

PRAY FOR THE SICK

We will be reviewing the sick list during March, if you wish to remain on the list from April onwards please contact the parish office.

Lately Dead: Kay Stokes and Marie Joseph

We offer our sincere condolence to their families at this sad time

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries:

Evelyn Cook, Letteria DeCesare, John Vernon, Eleizabeth Wipijeski, Richard Langley, Kathleen O'Hara, Anne Hickford, Sister Francis Marie Kavanagh, Mary Quaine.



Pray the Rosary to unite in prayer for the pandemic to end



Don't forget this Sunday the clocks go forward by one hour

Keep in touch Newsletter

One way to keep in touch during the Coronavirus period will be to receive the newsletter by email please encourage others to sign up on our parish website
www.stthomaswoodford.org
or email
communications@stthomaswoodford.org

Online Mass

We are aiming to stream the 10am Mass this Sunday.

As for the foreseeable future there will be no mass celebrations open for parishioners to attend it is our intention to record a mass weekly for online viewing. To watch mass online please visit our parish website <https://www.stthomaswoodford.org/> and click Mass Online on our homepage. This will bring up another link Watch Mass Online. Clicking on this link will take you to our You Tube channel from where you can view mass. You will see masses listed in date order. Click on any mass to view it. If you wish to receive an email notification when mass is uploaded each week you will need to subscribe on You Tube. (You will see a large red Subscribe button on the mass page on You Tube)



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A FAIRTRADE PARISH

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5th Sunday of Lent - Sunday 29th March Cycle A

The Good News we live by is a message of life. The Spirit of life, which hovered over creation at its very beginning, has been given to us. That Spirit calls us together now to sing the praises of the God from whom all life comes.



First Reading

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Only the Lord can raise the dead to life.

Second Reading

Romans 8:8-11

The Spirit of God – the Spirit of life – has made a home in us.

Gospel

John 11:1-45

Jesus tells us that whoever believes in him will never die.

Responsorial psalm

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.



The Catholic press last weekend contained much repetition of problems and the measures taken to remedy the evil of covid19. By the time the presses rolled events and rulings had overtaken them. To an extent we are still at that stage. Now we are in lock-down. I thank God that in the past half-century he has given us a huge benefit in the equipment to navigate the airwaves. And so in the safety of our armchairs we know what is happening moment by moment and the exertions to protect us. We have heard laments about the evils of social media. We relish the present boon.

You might think that God is reminding us of the most basic of our human needs: the need to worship. When Noah finally came to ground his first thought was to offer sacrifice. Animals carefully preserved to re-generate the cosmic order of living things were destroyed in sacrifice to God.

We are creatures now convinced of our ability to overcome by our skills any obstacle, yet in the deepest essentials we are totally dependent on God. To him we must respond, or else perish in the gloom.

When Bishop Alan came back from the bishops' quinquennial meeting with the Pope he repeatedly passed on to us priests the Pope's instruction: "Give 5 days to your work. Take one for yourselves. Give the other to God". The 3rd commandment does not say: *Go to Mass*. It says *Make holy the Sabbath day*. Very few of us are cut out to be hermits. Now we cannot escape living at least a measure of that life. But surely this is one of God's purposes in allowing his creature covid19 to ravage us.

Jonathan Sachs – formerly Chief Rabbi and held to be the spiritual leader of his time in London wrote powerfully and optimistically at the weekend. "The 20th Century witnessed a vast extension of the power and presence of the state... It meant the atrophy of many local institutions from the family outwards, where people learned the give-and-take of human relationships and the subtle codes of civility without which it is difficult for people to live closely for very long. The displacement of the community by the state meant the replacement of morality by politics."

He sees the dominance of this political hegemony to be threadbare.

Instead:

"Morality matters because we believe that some essentials – love, marriage, parenthood – are so central to our being that we seek to endow them with as much permanence as possible in this unpredictable and transitory life." "there are achievements we cannot reach without the collaborative bonds of civil society and the virtues that alone make such a society possible.

These truths, undervalued for a generation, are the cultural climate we now need. They are about to become vital again."

He gives us a pointer to how we may be the evangelists of a different world when the virus abates.



Prayer

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, hail our life, our sweetness and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears! Turn, then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Mass Intentions

We shall continue to offer masses as you requested. The principal intention for this week are:

Sunday 29th March

People of the parish
Catherine Fitzpatrick anniv
John Vernon anniv

Monday 30th March

Michael Doherty RIP
Paulette Baya RIP

Tuesday 31st March

Sr Kathleen Diamond
Tina Pinagli Ferrari RIP

Wednesday 1st April

Catherine Duggan surgery
Deceased of Hagger family

Thursday 2nd April

Eric Dourado RIP
Trinity intentions

Friday 3rd April

Velin Bajilov RIP

Saturday 4th April

Sr Anne Therese Maunsell RIP

Sunday 5th April

John Andrews RIP
Frank Fitzpatrick RIP
People of the parish



Baptism Congratulations

The following children were baptised at St Thomas' in March we welcome them into our community

Daniel James Miller
Harry James Stabrawa
Jason & Ayris Dodaj
Miguel Vadher-Aranjo

Parish News

Our Communications Team has set up a new email group (Parish News) to enable improved Parish Communication, especially important during these difficult times. This group will be used by the Parish Office to communicate information directly to all Parishioners. Anyone who has not yet joined may do so by mailing communications@stthomaswoodford.org Please note that Parish News is set up only to send information. Any email correspondence should be addressed, as normal to parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org

Holy Week

We hope to stream some of the Holy Week services. We will update you on this next week

Trinity Vacancies

- Deputy Head teacher
- Director of Religious Education
- Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Spanish Teacher

Please visit the school website for more information