

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Michael Jones
Email: michaeljones@rcaos.org.uk
ASSISTANT PRIEST: Fr Luke Malunze
Email: lukemalunze@rcaos.org.uk
PARISH SECRETARY: CATH BIRD
Parish Office Email bexlevheath@rcaos.org.uk
Parish Website: www.StJohnVianney-Bexlevheath.org
Tel: 020 8303 1957

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES:
CATH BIRD
Email: bexlevheathsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
Tel: 07444 060578
LENA PETT
Email: bexlevheathsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
Tel: 07444 060577

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT/GAUDETE SUNDAY (YEAR C) (PAGE 87)

LITURGICAL YEAR 2024-2025 – THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Sunday 15th 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 RIP (Kelly) (Fr L)

Monday 16th December **Feria of Advent**
No Mass

Tuesday 17th December **Feria of Advent**
No Mass
 The second phase of Advent begins today when we focus on the birth of the Saviour

Wednesday 18th December **Feria of Advent**
 09.00 Mass for Muriel D’Souza RIP (D’ Costa) (Fr L)
 Decoration of the church after Mass

Thursday 19th December **Feria of Advent**
 09.00 Liturgy of the Word/Eucharistic Service

Friday 20th December **Feria of Advent**
 09.00 Mass for Deceased Members of Davis Family (Casarini) (Fr M)
 Adoration until 10.00am
 Confessions straight after the Blessed Sacrament is exposed

Saturday 21st December **Feria of Advent**
 10.00 Mass for Gaspar Viegas RIP (Pauline) (Fr L)
 Confessions until 11.00am

Sunday 22nd December
 align="center">**Fourth Sunday of Advent/
 Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers**

- 08.30 Mass for Margaret & Patrick Parker (Fr M)
- 10.30 Mass for Joe Mendes RIP (D’Costa) (Fr L)
Children’s Liturgy
Refreshments in hall
- 17.30 Mass for Deceased Friends of Coroi Family (Fr M)

Retiring Collection for flowers for Christmas

Today is Gaudete Sunday when we rejoice that the Lord’s birth is near. We wear rose vestments and light the pink candle on our Advent wreath. We can also have a few flowers. On 17th December we enter the second part of Advent and move from focussing on the Second Coming of Jesus to his First Coming at Christmas. The weekday readings are special to each day and build up to the Christmas story. Gaudete means rejoice and so we do!

The Jesse Tree: Today at Children’s Liturgy the children will be colouring in symbols of David (Harp), Emmanuel (Lamb/Wolf) and Micah (City).

Rest in Peace Noreen Lambe: Sadly, Noreen died last weekend after some months of failing health. She was always petite but became very frail. She and her husband Gerry, who died a couple of years ago, were very committed and practising Catholics. I remember them arm in arm coming out of 10.30 Mass. One of Noreen’s daughters, Jenny, works in the Presbytery and has kept us informed about her Mother and given her our love and prayers. Noreen was a lovely Irish lady who always corrected me if I called her Norah by mistake. We offer our deepest sympathy to her children and grandchildren. She had fought the good fight and it was her time to go and meet the Lord and be reunited with Gerry. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Congratulations to Henry William Page who was baptised last weekend. He is three years old and behaved impeccably, not even flinching when the cold water was poured on his head. His Mother Daisy will be received into the Catholic Church in the New Year.

Carol Service: On Wednesday 4th December we welcomed the children, teachers and parents of St Thomas More School to our church for the Year 3 and Year 4 carol services. Fr Michael, Fr Luke and Cath were present. Both services were very enjoyable. The children read clearly and sang the carols with gusto. The carols were not the traditional ones but more modern. We loved them, especially those with a Country and Western style and Jazzy style. The Headteacher Mrs Lodge welcomed everyone and thanked the children. It was lovely seeing the young children in our church. Sitting through two services was a delight not a penance. Fr Michael especially found the whole evening moving and wonderful. It was the ideal preparation for Christmas.

Poinsettias: As in previous years, we would like donations of Poinsettias in memory of a loved one. Please leave donations in the porch or servers’ room. Thank you.

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 18th 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.

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, 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.

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

Catholic Directory 2025: Copies are available to purchase in the porch at a cost of £7.50 each. Please make payment either in the "CTS" wall safe or pay by card at the machine, selecting "Repository". Thank you.

Christmas Posters: As is customary, the Brothers of The Knights of St Columba will be handing out Christmas Posters in the run up to Christmas this Sunday at Mass and next Sunday 22nd December.

Message from Cath on Bexley Winter Shelter: Dear all, some of you may know that as well as volunteering, I'm a Trustee of the Bexley Winter Shelter. BWS operates during January to March, (which is usually the coldest months), to offer accommodation to the homeless in Bexleyheath and supply a hot meal of an evening at various venues in Bexleyheath. On a Friday evening, St John Vianney's hall is used to offer fish and chips to these guests and spend time with them, maybe playing cards or just chatting and listening to them. We offer a friendly environment where the guests can come and stock up on items they made need e.g. toiletries, underwear, warm clothing, among some of the items.

Firstly, I'm appealing to see if anyone is willing to volunteer on a Friday evening at StJV from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. The role involves setting out tables and chairs, putting out cutlery, organising refreshments in the kitchen, setting out tables with toiletries, clothing etc. If you feel you could offer your time, please contact me on 07989 156111 or email: caththebird@gmail.com. Alternatively, you sign up to volunteer via the Bexley Winter Shelter website.

Secondly, I'm looking for donations of warm coats for men, jumpers/sweatshirts, jogging bottoms (32", 34" and 36" waist). New socks, boxer shorts s/m/l. In addition to this, the usual toiletries: men's/ladies deodorant, small tins of Vaseline, toothbrushes/toothpaste.

Again, contact me if you have any questions you like to ask. Thank you in advance. Cath

MANNA DAY CENTRE: A day centre for homeless people & those in need www.mannasociety.org.uk. Would you like to **DOUBLE** the value of your donation (at no extra cost to yourself) this Christmas? The Aviva Community Fund have very kindly offered to match £ for £ any donation we receive (up to a maximum of £250 per donation) until Christmas Day 2024.

You can donate by clicking on the **red 'Donate'** button on our website; www.mannasociety.org.uk Many thanks & Merry Christmas!

Job Vacancy: Pastoral Support/Mentor – St Catherine's Catholic School: (See Poster for more information. Closing date Tuesday 17th December at 9am)

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 14th 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/>

Save the date: Saturday 25th January 2025 9.30am- 4.30pm Building a Better Marriage: This day, held at **St Stephen's parish hall, Welling**, starting at 9.30am until 4.30pm, is a day in which married couples can privately explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into the communication and the call of the Church to the married. There is no charge for this course. Booking is essential - please contact Carole on mflkent@rcaos.org.uk or phone 07983 524 727 Refreshments will be provided but **please bring a packed lunch**.

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 14th 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. 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 15th 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.