

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 bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk
Parish Website: www.StJohnVianney-Bexleyheath.org
Tel: 020 8303 1957

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES:
CATH BIRD
Email: bexleyheathsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
Tel: 07444 060578
LENA PETT
Email: bexleyheathsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
Tel: 07444 060577

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) (PAGE 90)

Sunday 22nd December
**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 Family & Friends of
 Coroi Family (Fr M)
Retiring Collection for flowers for Christmas
Monday 23rd December **Feria of Advent**
 09.00 Mass for Mary Agnes Aindow RIP (Fr M)
 Confessions after Mass
Tuesday 24th December **Feria of Advent**
 09.00 Mass for Holy Souls (Fr M)
 Confessions after Mass
SEASON OF CHRISTMAS
Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve
 First Mass of Christmas (especially for children)
 18.00 Mass for Deceased Members of Bird,
 Fisher & Steele Families (Cath) (Fr M)
 21.30 Carol Service
 22.00 Christmas Night Mass for Justina &
 Malcolm Pascal & Richard Slaney RIP (Fr L)
Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day
The Nativity of the Lord
 09.30 Mass for the Parishioners (Fr M & Fr L)
No Evening Mass
Thursday 26th December
Feast of St Stephen, Deacon, Martyr
 10.00 Mass for Leonie Viegas (Pauline) (Fr L)
Friday 27th December
St John the Apostle, Evangelist
 09.00 Mass for Holy Souls (Fr L)
 Adoration until 10.00am
 Confessions straight after the Blessed
 Sacrament is exposed
Saturday 28th December
Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs
 10.00 Mass for Estrelina & Mara Britto RIP
 (Pereira) (Fr L)
 Confessions until 11.00am
Sunday 29th December
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
 08.30 Mass for Seamus Dunne RIP (Harris) (Fr L)
 10.30 Mass for de Silva Family & Friends
 (Josephine) (Fr M)
 17.30 Mass for Welfare & Health of Sheryl
 Mardlin & Family (Wansbury) (Fr L)
*A Pastoral Letter will be read at all Mass Today.
 Today we will celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries at
 every Mass*

Today is the Fourth Sunday of Advent and a Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers.

Today there is a retiring collection for the flowers at Christmas.

The Jesse Tree: Today the children will be focusing on Mary and the Nativity.

Congratulations to Sophia Rose Perks who was baptised last weekend.

The Christmas Collection: Fr Michael writes: I don't usually say much about this but now we have two priests I felt I should. This collection goes to your priests. It forms a major part of their income. Priests do not get a salary but rely on the Christmas and Easter Collection, Mass Intentions and donations for funerals, baptisms and marriages (Stole fees). This parish has always had one priest until the past two years. But now we have two. I chose to share my collection with Fr Jeff even though, like me, he was on a state pension. Fr Luke has a small monthly income from the Diocese (£145) and in addition Mass Stipends. In the past the Christmas collection has been generous enough for one priest but now we need to ask you to be more generous. Every priest is entitled to £3,500 at Christmas and if the collection falls short of this he can claim the remainder. This used to be given by the Diocese but now the parish has to make up the shortfall. I have never claimed this money. Our expenses with two priests have risen considerably over the past two years with food, heating etc. so can I ask you to bear this in mind when you give your donation at Christmas. With grateful thanks. Fr Michael.

Children are encouraged to dress up for the 6.00pm Mass on Christmas Eve as Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Sheep, Angels, Stars and not forgetting a Donkey!

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.

Children's Liturgy will resume on Sunday 5th January "The Epiphany". If anyone would like to volunteer helping with our group, it would be much appreciated. Please email Cath: bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk

Our Crib offerings are supporting the Catholic Children's Society's Southwark Crisis Fund: This charity helps local families in crisis who are struggling to put food on the table, keep warm and provide a safe home for their children. There are many vulnerable families in need of support and our parish will be donating our Crib Offering to support this important work. Every penny donated will be given out via CCS's Southwark Crisis Fund to support local families in need. You can donate at the Crib or via the CCS website www.cathchild.org.uk/crib

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.

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.

<p>Monday 30th December Sixth Day of Christmas Octave No Mass</p> <p>Tuesday 31st December Seventh Day of Christmas Octave No Mass</p> <p>Wednesday 1st January 2025, New Year's Day Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God 10.00 Mass for Parishioners/Holy Souls (Fr M & Fr L)</p> <p>Thursday 2nd January 2025 Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church 09.00 Mass for Holy Souls (Fr L)</p> <p>Friday 3rd January 2025 Feria of Christmas Time 09.00 Mass for Rita Fernandes & Neseidade Dias RIP (Rego) (Fr M) Adoration until 10.00am Confessions straight after the Blessed Sacrament is exposed</p> <p>Saturday 4th January 2025 The Beatified Martyrs of the Diocese 10.00 Mass for Private Intentions (Coroi) (Fr L) Confessions until 11.00am</p> <p>Sunday 5th January 2025 The Epiphany of the Lord 08.30 Mass for Rev Alan Malone Intentions (Turner) (Fr M) 10.30 Mass for Anne & Peter Hammond (Carolan) (Fr L) Children's Liturgy resumes today Refreshments resume today 17.30 Mass for Nicholas Burke RIP (Fr M)</p>	<p>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 may 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. Volunteers need to be aged 18 or over. 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</p> <p>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!</p> <p>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 & 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.</p> <p>St Thomas More Catholic Primary School's last Open Morning is on 14th January 2025 at 9.30am.</p> <p>ST THOMAS MORE SOCIAL CLUB Join us this Christmas Eve! The bar will be open from 7PM to 10PM. Come along and support the club, let's celebrate the season together! Come to see the New Year in St Thomas More Parish Club Presents New Year's Eve Disco. A social evening for all the family, everybody welcome Tuesday 31st December 2024 8.00pm to 12.30am. Tickets Adults £10 Children free. St Thomas More Hall Long Lane DA7 5JW For more information call Jenny 07710 527692 Mary 07369 252072</p>
<p>Please pray for the sick and those in special need of your prayers: Mary McGinty, 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</p>	
<p>Hiring of Hall: We would like to thank Sarah Tremain for her many years of handling the bookings of our hall. We are truly grateful. For future bookings, please contact Cath Bird: 07989 156111 or email: bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk</p>	
<p>Receiving electronic newsletter: Please email bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>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/</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">***** AUTUMN FAYRE *****</p> <p>All the money from the Autumn Fayre and raffle has now been counted and it comes to a grand total of £1,454.28 pence. Many thanks to all who contributed prizes, items for the Fayre, helped set up, bought raffle tickets, came along to the Fayre on the day and the many other little jobs that helped the Fayre become a success. It only leaves me, on behalf of the social committee, to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">THIS NEWSLETTER COVERS THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS.</p>	

