

Lately Dead:
Margaret (Peggy) Carrig

Anniversaries:
Josefa Vargas; Gerald Vassallo; John Vernon; Hannah Waite; Pauline Walker; Eillen Went; Stanley Western; Winnie Wilcox, Jonathan Wingate-Whyte, Elieizabeth Wipijeski; Billy Yip, Braz Joseph De Sa; Josefa Vargas, Gerald Vassallo, John Vernon, Hannah Waite, Pauline Walker, Eileen Went, Stanley Western, Winnie Wilcox, Jonathan Wingate-Whyte, Elieizabeth Wipijeski, Billy Yip, Braz Joseph De Sa, Sister Maurita O'Leary, Danny O'Leary, Lajos Szukics, Michael Millar, Mary Sullivan, Richard Routledge, Sister Mary Halligan, Vera Butler, Alice Bryant, Harry Kenyon, Raymond Stokes, Sam Sebutt, Mary Tucker, Rosa Meriano, Francis Jackson, Sadie Van-Boolen, John Walsh, Harold Clisset, Francis Daly, Kathleen McCarthy, Theodore De Freitas, Bruna Walker, Joan Looney, Angela Barrett, Claude Barnes, Arthur Smith, Maria O'Grady.

TENNIS CLUB FLOODLIGHTS

Members, past, present and (potentially) future are invited to join us at 7pm this Monday for the formal switch-on of our new floodlights. Walk past the Friary rose garden to find us.

Refreshments after 10am Mass, Tuesday, 31 March

Join us in the William Scott room after 10am mass.

Parish Office

The Parish office will be **closed** on Good Friday, 3rd April and Easter Monday, 6th April

HOLY WEEK

Maunder Thursday 2nd April

No morning Mass.

Morning prayer at 10.00am.

Mass of the Lord's Supper will take place at **8.00pm** at St Thomas' and Chigwell

Good Friday – 3rd April

Today is the only day in the church's calendar when Mass is not celebrated.

Morning Prayer at 10.00am

Stations of the Cross for children at 10.30am and 7.30pm

Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion at 3.00pm

Holy Saturday 4th April

Morning Prayer at 10.00am

Blessing of the Food at 11.00am

St Thomas' and Chigwell Saturday evening Mass at 6.00pm is **replaced** by the **Easter Vigil** at **8.00pm**

Resurrection of the Lord, Easter Sunday 5th April

Masses at 8.30am; 10.00am & 11.30am
Chigwell at 10.00am

LENTEN LUNCHEs

Thank you to Diana Turpin and Sheelagh Hunter for organising Lenten lunches and everyone who made this year **such** a success!

ALPHA

The ALPHA course has now concluded. Thank you to Peter Robson and Elizabeth for arranging the course.

Second Collection—Holy Places

A second collection will take place after mass on Friday, 3rd April.

St Vincent De Paul Society

Are you in urgent need – financial or other? Call us on 07547 491067 and leave a message. We will call you back.

CAMP WILD

St Aubyn's School 30th March—17th April. For more information please contact info@camp-wild.co.uk



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Parish Office: 020 8504 1686

Friary: 020 8504 1688

Email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org



Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org

Facebook: @STOCWoodford

Twitter: @STOCWoodford



PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (A) SUNDAY 29TH MARCH 2026

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

Today, we gather to celebrate the reign of our heavenly King, Jesus. We participate in welcoming him into our towns, our homes and our lives and we recognise that God's way is the path we follow. Through the prophecies which Jesus fulfils, we realise that God has a plan for our good. We come together again to receive sustenance for our continuing journey, playing our part in God's unfolding plan.

First reading Isaiah 50:4-7

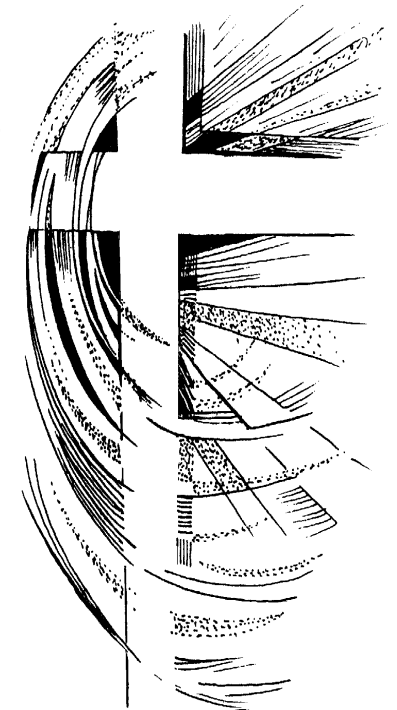
Part of the "Suffering Servant" poems, which show the incredible faithfulness of the one who suffers. It shows how they trust God's plan. We see echoes of Jesus' suffering and death throughout all of these poems, which demonstrate his humility and strength.

Responsorial Psalm

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

Second Reading Philippians 2:6-11

Paul writes passionately and poetically about Jesus' nature and his suffering and death. He shows how through Jesus' actions and the grace of God, Jesus is elevated to rule as our King.



The next newsletter will be published on Sunday 12th April.
May we wish you all a Happy Holy Easter.

PALM SUNDAY -A DAY WITH A SUDDEN CHANGE OF MOOD!

Jesus enters Jerusalem. The crowd of disciples accompanies him in festive mood, their garments are stretched out before him, there is talk of the miracles he has accomplished, and loud praises are heard: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" (Lk 19:38). Crowds, celebrating, praise, blessing, peace: joy fills the air. Jesus has awakened great hopes, especially in the hearts of the simple, the humble, the poor, the forgotten, those who do not matter in the eyes of the world. He understands human sufferings, he has shown the face of God's mercy, and he has bent down to heal body and soul. This is Jesus. This is his heart which looks to all of us, to our sicknesses, to our sins. The love of Jesus is great. And thus, he enters Jerusalem, with this love, and looks at us. It is a beautiful scene, full of light - the light of the love of Jesus, the love of his heart - of joy, of celebration. At the beginning of Mass, we too repeated it. We waved our palms, our olive branches. We too welcomed Jesus; we too expressed our joy at accompanying him, at knowing him to be close, present in us and among us as a friend, a brother, and also as a King: that is, a shining beacon for our lives. Jesus is God, but he lowered himself to walk with us. He is our friend, our brother. He illumines our path here. And in this way we have welcomed him today. And here the first word that I wish to say to you: *joy!* Do not be men and women of sadness: a Christian can never be sad! Never give way to discouragement! Ours is not a joy born of having many possessions, but from having encountered a Person: Jesus, in our midst; it is born from knowing that with him we are never alone, even at difficult moments, even when our life's journey comes up against problems and obstacles that seem insurmountable, and there are so many of them! And in this moment the enemy, [the devil](#), comes, often disguised as an angel, and slyly speaks his word to us. Do not listen to him! Let us follow Jesus! We accompany, we follow Jesus, but above all we know that he accompanies us and carries us on his shoulders. This is our joy, this is the hope that we must bring to this world. Please do not let yourselves be robbed of hope! Do not let hope be stolen! The hope that Jesus gives us.

The second word. Why does Jesus enter Jerusalem? Or better: how does Jesus enter Jerusalem? The crowds acclaim him as King. And he does not deny it, he does not tell them to be silent (cf. Lk 19:39-40). But what kind of a King is Jesus? Let us take a look at him: he is riding on a donkey, he is not accompanied by a court, he is not surrounded by an army as a symbol of power. He is received by humble people, simple folk who have the sense to see something more in Jesus; they have that sense of the faith which says: here is the Saviour. Jesus does not enter the Holy City to receive the honours reserved to earthly kings, to the powerful, to rulers; he enters to be scourged, insulted and abused, as Isaiah foretold in the First Reading (cf. Is 50:6). He enters to receive a crown of thorns, a staff, a purple robe: his kingship becomes an object of derision. He enters to climb Calvary, carrying his burden of wood. And this brings us to the second word: *Cross*. Jesus enters Jerusalem in order to die on the Cross. And it is precisely here that his kingship shines forth in godly fashion: his royal throne is the wood of the Cross! It reminds me of what [Benedict XVI](#) said to the Cardinals: you are princes, but of a king crucified. That is the throne of Jesus. Jesus takes it upon himself... And – as each one of us knows and is aware - our personal sins: our failures in love and respect towards God, towards our neighbour and towards the whole of creation. Jesus on the Cross feels the whole weight of the evil, and with the force of God's love he conquers it, he defeats it with his resurrection. This is the good that Jesus does for us on the throne of the Cross. Christ's Cross embraced with love never leads to sadness, but to joy, to the joy of having been saved and of doing a little of what he did on the day of his death.

POPE FRANCIS

**** VOLUNTEERS NEEDED *****
READERS for the Easter Masses; **6** or more **VOLUNTEERS** to take part in **Washing of the Feet** (Maundy Thursday); **USHERS** to help at the **8.00pm** mass for Holy Saturday. Please add your name to the list at the back of the church if you can help.



Mass Intentions

29th March—12th April

Sunday 29th March

8.30am - CWL special mass
10am - Sam Chandradasa RIP
11.30 - Kevin O'Sullivan
Margaret Mary Brown RIP

Monday 30th March

Annie Teresa Hoban RIP
Julian Goode RIP

Tuesday 31st March

Antonio Santini
Sr Mary Slaven RIP

Wednesday 1st April

C.W.L
Mary Frances Derbyshire anniversary

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

8pm Community & benefactors

Good Friday No Mass

Holy Saturday 4th April

8pm - Community & benefactors
Deceased sisters SHJM

Easter Sunday 5th April

8.30am -Maria & Paola Pellici
10am Norman Picton (very ill)
11.30am - Anne Ross

Monday 6th April

Ros Macpherson
Ciaran Leonard

Tuesday 7th April

Nicholas & Maria Brady
Anne Harrison RIP

Wednesday 8th April

Barbara Leppert RIP
Galvin family deceased

Thursday 9th April

Lucy Paul RIP
Sr Maria Goretti RIP

Friday 10th April

Iona Constantine RIP
Grandchildren

Saturday 11th April

10am Teresa Davies RIP
6pm David Holby sick

Sunday 12th April

8.30am - Sr M Fay Gilhooley RIP
10am - Peggy Carrig RIP
11.30am - John Burnham RIP

Easter donations to the Friars

Gift Aid envelopes will be available at the back of the church for those who wish to make a donation to the Friars. Please use the envelopes if you would like to Gift Aid your donation. Thank you for your generosity.

Church Cleaning

Thursday, 2nd April at 9.00am

Sue Mansbridge, Jackie John, Mary Charter, Srimathie Crusz, Margaret Parkinson, Chelsea Chaplin.

Young Person looking for work

Responsible and reliable 16 yr old Trinity student looking for babysitting/childcare jobs in the local area. If interested, please contact Jackie (mum) in the first instance on [07835094221](tel:07835094221)

VACANCIES 2026

Trinity Catholic High School

- * Cover Supervisor - F/T, Permanent;
- * Cover Manager, F/T, Permanent, ASAP;
- * Teacher of RE, F/T, Permanent, April;
- * 2nd in Charge of RE, F/T, Permanent;
- * Teacher of Business F/T or P/T;
- * Teacher of Geography, F/T, Permanent.

Holy Communion Masses 2026

Calling all Sacristans, Readers,

Ministers of Communion, Altar Servers

Between 9th May & 13th June there will be first holy communion masses on Saturdays at 11.30am. Please contact the parish office if you can assist in any of the above roles.

