

Austin O.F.M.

"We are the clay and you the potter..."
"Without the Church—believe me— I would not have been able to encounter Jesus, even with the awareness that the immense gift of faith is kept in the fragile clay pots of our humanity." (Letter to Non-Believers, Pope Francis)

Who made the beautiful "clay pot" to which the reading and the Pope are referring?

Why is the pot fragile? How long has it been around? It is still here. What is the immense gift of faith that it contains? For you to be a person of faith you need another—who recognises you—not for *what you have done or failed to do*—love is only real when it is obviously for the well-being that is already put there by God, not needing my yes or no. To live in a meritocracy is to be condemned to live where no one is special simply because of who they are—which is the only reason why God made us.

ADVENT FLYERS

Are available from the back of the church. Please take one.

FR. AUSTIN'S TALKS

Commencing on Wed. 3rd Dec. Fr. Austin will be giving a talk at 7.30pm in the Becket Centre and on the following Wednesdays during Advent.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

The Meeting for catechists is on Wednesday, 3rd December at 8pm in the Assisi Room. Please note that the Group A meeting on 20th Dec. will be going ahead as planned.

CWL SOCIAL EVENING

Wednesday, 3rd December in the William Scott Room at 8pm.

ECUMENICAL ADVENT CAROL SERVICE



The service will take place on Sunday, December 7th at 4.30pm at St. Thomas'. The choirs of All Saints Church and Loyola Boys' School will be in attendance and light

refreshments will be available afterwards in the Becket Centre. Donations of mince pies gratefully received. All are welcome.

THE HOLY FAMILY SISTERS CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

The Sisters of 5 The Green are very grateful to all their friends who give them Christmas presents each year. This year, because we are aware of the present situation of the world where so many are in need and also because we are fewer in number, we would ask you that instead of giving us presents, you make a donation to a charity of your choice.

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.

SACRISTANS FOR 11.30AM MASS

We are in need of two new team members to join the 11.30am Mass Rota. Sacristan work is not arduous but is vital to the proper and smooth operation of every Mass. Full training and continuous coaching will be provided by the experienced Sacristans. Please ask Paul or Yvonne Crighton if you feel that you can join the team. They will give you some general guidance as a start. Alternatively, give your name and contact details to Fr. Brian or the Parish Office.

YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU NOW!

PROJECT 444

Presents an evening of live entertainment with Daryll King Sings the Stars 60s/70s/80s/90s and today at Theydon Bois Village Hall on Sat. 6th Dec. 2014 7.30pm—11.30pm. Tickets £15 (includes complimentary drink) (Feel free to bring further supplies) Contact 07775994363/epcowell@yahoo.com.

THANK YOU

For your generous support during the cake sale to help me on the trip to Switzerland with the Girl Guides. Next week will be a Christmas hamper raffle after all Masses at St. Thomas'.

SACRED HEART COMPANIONS

Will have their monthly meeting on Monday, 1st Dec. at 2pm at Chigwell Convent. All new members are welcome.

HOLY FAMILY LAY ASSOCIATES

Meeting on Monday, 1st December at 7.30pm at Maureen's house.

The Holy Family Sisters are sorry to announce the death of Sr. (John) Frances Pemberton in Rockferry, Birkenhead. Sr. Frances taught Science in our Holy Family School in Woodford and was much loved by her students.

CHRISTMAS IN QUEENS ROAD

Friday, 5th Dec. 3pm—7pm
Children's Street Entertainer, Father Christmas, Brass Band, Cakes, Children's Roundabout, Carol Singers, Stalls and lots more.

PARISH DIARIES 2015

Have arrived. Unfortunately, they were printed before the announcement of the changes of the Community at St. Thomas. Please leave your donation in the basket provided. Grateful thanks.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The council are due to make a decision on a planning application next Wed. 3rd Dec. for the installation of a mobile 'phone mast outside the Toyota Garage on Woodford High Road. It will have 4 large "cabinets" attached to it and full details of the size and location are on the planning application. Our primary school found out accidentally, despite the fact councils normally involve business and local schools etc. in the consultation process but this time they didn't! Our Head has now informed Bancrofts, Trinity, St. Anthonys and Avon House of the plans and our school is submitting a formal objection and have asked parents to do the same.

Many of us have already done so but the more objections the council receive then we stand a greater chance of it being sited away from such a large cluster of schools, if at all. If you would like to object contact <http://planning.redbridge.gov.uk/swiftlg/apas/run/Wphappcriteria.showApplications?decfromdate=21-apr-2014@dectodate=21-apr-2014&DispResultsAs=wphappsresweek2>

The planning number is 3512/14.

URGENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Repository urgently needs volunteers for the 6pm Mass and Sunday after 8.30am, 10.00am and 11.30am Mass. Please leave your details with the parish office if you are interested in joining a rota.

If you no longer are a volunteer for the repository, please return the keys to the parish office.

Christmas cards, 2015 Church Calendars, Advent Calendars and Advent candles are now available from the Repository.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick:- Sheila Abrams-Batley, Benjamin & Teresa Bonaventhor, Portia Brighten, Angela & Kerry Bromfield, Julia Croft, Irene & Carter de Freitas, Don Dourado, Ros Drew, Joan Farrelly, Ray Finney, Fr Jim Fitzpatrick, Judy Gilmartin, Joan Green, Pat Greene, Stephen Gunn, Doris Harriss, Christine Hewstone, Rowland Hill, Phyllis Kelly, Sadie Kelly, Fr. Austin Kinsella, Della Kerr, Linda & Grandson Jenson, Roger Machin, Lisa Maguire, Mary McKay, John Meneghan, Jutta Menzies, Kay Meyler, Harry Moody, Patrick Moran, Miriam Mullally, Fr Con O'Connell OFM, Mary O'Donnell, Gary Peile, Anneli Prowse, Lily Reding, Joan Reynolds, Jacky Rott, Debbie Smythe, Joan Steadman, Bert Suffield, Sr. Tian (Cold Ash), Teresa Warnock, Claire & Lauren, Kian Wright.

and for all the sick and housebound of the parish.

Lately Dead.: Mary Downey, Fr. Tom Flynn (Peggy Carrig's Brother), Adrienne Kavanagh, Chris Ross, Walter Pert,

Walter Pert's Requiem will take place on Wednesday, 3rd December at 10am in St. Thomas'.

Anniv: Maureen De Silva, Robert McLaughlin, Lena Tyson

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.

CHURCH CLEANING

Saturday 10.30am 6th December
Charmaine Turnell, Rachel Woolf, Siobhan Daly, Rosie O'Connor, Eweline Allen, Debbie Bryant.

COOKED FOOD

For health and safety reasons, we are unable to accept cooked food for the soup run. Grateful Thanks.

ACROSS

Trip to Lourdes on 9th April 2015. If you know of anyone sick, disabled and terminally ill who would benefit from the pilgrimage to Lourdes, please take an application form from the back of the church.

CLERICAL ASSISTANT

Trinity Catholic High School wishes to appoint a Clerical Assistant. The applicant must be organised, flexible and computer literate. Please contact Mrs Sam Gillary 020 8504 3419 ext 170 or sam.gillary@fc.tchs.uk.net.

FOR SALE

Three tickets to **RIVERDANCE** at Hammersmith Appolo on Friday, 12th December. If you are interested, please call Gilda 07967647747.

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

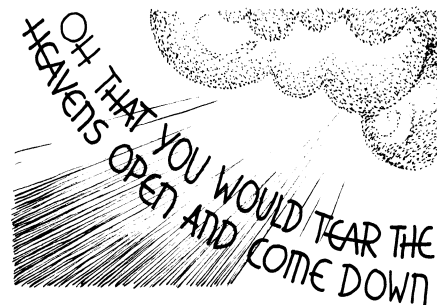
Tel: 020 8504 1686 Fax: 020 8504 1844



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

1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT CYCLE B

30TH NOVEMBER 2014



Today is the first Sunday of Advent. We begin to look forward to Christmas. But the Gospel reminds us of another important event for which we wait—the second coming of the Lord.

First Reading

(Isaiah 63:16-17;64:1. 3-8)

We humans are rebellious and our integrity is only skin-deep; yet God is the potter and we are the clay. We can trust God to help us.

Second Reading

(1 Corinthians 1:3-9)

Jesus fills us with the gifts of the Spirit as we await his second coming.

Gospel

(Mark 13:33-37)

Jesus teaches us never to forget that he, the master of our house, will come again.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

God of hosts, bring us back;

Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Grateful thanks £810 was collected last weekend for BCYS.