

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Please note that the Mass of Christmas Eve will be at 10.15pm preceded by just 15 minutes of carols. It will be well to aim to attend this Mass rather than the Masses at 5pm and 7pm which tend to be over-crowded.

Please take a flyer from the back of the church giving the times of Masses over the Christmas period.

CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST. THOMAS'

The rotas for the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day for: Ministers of Communion, Readers, Ushers & Sacristans, are displayed on the notice board at the back of the church. We urgently need additional Ushers for the 5pm Christmas Eve Mass; 1 additional Minister of Communion for the 7pm Mass. On Christmas Day we need 12 additional Ministers of Communion and a Sacristan for the 10.00am Mass and 2 Readers, 1 additional Minister of Communion and a Sacristan for the 11.30am Mass. If you can help with any of these, please add your name to the list on the table at the back of the church.

NEWSLETTER

Please note that this is the last newsletter until 10th January 2016. Urgent messages will be read from the altar. The parish office will be closed on Christmas Eve and re-opens on Tuesday, 29th December.

REPOSITORY

Brentwood Diocesan Yearbooks 2016 and calendars are available now together with last minute Christmas cards. After this weekend the shop will be closed until Saturday, 2nd January. Thanks for your support and best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

The Christmas SVP collection will be made after all Masses this weekend.

It has been a bumpy year, with many highs and some lows. Notable among the achievements were the work we did together that eventually formed part of the Synod proceedings in Rome. Yesterday the Bishop acknowledged our input and assured us it went! Then there were the two mid-summer concerts; the steady work of service and your enthusiastic commitment to prayer, the liturgy, education and care for those less fortunate or sick. It has been a notable year. On Thursday we priests met with the Bishop. He spoke humbly but powerfully of the need of strategic planning. He stressed it must come from all of us, not from him, not "from the top". He works through achieving consensus, and wants us to do the same. He spoke of dialogue, discernment, consultations and collaboration. And expects us to do the same. Like the Pope he quipped: "In a hearse you are either the driver or the corpse". So some stimulating thoughts to which we will return immediately in the new year. But thank you for all your love, goodwill and generosity to friars and all through the year. We are much blessed to have such a lovely parish. For the moment enjoy a lovely Christmas and a rest.

Quentin.

IN TOUCH

Parish Magazine on sale at the back of the church price £2.

GRATEFUL THANKS

To all parishioners for their continued generosity and support for the Philippine Project which has enabled a large box to be sent this Christmas.

NEW TO THE PARISH

If you are new to the parish or have moved within the parish, please contact the parish office so that we can keep our records up to date.

TELCO Would you help us?

During this special time of advent, and during this difficult time in our world, inspired by our Pope who is offering refuge to a Syrian family in the Vatican, we are asking if there are parishioners who would like to play their part in helping the Syrian refugee crisis. We would value the support of parishioners who wish to join us in encouraging Redbridge council to accept 50 Syrian refugees into the borough of Redbridge and to join a support team in welcoming them to our area. As part of the campaign we most urgently require landlords who would be willing to accept the London council housing rate and offer their property if available at the time, to a Syrian family. We would also be grateful if you have a skill or service to offer in helping refugees integrate into our area to help support the request to our council. Please pick up the latest In Touch magazine for more information and please email munizsoledad@yahoo.es if you are interested, or would like to help.

SCHOOL BURSAR

Part-time School Bursar needed to start as soon as possible, accountant with experience of commerce, not necessarily of schools. Two days a week. Might be of interest to recently retired accountant. Please contact the school office on 020 8518 4050.

BAPTISMS

If you need to attend a baptism course, please contact the parish office in the New Year. Baptisms take place on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month

CERTIFICATE OF PRACTICE

Fr. Quentin will be available to see parents who require a Certificate of Practice on Thurs. 7th January at 7pm. There is no need for Trinity 6th Form if you already attend Trinity School.

FRANCISCAN COMMUNITY

The Community wishes you all a Holy and Blessed Christmas and good health and strength for 2016. We would also like to thank you for the prayerful support given to the Friars this Christmas and during the year of 2015. May 2016 be for you a good and healthy one. God's Blessings on all of you. Holy Mass will be offered for your intentions.

Your offerings at the Christmas Masses will be for the Community. Our grateful thanks.

Fr. Donal

THE HOLY FAMILY SISTERS AND CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

The Holy Family Sisters are very grateful to all their friends who last year donated to various Charities instead of giving them Christmas presents. We would be very happy if you do the same this year as there are still so many families in need. 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.

CHURCH CLEANING

We need 3 extra people to help clean the church once in 7 weeks on a rota basis 1 person on a Friday at 9am and 1 person on a Thursday also at 9am and 1 person on a Saturday at 10.30am. Please contact Pat Bell on 020 8504 4577 or email mrmcbell@btinternet.com if you can help.

CHRISTMAS CLEAN

Wed. 23rd December at 10.30am.

As many helpers as possible please.

31st Dec. Thursday 9am Frances Branch, Cathie Fitch, Michael & Rose Doherty, Rosanna Baker, Leah Bettis, Sheila French.

SUNDAY TEAS

We are looking for 2 people to help with teas after 10am Mass on a Sunday morning on a rota basis once in seven weeks. Please contact Pat Bell on 020 8504 4577 or email mrmcbell@btinternet.com if you can help.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick:- Mike Angelo, Maria Ashley, Baby Oliver Barker, Angela & Kerry Bromfield, Liz Browne, Genevieve Campbell, Yvonne Carpenter, Eustage Chesley, Claire, Claver D'Souza, Don Dourado, Laurie Durrant, Maureen Halford, Thomas Hefferman, Irene & Carter de Freitas, Trish Gardner, Mary Grisdale, Cynthia Gregory, Catherine Heagney, John Harris, Doris Harriss, S. Kuntz, Lauren, Mary McKay, Roger Machin, Camille Malone, Bridie McCoy, Paul McDonnell, Claudia McNulty, Jutta Menzies, Pat Morgan, Dr Courtney Price, Lily Reding, Melda Tierney, Pauline Tuite, Astrid Turner, Mary Quaine, Kath Vaughan .

If you know of any sick or housebound parishioner who would like to receive communion, please contact the parish office.

Lately Dead David Archer, Sean Gillick, Martin Gilligan, Sr. Anna Marie Houghian, Tony McDonnell, Marjorie Paterson, Bill Selby.

Anniv: Virginia Crook, Joseph Dias, Vincent Dias, Marie & Jack Easby, Bridie Flaherty, Judy & John Gilmartin, Andrew Jeffreys, Joseph Linnane, Chevonne Lobo, Mary O'Sullivan, Maria Thompson, May Tudisca.

We extend the sympathy of the parish to David Archer's family. David's Requiem will take place on Tuesday, 29th December at 10am in St. Thomas'.

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.

BINGO CLUB

The Bingo Club at Chigwell Convent will re-start in the New Year on Thursday, 7th January at 2pm and takes place every fortnight. All are most welcome.

LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

Concert of Sacred Music in aid of Tyburn Convent and its Mission Foundations.

Sat. 2nd January 2016 at 7.30pm at St. James' Church, Spanish Place, 22 George Street, London W1U 3QY. Please see poster on the church notice-board.

SOUP RUN

We have now completed all our Soup runs for 2015 and would like to say a big thank you for all the anonymous financial donations and Chris Bell and the after Mass teas fund for their donation. We had a fantastic response to our selection pack appeal from parishioners and St. Antony's School. We also received a large food donation from parents of Nursery children in St. Antonys. The Soup Run has been running at St. Thomas' for 20 years now and without the continuous support of parishioners this would not have been possible. Finally, I must thank all the helpers who have been working in the kitchens and those going up town in the rain, hail and thunder and finally Moya Moffat who does so much work behind the scenes. The next Soup Run is on 13th January 2016.

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

Tel: 020 8504 1686 Fax: 020 8504 1844



Email: parishoffice@friar.org Web: www.stthomaswoodford.org

4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT CYCLE C

20TH DECEMBER 2015



Our salvation is near, he comes to meet us. Are we ready to greet him, to leap with joy at the sound of his coming?

First Reading (Micah 5:1-4)

A child will be born out of Bethlehem Ephrathah, who will establish a kingdom of peace to the ends of the earth.

Second Reading (Hebrews 10:5-10)

Christ abolishes the ritual sacrifices of the law by offering his own body.

Gospel (Luke 1:39-45)

Mary sets out as quickly as possible to visit her cousin Elizabeth. When she greets Elizabeth the child in Elizabeth's womb leaps for joy.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
*God of hosts, bring us back;
Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.*