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SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE (B) (PAGE XXX)

Sunday 24th November
Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe/National Youth Sunday
 (This the last Sunday of the Church's Year)
 08.30 Mass for O'Connor Family (RIP) (Parnell) (Fr M)
 10.30 Mass for George De Silva RIP (Fr L)
 Children's Liturgy
 Refreshments in hall
 17.30 Mass for Pauline Viegas (Fr M)
Retiring Collection for Catholic Youth Services
 Today we will celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries at every Mass.

Monday 25th November
St Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr
No Mass
 Fr Michael's 46th Anniversary of Priestly Ordination

Tuesday 26th November **Feria**
No Mass
 12.00 Mass for Deceased Clergy (Our Lady of the Rosary, Blackfen)

Wednesday 27th November **Feria**
 09.00 Mass for all forgotten souls (Antao) (Fr L)

Thursday 28th November **Feria**
 09.00 Liturgy of the Word/Eucharistic Service

Friday 29th November
Saints Cuthbert Mayne and Companions, Martyrs
 09.00 Mass for Catarina Martins RIP (D'Costa) (Fr M)
 Adoration until 10.00am
 Confessions straight after the Blessed Sacrament is exposed

Saturday 30th November
Feast of Saint Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland
 10.00 Mass for Armando Pereira RIP (Anniv) (Pereira) (Fr L)
 Confessions until 11.00am
A Happy Feast Day to all our Scottish Parishioners

LITURGICAL YEAR 2024-2025
THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Sunday 1st December
First Sunday of Advent (Year C)
 08.30 Mass for Elvin Antao RIP (Fr L)
 10.30 Mass for Judith Opok RIP and Deceased Family Members (Fr M)
 Children's Liturgy
 Refreshments in hall
 17.30 Mass for Lillian Viegas (Fr L)

NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

Rest in Peace: Bishop John Hine [retired] who died peacefully on Saturday 16th November. Bishop John became the Chancellor of our Archdiocese and lived at St George's Cathedral more than 30 years ago. I met him there when I was Assistant Priest at the Cathedral. He lived in Archbishop's House, which was posher than Clergy House. I did not really get to know him well. Later on he was ordained as Auxiliary Bishop and worked in Kent. He came to St John Vianney once. He was very involved with Marriage Encounter and worked with lots of married couples, among whom were Oscar and Gemma Braganza and the Jones's who are now in Ireland. When Oscar and Gemma's daughter Cheryl died he celebrated the Funeral Mass here. He was also a keen golfer. On retirement as Bishop he became Parish Priest of Tenterden, near Ashford, Kent. He was certainly a man of prayer and a good priest and Bishop. May he rest in Peace and rise in glory.

Rest in Peace: James (Seamus) McKernan of Harcourt Road died on 14th November. He had lived for five years with his son David and his wife in Chislehurst. Seamus was 88 and a great favourite at his local Day Centre. He was a jolly man with a big smile. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. His funeral will be at St John Vianney on Thursday 12th December at 11.00am, followed by Cremation at Eltham at 12.30pm.

Today is The Feast of Christ The King of the Universe and Youth Sunday and there is a retiring collection for Catholic Youth. This supports youth work in the Diocese and beyond.

November is the month of the Holy Souls when we pray especially for those of our loved ones who have died. Envelopes are available in the porch for you to place inside the names of your loved ones you would like us to pray for. Please place these in the basket at the foot of the altar. There is no need to enclose any money but if you do, it will be used for Masses for the Holy Souls. If you want a Mass intention for a particular member of your family, then please use the usual Mass Intention envelopes.

Next Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent (Year C) and we will start using the new Parish Mass Books. We ask that readers only take a copy home, so that they can practice for their week. If you would like to contribute to the cost of us purchasing these missals, donations can be made via BACs, stating "Missals". Alternatively, donations can be made via the Offertory, but please mark the envelope "Missals". Thank you to those parishioners who have kindly donated already.

Bereavement Group: Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd December, 7.00-8.00pm. Mary and Maura

Advent items to buy in the porch: "Walk with Me Booklets" - £1.00 each "Children's Jubilee Advent Calendar" - 30p each. Donations for these items to be put in the wall safe. Thank you.

Repository: We have Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars, Cribbs, Decorations and many more items on sale in our Repository. We take cash or payment can be made via the card machine under "Repository". It is usually open at 8.30am and 10.30am Mass.

First Holy Communion 2025: Please remember the deadline is 1st December. See Fr Michael or Fr Luke for a registration form.

Praying the Mass with Archbishop John: Some may be returning to Mass. For others Mass, is the cornerstone of their spiritual lives. To help people, wherever they are on their spiritual journey, Archbishop John has recorded a message (tinyurl.com/prayingthemass) which guides us on how to pray through the Mass.

Poppy Appeal: We raised £25.42 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Thank you.

Mass for Deceased Clergy in our Deanery: will be on Tuesday 26th November at 12.00noon at Our Lady of the Rosary, Blackfen.

Baptism Buddies: Thank you to the parishioners who have volunteered for the Baptisms in December.

Please pray for the sick and those in special need of your prayers: Alan and Rene Fisher, Baby Jemima Rita James, Fr Jeff, Shirley Angerer, Josephine Treloar, Jacqueline Downey, Noreen Lambe, Steve Smith, Annie and Gerry McDonagh Snr, Gerry McDonagh Jnr and Martin McDonagh, Keith Smith, Samantha Butler, Carole, Dean McClumpha, Mrs Chris Lynch, Ashleigh, Fr Michael, Kathy Blakemore, Kirsty, Robin Robinson, Alice, John Moore, Pauline Viegas, Deirdre Collins, Susan Dassanyake, Nuala Pawley, Helena Riley, Richard Whiteside, Sally Pain, Florrie Pereira, Fr John Ryan (former Parish Priest of Crayford), Jo O'Donnell, Matthew Butler, Nadia Sheehy, Steve Pitt, Goretti Stone, Little Buster Sprules, David Collison, Christine Edwards, Santana Fernandes, Maria Pereira, Leonie Viegas, Paul Robson, Jack Goodrich, Gloria Slaney, Andy Wansbury and Roy Miller

Hiring of Hall: Please contact Sarah Tremain: 020 8301 2103.

Receiving electronic newsletter: Please email bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OFFERTORY DONATION:

Offertory Basket / Card Machine in the porch.

Payment online: Account No: 21089620 **Sort Code:** 51-70-14 **Account Name:** RCAS Bexleyheath

Please do consider Gift Aiding your donation if you are a taxpayer. Forms are available in the porch beside the booklet rack.

Basket Collection, Card Machine Collection and Standing Orders received.

Card Machine: Apologies for the card machine being out of action last week. We now have a SIMs contract which will avoid this happening again. Happy donating! Cath

Polite Reminder: Please remember to switch your phone off or put it on silent when you're at Mass. Thank you.

St Thomas More Christmas Fair Saturday 30th November in the hall from 12noon: Come along and sell your handmade crafts £12 a pitch/table or free pitch/table if sales are donated to the church – Contact bostallpark@rcaos.org.uk to book your space. • Wear a Christmas jumper and get a free gift • Santa's Grotto • Handmade Crafts • Mince Pies • Mulled Wine • plus lots more.

Mens' Spiritual Exercises, 31 March – 5 April 2025: A 5-day version of the Ignatian Exercises offered specifically for men (whether lay or ordained), this retreat will be preached by the Benedictine Monks of St Joseph's Abbey, France. Founded in 1988, this community has retained its charism of a specific apostolate to men and of engaging them through a shortened version of the Ignatian Exercises. One-to-one direction will be offered alongside the talks. Priests are welcome to attend and concelebrate or celebrate their own Mass. For more information and to book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/mens-spiritual-exercises/>

Days with Mary: St Mary's, Wellesley Road, Croydon on Saturday 7th December and St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road on Saturday 14th December (See posters for more information)

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, Sheldon Road, Bexleyheath: is holding Open Mornings for prospective parents looking for a place in September Reception 2025-2026 on the following dates: 3rd December and 14th January 2025. All open mornings commence at 9.30am.

Job Vacancies at St Catherine's Catholic School: St Catherine's is looking to appoint a SENDCo member of staff and also a Learning Support Assistant. Please see job descriptions on noticeboard in the porch.

CAFOD Christmas Gifts: If you're struggling to buy someone a Christmas gift, how about donating something to CAFOD? Their Christmas Catalogue is available in the porch. Please take a copy.

Food Bank Items: We shall now resume collecting items for our local food banks, Trinity Baptist Church and Devonshire Road.

Assisted Suicide: A bill has been introduced to Parliament by Kim Leadbeater MP to legalise assisted suicide. This will be voted on by MPs on 29th November. We know that assisted suicide laws in other jurisdictions have had devastating consequences for the poor, disabled and marginalised. This is the biggest threat to the vulnerable in a decade, and we need a huge effort to lobby MPs to vote against the bill. Please urgently contact your MP and ask him/her to vote against the bill. You can contact your MP by visiting www.livesworthyliving.org.uk or write to him/her at: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

If you or someone you know is pregnant and looking for an empowering antenatal class, parishioner Stephanie Braganza holds local hypnobirthing classes. Hypnobirthing focuses on relaxation during pregnancy, labour and birth but classes focus on all aspects of labour and birth with the aim of making mum and her birth partner feel empowered and excited. All classes have pay-what-you-can slots available, no questions asked. The next classes are on the 16th, 17th, 23rd and 24th of November, 10.30-12.30pm at the Danson Children's Centre, Bexleyheath. Find out more at littlegreenleaf.co.uk or by emailing info@littlegreenleaf.co.uk.

Beware of Scammers – Message from Diocese ICT Department: We'd like to bring to your attention a concerning rise in scam emails targeting our parishioners. These emails impersonate the parish priest, often using a similar email name and masking the real email address. They typically request the recipient to purchase Amazon or other gift cards as gifts for the priest.

Unfortunately, we have received reports of parishioners falling victim to these scams, with some individuals losing up to £600 to the fraudsters.

- Never to purchase gift cards as gifts for the parish priest, based on an email request, unless they have verified the request directly in person or through a trusted means.

- To double-check any suspicious email by directly contacting the parish office.

- To avoid sharing personal or financial information in response to unsolicited emails.

If you or your parishioners encounter these emails, please encourage them to report them as spam and inform the parish office immediately.

***** AUTUMN FAYRE *****

A big thanks to everyone who came along and supported yesterday's Autumn Fayre and huge thanks to all of you who gave up their time to help. For those of you who were unable to make it...., never fret, you can still have a chance to grab a bargain after 10.30am mass today. Raffle tickets will be on sale from next Sunday 1st December.

You will find an envelope containing five strips of raffle tickets attached to the newsletter for you to complete and return. The cost will be £1 per strip, (a strip is five tickets), for your chance to win one of the fabulous prizes. We ask that you please write your name and contact number on **EACH** ticket.

Place all completed tickets and money in the envelope provided and drop it in the bucket which is in the church porch. The raffle prizes are as follows: **First prize** – Your choice of 4 tickets for **ONE** of the following events a) An England cricket International; b) Royal Ascot; c) Cheltenham National Hunt Festival.

Second prize – A food hamper; **Third prize** – Three bottles of spirits; **Fourth prize** – A Freixenet ice bucket with Prosecco and glasses; **Fifth prize** – Crystal cut decanter; **Sixth prize** – Bottle of Baileys; **Seventh prize** – Box of M & S Belgian Chocolate luxury biscuits.

The draw for the raffle will take place in the church hall after 10:30 Mass on Sunday 15th December. Once again, many thanks for all your help and support and good luck in the raffle!