

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please confirm if you wish to remain on the sick list.

Lately dead:
Catherine Charalambus

Funeral Mass for Anthony Fernandes will take place on 25th April 10am

Anniversaries:

Michael Loftus, Anne Loftus, Alexander Bedell, Anna-Maria Brinckenhoff, Domina Copindale, Joseph Dalli, George Mace, Veronica Seecharan, Frederick Glock, Richard Bachman, George Dadswell, Thomas Diamond, Adelina Gill, Carmen Cilia, Duffee Rodgers, Henry Taylor, Lorna Barrientos, Christopher Nestor, Chu Chin Ooi, Sarah Saunders, Brigid Sharkey, Saunders Wilkie, Mary Wilkinson, Patricia Biggs, James Cavanagh, Reece Doyley, Keith Barron, Carlton Hayes, Raymond Konrath, Rosina Marshall, Sister Margaret O'Brien, Mollie Wood, Anna Ayles, Thelma Fogg, Mabel Harris, Sister Conrad McCarthy, Anne Newton, Helen O'Donovan, Hazel Wilding, James Brown, Sr Madeleine Carey, Alexander Alexander, John (Sean) Gilligan, Julia Harris, Oluwarotimi Olateju, Colin Taylor, Hannah Dowdell, Lourdes Fernandez, Harry Kelley, Kathleen Mallott, Gerhard Michna, Alice Tucker, Liza Ford, Sarah Glyde, Peggy Hall, Lita Hayde, Helena James, Ana Maria Dias

HOLY WEEK

◇ **Monday 14th April**
Mass at St Thomas': 10am –
Chigwell Convent: 9:30am
Service of Reconciliation at St Thomas'
7.30pm. A number of priests will be
available to hear confessions.

◇ **Tuesday 15th April**
Mass at St Thomas': 10am
Chigwell Convent: 9:30am

◇ **Wednesday 16th April**
Mass at St Thomas': 10am
Chigwell Convent: 9:30am

◇ **Thursday 17th April**
No Morning Mass,
Morning Prayer: 10am at St Thomas
Mass of the Lord's Supper – 8pm at
St Thomas' & Chigwell.

◇ **Friday 18th April**
Morning Prayer: 10am at St Thomas'
10.30am Stations of the Cross for children
3pm at St. Thomas' and
Chigwell Convent
Celebration of the Passion of the Lord



Stations of the Cross:
7.30pm – St Thomas'

◇ **Saturday 19th April**
Morning Prayer: 10am at St Thomas'
The Polish Blessing of the Easter Baskets
"Swieconka" will be held at 11am at St
Thomas', followed by refreshments.

Easter Vigil & First Mass of Easter
8.30pm at St. Thomas' & Chigwell
Convent

Everyone is invited for cheese and wine in
the Becket Centre afterwards.

◇ **Sunday 20th April**
Masses: St. Thomas' 8.30am, 10am and
11.30am
Chigwell 10am



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Woodford Green
A FAIRTRADE PARISH



Parish Office: 020 8504 1686
Friary: 020 8504 1688



Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org
Facebook: @STOCWoodford
Twitter: @STOCWoodford

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Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord 13th April 2025

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

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4-7

The suffering servant places his trust in the Lord.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

Christ humbled himself in obedience,
but the Father raised him beyond all
others.

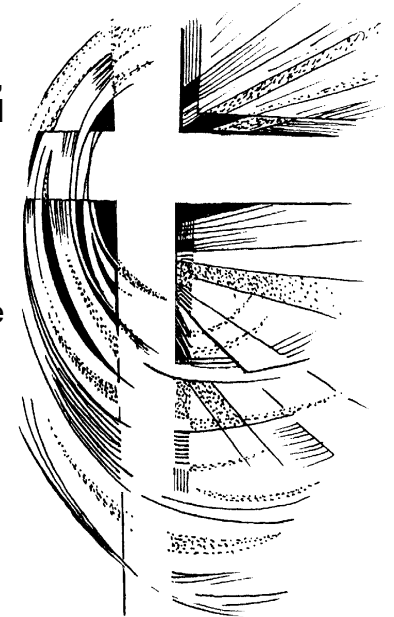
Gospel

Luke 22:14 – 23:56

Christ's death on the cross reveals the
depth of his passion for us.

Responsorial Psalm

My God, my God, why have you
forsaken me?



The next newsletter will be produced for Sunday 27th April
May we wish you all a Happy and Holy Easter

THE HOLY WEEK LITURGY
is our teacher at this time with Pope Francis sharing his meditation on it with us.

Holy Saturday is the day of silence, lived by the first disciples in mourning and bewilderment, shocked by Jesus' ignominious death. While the Word is silent, while Life is in the tomb, those who had hoped in him were put to a difficult test, they feel like orphans, perhaps even orphaned by God.

This Saturday is also Mary's day: she too lived it in tears, but her heart was full of faith, full of hope, full of love. The Mother of Jesus had followed her Son along the path of sorrows and remained at the foot of the cross, with her soul pierced. But when it all seemed to be over, she kept watch, she kept vigil, in expectation, maintaining her hope in the promise of God who raises the dead. Thus, in the world's darkest hour, she became the Mother of believers, the Mother of the Church and sign of hope. Her witness and her intercession sustain us when the weight of the cross becomes too heavy for each one of us

In the darkness of Holy Saturday, joy and light will break through with the rites of the Easter Vigil and, in the late evening, the festive singing of the *Alleluia*. It will be an encounter in faith with the Risen Christ, and the joy of Easter will continue throughout the following fifty days, until the coming of the Holy Spirit. He who was crucified is risen! All questions and uncertainties, hesitations and fears are dispelled by this revelation. The Risen One gives us the certainty that good always triumphs over evil, that life always conquers death, and it is not our end to descend lower and lower, from sorrow to sorrow, but rather to rise up high. The Risen One is the confirmation that Jesus is right in everything: in promising us life beyond death and forgiveness beyond sins.

The disciples doubted, they did not believe. The first to believe and to see was Mary Magdalene; she was the apostle of the resurrection who went to announce that she had seen Jesus, who had called her by name. And then, all the disciples saw him.

But, I would like to pause at this point: the guards, the soldiers, who were in the tomb to prevent the disciples from coming and taking his body, they saw him; they saw him alive and risen. His enemies saw him, and then they pretended not to have seen him. Why? Because they were paid. Here is the true mystery of what Jesus once said: "There are two masters in the world, two, no more: two. God and money. He who serves money is against God".

And here it is money that changed reality. They had seen the wonder of the resurrection, but they were paid to keep quiet. Think of the many times that Christian men and women have been paid not to acknowledge in practice the resurrection of Christ, and did not do what Christ asked us to do, as Christians.

Dear brothers and sisters, again this year we will live the Easter celebrations in the context of the *pandemic*. In many situations of suffering, especially when they are borne by people, families and populations already tried by poverty, disasters or conflicts, Christ's Cross is like a beacon that indicates the port to ships that are still afloat on stormy seas. Christ's Cross is a sign of the hope that does not disappoint; and it tells us that not even one tear, not one sigh is lost in God's plan.

Let us ask the Lord to grant us the grace of serving him and acknowledging him, and of not letting ourselves be paid to forget him.



Mass Intentions

Sunday 13th April

8.30 Cruz family
10 Moya Moffat RIP
11.30 Liz Brown RIP

Monday 14th April

Rosemary Monks RIP
Lynn Bampton suffered burns
Camille Malone

Tuesday 15th April

Bill Grehan very ill
Chigwell Kathleen Blanchfield
anniversary

Funeral Moya Moffat 11.15am

Wednesday 16th April

Nadaraja Rajendram 60 birthday
Mary McCarthy RIP
Holy Family associates

Thursday 17th April

8pm Moya Moffat RIP

Friday 18th April

No Mass

Saturday 19th April

8.30pm Community and Benefactors

Sunday 20th April

8.30 Sheila Charles intentions
10 Intentions Pat Hampshire
11.30 Julia & Ian McVeigh 40th
Wedding anniversary



Church Cleaning
Saturday 26th April at 10.30am
Rhiannon Blackwell, Bernie Siggins & Kathleen Mahoney

Wedding Congratulations

To Anna & Ricky who were married at St Thomas' last weekend.

Holy Communion Masses 2025 **Calling all Sacristans, Readers, Ministers of Communion, Altar Servers**

Between 3rd May & 28th June there will be 8 first holy communion masses on Saturdays at 11am. We still need some help at these masses so please contact the parish office if you can assist in any of the above roles.

Diocese pilgrimage to Walsingham 24th May

There is still a few places remaining. Please contact the parish office if you wish to join us. A donation for the coach of £20 would be appreciated.

Easter Mass Collections

A reminder that the offertory collections at Easter Masses will be for the Friars. Envelopes are available should you wish this to be gift aided. Please tick the box to indicate that it is for Easter. A reminder also for those that donate by standing order to use these envelopes for your Easter donation.

Please Note **Attending Easter Services**

The Diocese have issued guidelines which we will be following. They are that no standing is permitted. This means when all seats are taken there will be no more entry granted to the Church. No prams will be permitted in Church. May we ask that you please respect and follow any directions given to you by the ushers.