

### **ECUMENICAL ADVENT CAROL SERVICE**

This afternoon, Sunday, 8th December at 4.30pm with the choirs of All Saints Church and Loyola School, followed by refreshments in the Becket Centre. All welcome.

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

Calling all readers, Ministers of Communion, Ushers & 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.

### **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.

### **WALK WITH ME**

A Journey of Prayer for Advent. Booklets are available at the back of the church—price £1.

### **PENITENTIAL SERVICE**

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

### **CAKE SALE**

After 10am and 11.30am Masses today, Sunday, 8th December. Two mums from St. Antonys are fundraising for their trip to Peru to walk the Machu Picchu trail in aid of HemiHelp, a charity which supports one of their children who has Hemiplegia, a form of Cerebral Palsy. Please come along to support their cause.

### **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**

Saturday 10.30am 14th December Charmaine Turnell, Rachel Woolf, Siobhan Daly, Rosie O'Connor, Eweline Allen.

### **IN TOUCH**

The Christmas issue of the parish magazine will be on sale at all Masses next week. Price £2.

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

We only have one Soup Run in December and that is this Wednesday, 11th December. We would be grateful to receive sandwiches, fruit, cakes, sweets and warm men's clothing. Items can be left in the parish office on Wednesday morning or in the Becket Centre between 7pm and 8pm on Wednesday evening. As this is the last run before Christmas we would like to give to everyone who needs our help a Christmas selection pack. If you can help with this appeal we would be very grateful.

### **FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Monday, 9th December**

### **RAINBOWS BROWNIES GUIDES**

Next week the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides (80 people) are having a Hamper Raffle so that they can have the amazing opportunity to go to Alexandra Palace for our society's Thinking Day celebrations. Tickets will be £1 a strip and we will be at every Mass in the parish.

### **TUESDAY CLUB**

Our Christmas Lunch is on the 10th December! All who made reservations are welcome to "The Cricketers" 299 High Rd. IG8 9HQ 8504 2734 at 12.30pm for 1pm. A Happy and Holy Christmas to everyone in the T. Club. Look forward to seeing you all again on the 14th January.

### **TRINITY HIGH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

On Sat. 14th December 12noon—4pm. Avoid the last minute mad rush at the shops. Whether you're shopping for a special gift or a stocking filler come have some fun, mulled wine, minced pies and meet Santa—supporting Cancer Research U.K.

*Last few stalls available contact  
07985197041*

### **PROJECT 444**

For the isolated, lonely, the young in our community. A Christmas lunch date to be decided, to be held at a local restaurant. A young person to accompany an adult. If any parishioner knows of anyone who may be alone and may find it difficult to leave their home and would enjoy the company of young people for a Christmas lunch—transport provided, please contact Eileen Cowell 020 8502 7927 or 0777 5994363.

### **UNMARKED MONEY**

Please remember to label any monies put in the letterbox. Grateful thanks.

### **CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

Grateful thanks to everyone who supported the Christmas Fayre, either by their donations or coming along. We hope you enjoyed the afternoon and wish you a very Merry Christmas. So far we have taken over £6,000 subject to costs.

Last minute Christmas Shopping—excess stock of puppies, electronic picture frames and activity sets on sale in the Becket Centre after the 10am and 11.30am Masses today. Raffle prizes are in the parish Office for collection.

*Phillipa, Jackie, Nicky and Andrea*

Thank you to everyone who supported or donated to the Home Produce Stall. A grand total of over £300 was raised and divided between the Philippines, St. John's School and parish.

*Mary Charter.*

*To the person who bought Guitar Hero at the Christmas Fayre, the drumsticks have been saved for you and can be collected from the parish office.*

### **FAMILY CAROL CONCERT**

Valentine Singers Saturday, 14th December 5pm in Barnardo's Church, Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Essex IG6 1QG.

*Box Office 020 8550 4654 also  
[www.valentinesingers.org](http://www.valentinesingers.org)*

### **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 12th December at 7.30pm in the Becket Centre. The meetings last an hour and those who come have an opportunity to talk about topics of concern in their bereavement, then have a cup of tea and a chat amongst themselves. We meet on the second Thursday of every month. Anyone who has been bereaved is welcome to come. You may have a friend in this situation and you may like to pass on this information. You are welcome to ring Angela on 020 8505 0356.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**Sick:-** Phil Archer, Ellen Armstrong, Mary Barnes, Alice Binder, Moira Bisset, Angela & Kerry Bromfield, 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, Francoise 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 GraveJoan 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:-** Alison Davie, Mary Rose Dionysius, Peggy Halpenny, Emma Henry, Roger Higgins, Gary Munday, Dennis McMullen, Kathleen O'Malley, Luca Marrai.

Gary Munday's Requiem will be on Wednesday, 11th December at 10.00am in St. Thomas.

We extend the sympathy of the parish to Ann Higgins and family on the sad loss of Roger. **May he rest in peace.**

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

**Anniv:** Sheila Cully, Frank Feeney, Chevonne Lobo, Mr & Mrs Maidment, Rosina Maidment,

### HELP REQUIRED

For light housework—negotiable hours. Contact Helen 020 8502 7927.

### 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.

# 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

## 2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT CYCLE A

8th DECEMBER 2013



In this joyful Advent season we are reminded that we are a people of hope and trust in God's promises. Let us gather to celebrate, mindful of this hope. May our lives be more and more open to that trust in God's love which can teach us to be gifts of God's love to others.

### First Reading (Isaiah 11:1-10)

Isaiah predicts the coming of the Messiah—who will be of the line of David (which is what “from the stock of Jesse” means) and lists the gifts he will have. These gifts are remarkably similar to six of the seven-fold gifts of the Spirit. He will also bring in an age of peace.

### Second Reading (Romans 15:4-9)

St. Paul suggests a practical outcome of our belief in Christ, namely that we should treat each other as Christ has treated us. In this way will glory be given to God.

### Gospel (Matthew 3:1-12)

The great Advent figure of St. John the Baptist appears. He is the last of the Old Testament prophets, preaching repentance and dressing like Elijah. He is also the first New Testament Saint, preparing a way for Christ. Like the Baptist we too should prepare a way for Christ, both for Him to come into our own lives and also for other people to receive the good news of Christ.

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