin Lent with good intentions. When I face seriously my need to take stock of where my life is going, what I need to change, a sense of relief and peace follows. Make your own resolutions. Choose how you will take more notice of God and be helpful to others.

*Mass in St Thomas at 10 am and 8 pm.
Also Trinity school in church at approx.
1.30 and 2.15pm*

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Our next meeting will be on Thurs. 9th March at 7.30pm. Please note it will NOT be in our usual location owing to the Confirmation Programme but will be held in the William Scott Room upstairs. Come to the usual entrance and you will be directed to us.

PARISH AFTERNOON TEA

Parishioners are invited to an afternoon tea at the Becket Centre on Sunday, 12th March 3pm - 5pm to discuss the issues raised in today’s Bishop’s pastoral letter and co-ordinate the parish response to it. Since our future plan requires more active participation of the laity, the discussion will be stimulated and moderated by leaders of our parish groups. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about and join in the activities of these very active groups.

CENTENARY CELEBRATION 22nd March

I have invitations for 5 of our parish to join in this celebration with Cardinal Nicholls, the Papal Nuncio and reps from all parishes on Wednesday 22nd March. The Mass will be in the Cathedral at 7 pm followed by a reception. At present I still have 3 tickets. Last Sunday I gave tickets to two ladies who expressed their wish to attend, but I failed to note their names. Will you please contact me? I need to tell the organisers the names of our representatives.

JOURNEY OF FAITH

At the Easter Vigil on 15th April three candidates will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church here at St Thomas’. More of them later. Next Sunday they will meet the Bishop at the Rite of Election and be formally welcomed by him into our Diocesan community. This year the event will be at Forest Gate as the Cathedral is not yet re-opened.

HOLY FAMILY LAY ASSOCIATES

Meeting 7.30pm on Monday, 6th March at Maureen’s house.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Through Lent we will provide the mediation for this devotion each Friday evening at 8pm. Also the stations will be said every Friday in Lent after the 10am Mass. You are always welcome to “do the Stations” yourselves at any time either individually or in a group.

LENTEN LUNCHES

Beginning March 7th and every Tuesday until 11th April in the Becket Centre from 12.15pm to 1.30pm. Come and join us for home-made soup and French bread with butter, all for £3. All proceeds will be sent to Mary’s Meals to provide lunches for schoolchildren in Haiti.

THE TABLET

Copies of this week’s edition are available in the porch for you to browse through. The publishers hope you may like a regular subscription to this excellent provider of catholic news and views on a wide range of subjects

JUMBLE SALE

Thank you for your huge quantities of jumble up to last weekend. Please take note the sale is past, and we really do not want more jumble to tarnish the beauty of our porch until the autumn. The sale raised well over £1000 for the Chigwell Sisters’ foreign missions. It was also, surprisingly, much fun for the organisers who beavered for days beforehand and through Saturday.

MOTHER AND TODDLERS

Are once again collecting Sainsburys Vouchers and would like the help of the parishioners. Please hand into the parish office. Thank you.

Please note that Mother & Toddlers will be closed on Wednesday, 1st March (Ash Wednesday).

ACROSS JUMBULANCE

An amazing £2.166 was raised last Sunday. Grateful thanks to parishioners for their generosity.

STEP INTO THE GAP WITH CAFOD

Aged 18-30? Passionate about social justice? Apply for our “Step Into the Gap” gap-year programme now!. The deadline is 13th March 2017. To find out more follow <http://cafod.org.uk/News/UK-news/Apply-for-Step-into-the-Gap>.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 27th February—12th March

The food on our tables, the tea and coffee in our mugs, all from farmers who toil, sweat and slog. However hard they work to provide the things we depend on, millions of farmers in developing countries aren’t paid what they deserve. Your actions help shoppers to make choices that change the lives of farmers and workers. It’s time to put Fairtrade into your tea and coffee break. For more information follow the link on the parish website or go to <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk>.

EAST LONDON CITIZENS

The East London Citizens Organisation is celebrating 20 years on Thurs 9th March at York Hall, Bethnal Green 6.45pm—8.30pm. If you would like a ticket contact gemmabourdillon3@hotmail.com or leave your name and no. with parish office.

TUESDAY CLUB

We welcome LINDA BEWLAY, who will be talking about "BARNARDO's". Everyone is welcome to the Becket Centre at 2pm. on the 28th.

CAKE SALE

Sinead McVeigh is running a marathon to raise funds for sufferers of Alzheimer's and will be holding a cake sale in the Becket Centre on 4th March after 6pm Mass and after Masses on Sunday, 5th March.