

PRAY FOR THE SICK



Lately dead:

- ◆ Rita Marrai
- ◆ Ron Perryman

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries:

Felicitas De Costa, Wynnifrid Musselwhite, David Archer, Craig Lobo, Sister Mary McKowan, Hilda Kavanagh, Frederick Watts, Ralph Steele, Maria Graves, Sr. John Lynch, Mary Wynne, Arthur Finch, Patrick White, Johanna (Judy) Gilmartin, Margaret Allcorn, Henry Hughes, Eleanor O'Sullivan, Alicia Grover, Sr. Marie Murphy, Victoria Thompson, Charles Kairis.

Christmas offering for the Friars A notice for parishioners who pay by standing order

As you know it is the practice that the loose plate offerings made at the Christmas masses are your personal offerings for the Friars. For those of you who pay by standing order we will have envelopes available in which you can place your donation and this will enable that donation to be gift aided. Thank you.

Mass Timetable

The masses on Saturday evening and Sunday at St Thomas' are live streamed

SUNDAY MASSES

1st Mass: 6pm Saturday;
8.30am; 10am & 11.30am Sunday
(The 11.30am Mass is recorded)



*Join us for tea/coffee after
Sunday Mass in the Becket
Centre*

10am Chigwell Convent

WEEKDAY MASSES

10am St Thomas'
9.30am Chigwell Convent except on
Saturday's when mass takes place at
10am

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 10.30 to 11am
and
5.15 to 5.45 pm

BAPTISMS

1st and 3rd Sundays
of the month

Donations to St Thomas of Canterbury

If you would like to make a donation to St Thomas of Canterbury church, please scan QR code with your phone camera and open a link with directions:



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Parish Office: 020 8504 1686

Friary: 020 8504 1688

Email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org



Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org

Facebook: @STOCWoodford

Twitter: @STOCWoodford



Third Sunday of Advent (A)

(Gaudete Sunday) 11th December 2022

Please note the nearest Fire Exit to you whilst you are in the Church

On the third Sunday of Advent we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath. On this "Gaudete" Sunday we focus on expectancy and celebration, "gaudete" being a Latin word commanding us to rejoice. We celebrate together in the hope we have because, despite the evils in the world, Christ is with us.

First Reading Isaiah 35:1-6. 10

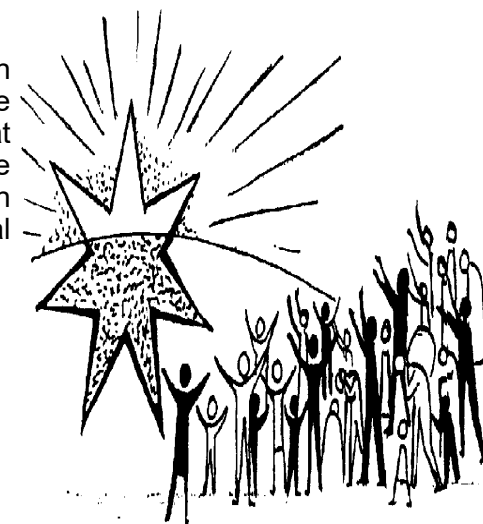
Desolate, dry places will be transformed into paradise. Creation's praise joins human praise, recognising God's marvellous works. We daily need to renew our faltering faith.

Second Reading James 5:7-10

James emphasises patience, explaining that we must wait patiently just as a farmer waits for seeds to grow.

Gospel Matthew 11:2-11

Jesus wants to assure both John and his disciples that he is the Messiah. He also reminds them that his power is displayed in humble acts of service rather than spectacular displays of political power.



Responsorial Psalm

Come, Lord, and save us.

Heating of the church

We have a serious problem and we need your help to solve it. We have recently spent a very large sum to replace a broken heating system with one that should provide warmth efficiently and economically. The controls have been set by the engineers. We are still learning how to use them. For many months expert advice has insisted that we should keep the church ventilated to minimise health risks. Inevitably open windows have worked against the efficiency of the heating. We hear many complaining that the church is cold. Others have said it is too warm, though that is only under the curtain of heat over the entrance doors. But now we have a problem with the behaviour of one or more selfish persons who persistently switch off the power to the convector heaters. If you see anyone doing this please inform me. We are supposed to be people who care for the common good. Not my personal whim.

Your generosity

With eight of our neighbouring churches we shared as true brothers and sisters the Advent Service last Sunday. Not yet Christmas carols, but a genuine expression of the feeling of Advent. And then as we went to Becket for refreshments you and they contributed over £1025 to be split between Mary's meals – for hungry children in Haiti - and the *Malachi Project* housing 42 homeless in Ilford.

Generous indeed.

For earlier in the day you had given £1846.37 to provide our SVP with funds for our local needy families. I thank you warmly.

It promises a good Christmas to come.

First confessions

By the time you read this we will have heard the bulk of this year's first confessions. You parents have prepared your children well. Let it prompt all of us to use the sacrament before Christmas. We priests are here on call and there will be more priests available next Saturday at the usual times.

Christmas Fayre

The income for the Christmas fayre was over £7.200. After expenditure this leaves us £5,282 as profit from the fantastic event that took place at Trinity School. Thank you to the organisers, those who attended and made the event so pleasurable for all. We also thank Trinity for use of their excellent facilities.



Christmas Eve Masses at St Thomas'

Many thanks to all who volunteered last weekend. However, for the three masses on Christmas Eve: 3pm; 6pm & 10pm we still require more **Ministers of Communion & Ushers** for all 3 masses, together with an **Additional Reader**: for the 6pm and a **Sacristan** for the 10pm. If you can help with any of the above, please add your name to the lists at the back of the church.



Mass Intentions

Sunday 11th December
8.30 Amanda Farrell RIP
10 Terry Gillard RIP
11.30 Eugenia Fitzgerald 90 years old

Monday 12th December
Colin Crew RIP
Allen & Constance Edwards
Fr Kieran Dodd RIP

Tuesday 13th December
Sonia Malone RIP
Bridie Halligan RIP

Wednesday 14th December
Kathleen Murchan RIP
Monaghan Broderick & Conlon RIP

Thursday 15th December
Rory McGuire
Margaret Gaughan intentions
Trinity intentions

Friday 16th December
Kathleen Stokes RIP
Mrs B Gilloway ill

Saturday 17th December
10 Michael Murphy anniversary
6 John Mills anniversary

Sunday 18th December
8.30 Veronica D'Urzo
10 Lucy & Tony Wearing
11.30 Desmond McCarthy RIP

Church Cleaning

Thursday 15th December at 9.00am
Jackie John, Srimanthie Crusz,
Margaret Parkinson & Mary Charter



Reminder that the BIG Christmas clean will take place on **20th December at 11am**. All help appreciated.

Certificates of Practice

Final session

Fr Quentin will be available to sign certificates of Practice on Wednesday 14th December 3 to 4pm.

Foodbank

Thank you for your continued donations for the foodbank. For the Christmas period they are looking for tinned vegetables and tinned meat. Any help you can give is much appreciated.

S.V.P. Thank You

To all our parishioners, who gave so generously to the S.V.P. collection last weekend (weekend of December 3 & 4) we would like to thank you on behalf of our beneficiaries who will benefit this Christmas and beyond.

CAFOD

Have a wonderful range of ethical gifts for everyone and for every budget, with gifts starting from as little as £4.

They will be available to purchase in the Becket Centre after 10 and 11.30 masses this Sunday.