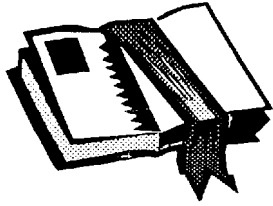


**PRAY FOR
THE SICK**



**Funeral arrangements
Fr Austin McCormack OFM**

The funeral will take place on the 29th May at 11am. Reception into St Thomas' will take place on the 28th May at 4pm.

After the funeral service on the 29th there will be refreshments in the Becket Centre.

Anniversaries:

Mary Dennehy, Jacqueline Duncan, Christie Nichol, Laura Pert, Joanna Elflain, Stephen Wheatley, Guilielmuis Comerford, Ronald Johnson, Francescsa Nippress, Reginald Smith, Lygia Walters, Richard Thomas, Clare Woolaghan, Mary Barry-Gregory, Mary Chandradasa, Sister Colette Cleary, Eric DuCasse, Robin Flindall, Michael Reilly, Christopher Stubbs, Andrew Cloonan, OFM, Daniel Healy, John McGovern, Joan Neenan, Amelio Tolaini, Mary Anna Chandradasa.

Lost property

Items of lost property will be in the porch this weekend. Any item not collected will be disposed of.

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

**Changes to mass times
at Chigwell
on the 26th May**

Due to Ride London taking place on Sunday 26th May, which results in a large number of road closures, there will be **NO** mass at Chigwell on Sunday 26th. However, a vigil mass will be held on Saturday 25th at 7pm at the Convent.

Masses as normal in St Thomas of Canterbury. There will be crossing points on the High road to get to the church on foot.



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Woodford Green
A FAIRTRADE PARISH



Parish Office: 020 8504 1686 Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org
Friary: 020 8504 1688 Facebook: @STOCWoodford
Email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org Twitter: @STOCWoodford

**Pentecost Sunday (B)
19th May 2024**

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

As the Body of Christ, the Church, we gather to celebrate and remember Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit first came upon the first disciples. As the Holy Spirit came upon those gathered in the upper room, so does the Holy Spirit descend upon us gathered around the table of the Lord here today.

First Reading

Acts 2:1-11

Having received the Holy Spirit, the disciples spoke in the languages of all nations about the marvels of God.

Second Reading

Galatians 5:16-25

When the Holy Spirit is a guide in the ways of goodness, no earthly power can pass judgement.

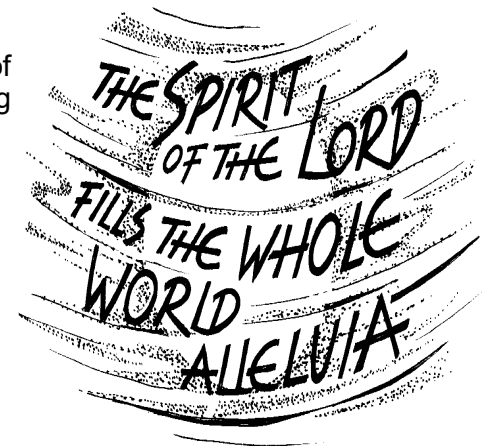
Gospel

John 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Jesus describes the coming of the Holy Spirit as empowering followers in their witness.

Responsorial Psalm

Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
and renew the face of the earth



POPE FRANCIS VIEW OF PENTECOST

Today 'the days of Pentecost have come round' and they culminate in the gift of the Holy Spirit to each of us. Let's listen to what Pope Francis says about that gift.

Let us now focus on ourselves, the Church of today. We can ask ourselves: "What is it that unites us, what is the basis of our unity?". We too have our differences, for example: of opinions, choices, sensibilities. But the temptation is always fiercely to defend our ideas, believing them to be good for everybody and agreeing only with those who think as we do. This is a bad temptation that brings division. But this is a faith created in our own image; it is not what the Spirit wants. We might think that what unites us are our beliefs and our morality. But there is much more: our principle of unity is the Holy Spirit. He reminds us that first of all we are *God's beloved children*; all equal, in this respect, and all different. The Spirit comes to us, in our differences and difficulties, to tell us that we have one Lord – Jesus – and one Father, and that for this reason we are brothers and sisters! Let us begin anew from here; let us look at the Church with the eyes of the Spirit and not as the world does. The world sees us only as on the right or left, with one ideology or the other; the Spirit sees us as sons and daughters of the Father and brothers and sisters of Jesus. The world sees conservatives and progressives; the Spirit sees children of God. A worldly gaze sees structures to be made more efficient; a spiritual gaze sees brothers and sisters pleading for mercy. The Spirit loves us and knows everyone's place in the grand scheme of things: for him, we are not bits of confetti blown about by the wind, rather we are irreplaceable fragments in his mosaic.

If we go back to the day of Pentecost, we discover that the first task of the Church is *proclamation*. Yet we also see that the Apostles devised no strategy; when they were locked in there, in the Upper Room, they were not strategizing, no, they were not drafting any pastoral plan. They could have divided people into groups according to their roots, speaking first to those close by and then to those far away, in an orderly manner. They could have also waited a while before beginning their preaching in order to understand more deeply the teachings of Jesus, so as to avoid risks. No. The Spirit does not want the memory of the Master to be cultivated in small groups locked in upper rooms where it is easy to "nest". This is a terrible disease that can also infect the Church: making her into a nest instead of a community, a family or a Mother. The Spirit himself opens doors and pushes us to press beyond what has already been said and done, beyond the precincts of a timid and wary faith. In the world, unless there is tight organization and a clear strategy, things fall apart. In the Church, however, the Spirit guarantees unity to those who proclaim the message. The Apostles set off: unprepared, yet putting their lives on the line. One thing kept them going: *the desire to give what they received*. The opening part of the First Letter of Saint John is beautiful: "that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you" (cf. 1:3).



Mass Intentions

Sunday 19th May

8.30 Teresa Piper RIP
10 Sylvia Dilloway
11.30 St Antony's staff & pupils

Monday 20th May

Alice Drew RIP
Felix Urag RIP
Chigwell John Holland anniversary

Tuesday 21st May

Srs Mary & Geraldine Jubilarians
Maria Christophides RIP

Wednesday 22nd May

Ron Johnson anniversary
Norma McMahon anniversary
Chigwell Catherine Holland anniversary

Thursday 23rd May

Craig Lobo
Dominic Correia RIP

Friday 24th May

Isabella Puvanenthiam RIP
Angela Carneiro RIP

Saturday 25th May

10 Angela Comely intentions
6 Olaf Lobo recovery

Sunday 26th May

8.30 Frank Fitzpatrick
wedding anniversary
10 Patricia Revell anniversary
11.30 Fr Austin RIP

Wedding Congratulations

To Emma and Stephen who were married
at St Thomas' this week

Church Cleaning
Friday 24th May at 9am
Claire Hobbs, Julia Bever, Susanna
Barnoin, Susan Juffs, Agatha
Emohare & Michelle Liddle

Walking for Jimmy **Please support**

Confirmation Catechists will be
'Walking for Jimmy' on 25th May.
Margaret & Barry Mizen came so
speak with our candidates about
Forgiveness, Peace & Hope following
the death of their son Jimmy.
Please support them if able
mizenfoundation.enthuse.com/pf/st-thomas-of-canterbury-catechists-woodford-green

St Vincent De Paul Society

St Thomas' SVP Conference is
struggling because of few members
and absence of needy families/
individuals coming forward for help.
The SVP national office will, later this
year, launch an awareness/recruitment
campaign in the parish to promote the
spirituality/work of the SVP so as to
attract new members. In the interim
urgent requests for help can still be
made by contacting the Conference
president, Gerry Curran, on
07754100149, email
gerrycurransvp@hotmail.co.uk

A Jubilee grace': Vatican announces Holy Year Indulgence

Following the solemn indiction of the
Jubilee 2025 by Pope Francis last
week, the Apostolic Penitentiary has
published a Decree that provides the
details for the Indulgences that will be
granted during the Holy Year. More
information can be found at
www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2024-05/a-jubilee-grace-vatican-announces-holy-year-indulgence.html