



**PRAY
FOR THE
SICK**

Anniversaries:

Michael Butterworth, James Farrell, Patricia Kalinaukas, Winnie McLaughlin, Michael O'Neill, Veronica Boe, John Burnham, Francesco Faccini, Jocelyn Sonderskov, William Hall, Ferrucio Pieropan, Louis Ah-Lim, Mary Chappell, Lotte Hollie O'Neill, Kathleen Stokes, Georgine Easter, Sister Patrick Moriarty, Josefa Vargas, Evelyn Cook, Letteria DeCesare, John Vernon, Eleizabeth Wipijeski.

Lenten lunches take place every Friday during Lent between 12.15 and 1.30pm in the Becket Centre. Please come and join us for a choice of delicious homemade soups, French bread and butter and tea or coffee, all for just £5. All proceeds go to Mary's Meals, a charity feeding school children in some of the poorest countries in the world.

**Stations of the Cross
Each Friday at 7.30pm**
Please come along and join us



*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

Parish Shop

Sunday Missals are now available

Parish Council Surgery

After all masses **THIS** weekend, a member of your parish council will be available at the back of church to receive any questions, comments, suggestions you have about our church and parish. We will then publish the questions and responses on the website. Q&As from the last time we did this are there, under the PPC tab.



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH



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**Third Sunday in Lent (C)
23rd March 2025**

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

First Reading Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

The Lord hears the cry of his people's suffering and sends Moses to lead them to the promised land.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 10:1-6. 10-12

Be vigilant in living the life of faith.

Gospel Luke 13:1-9

Jesus calls us to repent and patiently waits for our response.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is compassionate and gracious



ST JOSEPH SHOWS US TO BE COMPASSIONATE REGARDING OUR WEAKNESSES

On Wednesday of this week, the Church celebrated St Joseph the foster Father of Jesus. Pope Francis celebrates his role in the bringing up of Jesus:-

“St Joseph saw Jesus grow daily “in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favour” (Lk 2:52). As the Lord had done with Israel, so Joseph did with Jesus: he taught him to walk, taking him by the hand; he was for him like a father who raises an infant to his cheeks, bending down to him and feeding him (cf. Hos 11:3-4).

In Joseph, Jesus saw the tender love of God: “As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him” (Ps 103:13). In the synagogue, during the praying of the Psalms, Joseph would surely have heard again and again that the God of Israel is a God of tender love, who is good to all, whose “compassion is over all that he has made” (Ps 145:9).

The history of salvation is worked out “in hope against hope” (Rom 4:18), through our weaknesses. All too often, we think that God works only through our better parts, yet most of his plans are realized in and despite our frailty. Thus Saint Paul could say: “To keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me: ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness’” (2 Cor 12:7-9).

Since this is part of the entire economy of salvation, we must learn to look upon our weaknesses with tender mercy.

The evil one makes us see and condemn our frailty, whereas the Spirit brings it to light with tender love. Tenderness is the best way to touch the frailty within us. Pointing fingers and judging others are frequently signs of an inability to accept our own weaknesses, our own frailty. Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser (cf. Rev 12:10). That is why it is so important to encounter God’s mercy, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where we experience his truth and tenderness. Paradoxically, the evil one can also speak the truth to us, yet he does so only to condemn us. We know that God’s truth does not condemn, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us. That truth always presents itself to us like the merciful father in Jesus’ parable (cf. Lk 15:11-32). It comes out to meet us, restores our dignity, sets us back on our feet and rejoices for us, for, as the father says: “This my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found” (v. 24).

Even through Joseph’s fears, God’s will, his history and his plan were at work. Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture.”

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Friday 28th March at 6pm to Saturday 29th March at 6pm

We will provide a sacred space in our busy lives to centre ourselves in God, hear His word and pray in quiet meditation. There are also **prayer cards** for you to complete and post on our prayer board.

Mass Intentions



Sunday 23rd March

8.30 Harry Mullin anniversary
10 Pat Harnett RIP
11.30 John Burnham anniversary

Monday 24th March

Angela Bromfield
Eleni Makris
Nora Gordon RIP

Tuesday 25th March

Frances Byrne RIP
Intentions Hazel Haliburn
Christopher Lobo birthday

Wednesday 26th March

Kay Stokes anniversary
Dr Joseph Corera RIP
Colette Maguire surgery

Thursday 27th March

Dominic Correia RIP
Crescentia Corera RIP

Friday 28th March

Catherine Fitzpatrick anniversary
Jacqueline Olof Smith RIP
Funeral Chigwell 11am
Catherine Tague

Saturday 29th March

10 Margaret Fletcher CWL founder
6 Christine Milne RIP

Sunday 30th March

8.30 Norman Picton
10 Tom Cruz RIP
11.30 Paul & Mary Affleck



Church Cleaning
Saturday 29th March 10.30am
Rhiannon Blackwell, Bernie Siggins &
Kathleen Mahoney
(Please bear in mind that the 24 Hour
Adoration will not finish until 6pm on
Saturday)

**Thank you to the Parish for
supporting our young peoples
attendance at Flame 2025**

We had 18 St Thomas of Canterbury Young Vinnies with 5 accompanying adults attending FLAME, a national Catholic youth event in Wembley arena. We joined 10,000 Catholics from all over the UK and enjoyed lively music, drama and presentations from organisations such as CAFOD and SVP and inspirational individuals such as Isaac Harvey MBE and Bear Grylls. It was an enriching and uplifting memorable experience for all who attended. Through the Young Vinnies group, we also had 4 young people attend as part of the SVP. They took an active role in representing the SVP youth in promoting the work of the SVP and sharing information about campaigns.

Friary Tennis Club Quiz
Saturday 5th April, 7pm in the
Henrietta Suite.

£8 per person, licensed bar, food at cost(optional). This has always been a great success in the past. With your help it will be again.

For more details, please email ftcwoodford@gmail.com or see the poster at the back of church. Then to book, please use the QR code on the poster, or just email us.