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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (YEAR C) (PAGE 118)

Sunday 12th January
The Baptism of the Lord
 08.30 Dora & Robert Turner RIP (Fr L)
 10.30 Mass of Commitment for First Holy Communion Children/Mass for Udoalah Family Members (Ibeji) (Fr M)
 Children's Liturgy
 Refreshments in hall
 17.30 Mass in Thanksgiving (Coroi) (Fr L)
THE END OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON
Monday 13th January
Saint Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
No Mass
Tuesday 14th January **Feria**
 09.00 Mass in Thanksgiving for Malanka Cardim, Birthday (Fr L)
 09.30 St Thomas More Primary School Open Morning
Wednesday 15th January **Feria**
 09.00 Mass for God's Protection (Fr L)
Thursday 16th January **Feria**
 09.00 Mass for God's Protection (Fr L)
 Removing decorations from church after Mass
Friday 17th January
Saint Anthony, Abbot
 09.00 Mass for Noreen Lambe RIP (Pawley) (Fr M)
 Adoration until 10.00am
 Confessions straight after the Blessed Sacrament is exposed
Church Unity Octave begins on 18th
Saturday 18th January **Feria**
 10.00 Mass for David Murphy RIP (Heaney) with The Reception into the Catholic Church of Daisy Page (Fr M & Fr L)
 Confessions until 11.00am
Sunday 19th January
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time/ Peace Sunday/ White Flower Sunday
 08.30 Mass for Patrick, Sheila and Alan Ward RIP (Turner) (Fr M)
 10.00 First Communion Session
 10.30 Mass for Breeda & Davey O'Neill RIP (Fr L)
 Children's Liturgy
 Refreshments in hall
 17.30 Mass in Thanksgiving (Coroi) (Fr M)
Retiring Collection for the Society for the Protection of unborn Children (SPUC)
 There is a Pastoral Letter today
 18.30 Church Unity Service at Trinity Baptist Church

Mass of Commitment and Enrolment: We welcome our 15 First Communion children and their families as they begin their journey toward Holy Communion. Please keep them in your prayers: Leo, Florence, Maisie, Yazmyn, Braedyn, Teddy, Cailym, Joshua, Mariah, Athena, Molly, Jacob, Zenelia, Finley and Rebecca.

Daisy Page has been receiving instruction and coming to Mass for over four months and we are happy to receive her into the Catholic Church this Saturday during the 10am Mass. She will also be Confirmed and make her First Holy Communion.

Removing Decorations from Church – Thursday 16th January: It's time to take down the lovely decorations we've had up during Christmas time. We need volunteers to help with this please. If you can spare an hour or so after 9.00am Mass on the 16th to clear the church, it would be gratefully appreciated.

Update on Noreen Lambe's Funeral: Noreen will be received into St John Vianney on Thursday 23rd January at 4.00pm. Her funeral will be on Friday 24th at 10.00am followed by 11.45 at Eltham Crematorium. Parking is available in Heathfield Road **on single yellow lines only** between 9.30am and 11.30am.

White Flower Appeal 2025: The Society for the Protection of Unborn children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal next weekend. SPUC exists to radically transform culture so that abortion is not only abolished but becomes truly unthinkable. To accomplish this mission, the Society is positioning initiatives in politics, education, legislation, and culture. Through these efforts we will restore a respect for the sanctity of human life to our society. This year's appeal postcards call on the Government to adhere to the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers.

Peace Sunday – 19th January: The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Their vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, Pax Christi work with all who share their values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice". **Envelopes are available in the porch for your donations.**

The Bethlehem Nativity Group TBNG, A missionary from Bethlehem, The Holy Land, will visit us on the weekend 26th January to briefly talk about the Holy Land and sell religious articles made out of Olive Wood to help and support the poor Christian families, any help you could give to them it will be highly appreciated" (when you help the poor you help our Lord").

Children's Liturgy: Our classes are held at 10.30 Mass. Our classes are held every Sunday for children under the age of 7, or for those who haven't made their First Holy Communion yet. We teach the children how to make the sign of the cross and pray and read simple scripture readings to them. An activity is usually carried out too, if we have time. If you feel you would like to assist with this, please let one of our catechists know (the ladies who take the children out) or email Cath: bexlevheath@rcaos.org.uk. A DBS form will need to be completed and passed prior to helping. Thank you in advance. Cath

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

Please pray for the sick and those in special need of your prayers: Claire Wansbury, 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 McClumph, 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 Cath Bird: 07989 156111 or email: bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk

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

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OFFERTORY DONATION: Donations for the Offertory Collection can be made in the usual way via the basket. Alternatively, you can donate via BACs to our bank account (details below). Payments can be made for Masses this way too. You can also make payments via our card machine, located in the porch. You can also pay for Repository items, Second Collections and Candles via this method too.

Please remember to Gift Aid if you are tax payer. Forms are situated in the porch on the lefthand side as you enter.

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

GIFT AID: If you are a tax payer, please consider gift aiding your donation. It's a simple process and means that we can obtain an additional donation of 25p per £1 from the tax man.

From the figures printed last week (see below) you can see that a small proportion of our donations are gift aided. All information is confidential between yourself and our Gift Aid Co-ordinator Janet Smith. If you have any questions, please email her on:

bexleyheathgac@rcaos.org.uk. Thank you.

Offertory Collections for December 2024

Date	Basket	Gift Aid	Loose	S/Orders	Card	Total
1.12.24	608.65	187.00	421.65			
8.2.24	492.85	129.00	363.85			
15.12.24	534.13	205.50	328.63			
22.12.24	523.83	138.83	384.49			
29.12.24	510.31	179.00	331.31			
		839.33	1,829.93	1,865.67	456	4,990.93

Re-Gifting: This Christmas did you receive a gift that you don't feel you need, or which just not quite for you?

We're encouraging anyone with gifts that can't be returned, doesn't fit or quite hit the mark or maybe you've received a duplicate, to please consider donate to the Parish. We would really love them to help us raise funds for our Church and towards one of the many charities that we support. We have box in the porch marked "Re-Gifting Donations".

So please, rather than let them gather dust at the back of a cupboard, let us put them to good use on your behalf.

With much thanks, the Social Committee.

A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development: 2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop's Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) and more for a lively start to the Jubilee. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. Saturday 18th January, 10:30am-midday, online. All welcome. Register here for free: cafod.org.uk/jubilee

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. If you can spare some nice treats too, that would be amazing. Please leave items in food bank box in porch. Thank you.

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**.

Message from Cath on Bexley Winter Shelter: As mentioned a few weeks ago, I'm looking for donations of warm men's clothing, coats, joggers, jumpers, hoodies etc. including new boxer shorts, sizes S/M and M/L. In addition to this, the usual toiletries: men's/ladies deodorant, small tins of Vaseline, toothbrushes/toothpaste. We do occasionally have women homeless, so sanitary items would be great too. Please contact me if you have any questions you'd like to ask. Cath 07989 15611 or caththebird@gmail.com Donation box is **Bexley Winter Shelter Donations** (in the porch). With grateful thanks as always. Cath.

Mass Intentions: Please remember if you wish to have a Mass said, that you allow enough time before the date required. Recently we've had Mass requests that are giving us a week's notice, and although I try and accommodate, it's not always possible and I don't want to disappoint parishioners. I'm aware that with a bereavement, this can be unexpected, and it's important that Masses are said, so we do try to say these as soon as possible. Don't forget you can request for Masses via the parish email bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk and pay for them via BACs. Just record that it is a Mass intention when making the payment. Many thanks. Cath