

**PRAY FOR  
THE SICK**



**Lately dead:**

- ◇ Ann Shannon
- ◇ Annie Alladine
- ◇ Maureen Michael

***May they rest in peace***

**Anniversaries:**

Sister Coleman Brosnan, Dennis McCarthy, Brian Connell, Victor Palmer, Margaret Land, Edith Playle, Cornelius Sullivan, Patricia Tugby, Louis Black, Maureen Graham, Iris Hodges, Joan Noblett, Ronald Page, Angell Angell, Alfredo Crivellari, Maura Gilligan, Mark O'Grady, Helen Taylor, Aida Testro, Mavis Abrahams, Robert Gordon, William Green, Amy Marriott.

**Lost property**

Items of lost property will be left in the porch next weekend

Any items not reclaimed 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

**Retiring Collection**

Thank you for your generous donation of  
£363.07 for Pax Christi.

**Donations to St Thomas Parish**

You can now donate directly to the Church  
through our website. There are options for  
one off and/or regular donations:  
<https://www.stthomaswoodford.org/donate>



**ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY**

Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH



Parish Office: 020 8504 1686

Friary: 020 8504 1688

Email: [parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org](mailto:parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org)



Website: [www.stthomaswoodford.org](http://www.stthomaswoodford.org)

Facebook: @STOCWoodford

Twitter: @STOCWoodford

**3rd Sunday on Ordinary Time (C)  
26th January 2025**

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

Communicating means having the courage to speak to the people closest to us. We can't speak to the world if we don't first try to build relationships with those who are already part of our lives.

**First Reading**

Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10

God's word gives us cause for rejoicing if we are ready to listen and follow its advice.

**Second Reading**

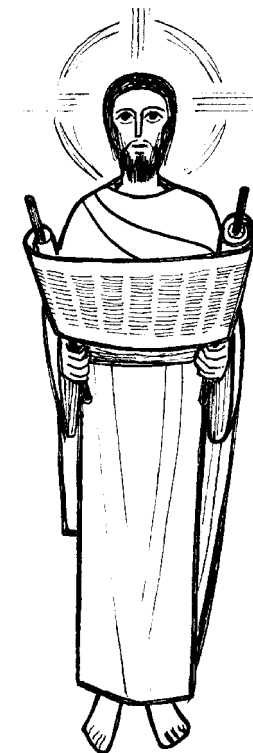
1 Corinthians 12:12-30

We are all different, but our differences can be a source of strength and unity.

**Gospel**

Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Jesus spoke to the people around him before going further afield. He took the risk of being rejected.



**Responsorial Psalm**

Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.

## REVIEW OF CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

We had a very enjoyable service with Father William at St Barnabas Church which included the journey through several branches of the church to his present position in the Anglican Church. Ronald Rolheiser reflects on the variety in Christian Churches:-

Thus in both the Jewish and the Christian scriptures there is the strong, recurring motif that God's message to us generally comes through the stranger, the foreigner, from the one who is different from us, from a source from which we would never expect to hear God's voice. Added to this is the notion that when God speaks to us we generally experience it as a surprise, as something unexpected, and as something that does not easily square with our normal expectations as to how God should work and how we should learn. There's a reason for this. Simply put, when we think we are hearing God's voice in what's familiar, comfortable, and secure, the temptation is always to reshape the message according to our own image and likeness, and so God often comes to us through the unfamiliar.

Moreover, what's familiar is comfortable and offers us security; but, as we know, real transformative growth mostly happens when, like the aged Sarah and Abraham, we are forced to set off to a place that's foreign and frightening and that strips us of all that is comfortable and secure. Set off, God told Sarah and Abraham, to a land where you don't know where you're going. Real growth happens and real grace breaks in when we have to deal with what is other, foreign, different. Learn to understand, writes John of the Cross, more by not understanding than by understanding. What's dark, unfamiliar, frightening, and uninvited will stretch us in ways that the familiar and secure cannot. God sends his word to the earth through "angels" and they're not exactly something we're familiar with.

If this is true, then our differences are also a grace. Accordingly, seeing things differently does not mean that we are not seeing the same things. Accordingly, different notions about God and different ways of speaking about God do not mean that we're speaking of a different God. The same holds true for our churches, having difference concepts of what it means to be church does not necessarily mean that there isn't some deeper underlying unity inside our diversity. Similarly for how we conceive of the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, how we imagine Christ as being really present inside of bread and wine, can take many forms and can be spoken of in different ways, without it meaning that we're speaking of a different reality.

John Paul II, addressing an interfaith gathering, once commented that "there are differences in which are reflected the genius and spiritual riches of God to the nations." Christian de Cherge, after a lifetime of dialogue with Islam, suggests that our differences have a "quasi-sacramental function", that is, they help to give real flesh in this world to the riches of God, who is ineffable and can never be captured in any one expression.

Our differences then are part of the mystery of our unity. Real unity, which needs to reflect the richness of God, does not exist in uniformity and homogenization, but only in bringing into harmony many different gifts and richness, like a beautiful bouquet of flowers brings together of a variety of different flowers inside one vase. Our legitimate differences are rooted inside the same God.



## Mass Intentions

### **Sunday 26th January**

8.30 Dr Douglas Lackey RIP  
10 Mary Marks RIP  
11.30 Kathleen Hayes RIP  
Chigwell Mrs Kilkenny RIP

### **Monday 27th January**

Domenica Pieroni RIP  
Anne Smith

### **Tuesday 28th January**

Eugenia Maganzini RIP  
Pauline McKeon anniversary

11.15 Funeral Paul Tyler

### **Wednesday 29th January**

Edward Disley RIP  
Eufemia Mastroddi anniversary  
Chigwell Kenneth Wynn anniversary

12.00 Funeral Jeanne Burke

### **Thursday 30th January**

Ann Bramwell RIP  
Mary Marks RIP

### **Friday 31st January**

Patricia Maria Gatward RIP  
Martha Charles anniversary  
C.W.L

11am Funeral Mary Denise Whelan

### **Saturday 1st February**

10am Bill Green anniversary  
6pm Paul Tyler RIP

### **Sunday 2nd February**

8.30 Peter Lyons RIP  
10 Billie Christie RIP  
11.30 Riccardo Marcantonio RIP

**Church Cleaning**  
**Saturday 1st February at 10.30am**  
Bernie Siggins, Rachel Woolf &  
Kathleen Mahoney

## Baptism Congratulations

To the following children who were recently baptized at St Thomas' Annabelle Battes, Magnus Shuttleworth-Hammond, Eloise Bond Harry Bowden & Harper Markham

## Dates for your diary Celebrating the Jubilee Year at St Thomas'

- ◆ Week of Accompanied Prayer 9<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2025
- ◆ Adoration 28th & 29th March
- ◆ Mini retreat during Lent on 10th & 17th May
- ◆ Join the Diocese Pilgrimage to Walsingham 24th May

Please pick up the information leaflet at the back of church or visit the website

## Keep Fit Class

Monday evenings at 8.15pm in the Becket Centre. £5 per class no need to book just bring a mat and water. Fun class, experienced teacher with options for all abilities.

## Fairtrade refreshments after 10am Mass Friday, 31st January

Come and join us in the William Scott room after 10am mass for a friendly chat and to celebrate **30 years of the Fairtrade mark** in the UK with a cup of Fairtrade and organic tea or filter coffee, including decaf.