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**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) (PAGE 84)**

**LITURGICAL YEAR 2024-2025 – THE SEASON OF ADVENT**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

**Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)**

- 08.30 Mass In Thanksgiving (De Souza) (Fr M)
- 10.30 Mass for Camilo De Souza RIP (D'Costa) (Fr L)  
 Children's Liturgy  
 Refreshments in hall
- 17.30 Mass for Fr James Malone RIP (FOUNDATION) (Fr L)

*Today we will celebrate the Asperges (Sprinkling with Holy Water) at all Masses.*

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December**

**The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary**

- 09.00 Mass for Holy Souls (Fr L)

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

**Feria of Advent**

**No** Mass

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December**

**Feria of Advent**

- 09.00 Mass for Francis Pereira RIP (De Souza) (Fr L)

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December**

**Feria of Advent**

**No** Liturgy of the Word/Eucharistic Service

- 11.00 Requiem Mass for Seamus McKernan (parking available in Heathfield Road on single yellow lines)
- 12.30 Eltham Crematorium

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December**

**Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**

- 09.00 Mass for Derek Butler RIP (25<sup>th</sup> Anniv) (Fr M)  
 Adoration until 10.00am  
 Confessions straight after the Blessed Sacrament is exposed

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December**

**Saint John of the Cross,**

**Priest and Doctor of the Church**

Day with Mary at St George's Cathedral

- 10.00 Mass for Richard Slaney RIP (Fr L)  
 Confessions until 11.00am
- 13.00 Baptism of Sophia Rose Perks (Fr M)

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December**

**Third Sunday of Advent/Gaudete Sunday**

- 08.30 Mass in Thanksgiving for all the Blessings (Jose) (Fr L)
- 10.30 Mass for Deceased de Silva Family Members (Josephine) (Fr M)  
 Children's Liturgy  
 Refreshments in hall and Raffle Draw taking place
- 17.30 Mass for Noreen Lambe (Kelly) (Fr L)

**Second Sunday of Advent:** Today we celebrate the Asperges or Sprinkling with Holy Water at all Masses. This is a reminder of our baptism and has a penitential aspect too. This Sunday and next we focus on John the Baptist who was sent by God to prepare the way for the Messiah and baptised Jesus in the Jordan. He straddles these two Sundays of Advent like a Colossus. John has a foot in the Old Testament and the New. He is both prophet and witness to Christ. He is the voice crying in the wilderness spoken of by Isaiah. St Luke gives him a really impressive introduction, placing him in the context of both the religious and political situation. He is truly an historical person who existed. John's whole ministry is to be a signpost pointing to Christ. We too must point to Christ by the way we live and behave.

**Advent Wreath:** Today we will light our second purple candle. Our wreath has five candles: three purple, one pink and one white. The pink is for Gaudete Sunday (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday) and the white candle is lit at Christmas for Christ. Each week we will ask a child to light the candle of that Sunday and then we will sing our Candle Song. The Advent Wreath with its greenery is a symbol of our Advent hope and our countdown to Christmas.

**The Jesse Tree** is a bare branch in a pot which we decorate with symbols each week. Symbols are people and events from our Salvation History. Children colour in these symbols during their own Liturgy in the hall and bring them up at the Preparation of the Gifts (as in previous years). The Jesse Tree is depicted in medieval art as the ancestry tree of Jesus. It is named after Jesse, (not the cowboy) the father of King David. Jess is usually shown asleep on the ground and tree growing from his loins. On this tree in stained glass windows you can see the prophets as well as Mary and then Jesus. Some trees, like ours, go back to Adam and Eve. It is a good way of learning Bible stories and connecting them together in the history of our Salvation. *This week's symbols are: Joseph, Moses and Ruth*

**Advent "Walk with Me" booklets** are available in the porch to buy at £1.00 each, together with the Children's Advent Calendar at 30p each. Please put money in the wall box labelled "cards etc." Thank you.

**Donations of Holly:** Now is the time to bring in your donations of holly to enable us to decorate the church. Please put in a black bag and leave in the room where the servers get ready. Thank you.

**Decorating for Christmas:** We will be decorating the church and tree on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December after 9.00am Mass. If you can spare some time, please do come along and join the festivities as we prepare the Way for Our Lord.

**Volunteering at Christmas:** Our lists are on the noticeboard in the porch for you to sign up as a Welcomer, Reader, EM, Altar Server for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We encourage you to put your name down. Thank you in advance.

**MASSES AT CHRISTMAS**

**Christmas Eve:** 6.00pm First Mass of Christmas (especially for children) (Fr M)

9.30pm Carol Service & 10.00pm Christmas Night Mass (Fr L)

**Christmas Day:** 9.30am The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Fr M/Fr L)

**Please note** there is **no Midnight Mass** on Christmas Eve and **no evening Mass** on Christmas Day. Please ensure you take a copy of the Christmas Programme.

**Extra Masses:** As we are fortunate to have Fr Luke currently with us, we have decided to resume Masses on Tuesdays and Thursdays and any special days, in addition to our current Masses. This means that we will now have Mass on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. This will start in the New Year.

**Offertory Figures for November**

Date	Basket	Gift Aid	Loose	S/Orders	Card	Total
3.11.24	567.60	179.00	388.60			
10.11.24	595.29	176.00	419.29			
17.11.24	467.86	141.00	326.86			
24.11.24	462.55	195.00	267.55			
	<b>2,093.30</b>	<b>691.00</b>	<b>2,784.30</b>	<b>1997.67</b>	<b>182.00</b>	<b>5,656.97</b>

**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](mailto: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.

**Readers' Rotas:** January – February 2025: These are available in the porch to collect.

**The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary:** Fr Luke will say Mass at 9.00am on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December at St John Vianney.

**Repository:** We have Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars, Cribs, 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.

**Food Bank Items:** It would greatly be appreciated if you could donate any food items to support our local food banks at Trinity Place and Devonshire Road. Usual items are needed, tinned meat and fish, pasta and pasta sauces, long life milk, rice, etc... With Christmas looming, if you can spare some nice treats too, that would be amazing. Maybe a selection box, tub of sweets or fancy biscuits. These items are a luxury to those who use the banks.

**St Thomas More Catholic Primary School's** last Open Morning is on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 9.30am.

**Men's 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/>

**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.

**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 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of November, 10.30-12.30pm at the Danson Children's Centre, Bexleyheath. Find out more at [littlegreenleaf.co.uk](http://littlegreenleaf.co.uk) or by emailing [info@littlegreenleaf.co.uk](mailto:info@littlegreenleaf.co.uk).

**The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Retreat** at All Saints Church 531 Kenton Road Kenton London HA3 0UL on the corner of Claremont Avenue; 600 yards west of Kingsbury Circus/Kingsbury TfL Station, via Bus 183 on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2024 from 1pm to 4.30pm. The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Holy Rosary, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. For more info call Millie on [07957594646](tel:07957594646). No need to register for retreat.

**\*\*\*\*\* CHRISTMAS RAFFLE \*\*\*\*\***

Once again, a big thank you to everyone who supported this year's Autumn Fayre. To date we have banked £876.28.

We now move onto the raffle, which will be drawn in the church hall, after 10:30 Mass on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December**.

The cost will be £1 per strip of 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 that you purchase. 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.

Once again, many thanks for all your support and good luck in the raffle.