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THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C) (PAGE 129)

Sunday 26th January

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time/
 Sunday of the Word of God**

- 08.30 Mass in Honour and Thanksgiving of Our Lady of Lourdes (Guilbert) (Fr L)
- 10.00 First Communion Session
- 10.30 Mass for James Oliver McKernan RIP (Aindow) (Fr M)
 Children's Liturgy/Refreshments
- 17.30 Mass for Sylvia Pereira RIP (Fr L) (Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops)
Bethlehem Nativity Group will be here after every Mass in the hall

Readers are invited to renew their commitment at each Mass
Today we celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries at every Mass.

Monday 27th January Feria

No Mass

Tuesday 28th January

Saint Thomas Aquinas

- 09.00 Mass for John & Monica Bull RIP (Carter) (Fr L)

Wednesday 29th January Feria

- 09.00 Mass for José Alaminos RIP (Fr L)

Thursday 30th January Feria

- 09.00 Mass for God's Protection & Guidance at work (Voke) (Fr L)
 We welcome Year 6 from St Thomas More School to the Mass today

Friday 31st January

Saint John Bosco, Priest

- 09.00 Mass for Patrick Kelly RIP (Fr M)
 Adoration until 10.00am
 Confessions straight after the Blessed Sacrament is exposed

Saturday 1st February

The Blessed Virgin Mary

- 10.00 Mass for Jess & Maizy De Souza RIP (D'Costa) (Fr L)
 Confessions until 11.00am
- 10.45 Tour of Church for the First Communion children (parents to stay)
- 14.00 Baptism of Winnie Darling McDonagh (Fr M)

Sunday 2nd February

The Presentation of the Lord

- 08.30 Mass for Bernard Deady RIP (Kelly) (Fr M)
- 10.00 First Communion Session
- 10.30 Mass for Eddie Hensman RIP & Sally Holland RIP (Hensman) (Fr L)
 Children's Liturgy
 Refreshments in hall after Mass
- 17.30 Mass for Private Intentions (Seema) (Fr M)

Today we celebrate the Sunday of the Word of God and we invite our readers to renew their commitment to this important ministry at every Mass. What do our Readers think about the new translation of the readings? Personally I am disappointed.

Today, The Bethlehem Nativity Group, A Missionary from Bethlehem The Holy Land, will be talking about the Holy Land at Mass and selling Olive Wood items afterwards in the hall. Please do pop in and support the families in the Holy Land. Payments can be made in cash, card or if over £100.00, monthly direct debit instalments.

Mass on Thursday 30th January: please note this Mass will be at 10.00am as we will be joined by Year 6 pupils from St Thomas More Primary School.

Next Sunday is The Presentation of the Lord and our crib will be put away. We need volunteers after 10.30am Mass to help put the statutes away and return the stable to the garage. It would be greatly appreciated if you could spare a few minutes after this Mass. Thank you.

Congratulations: to Daisy Page who was received into the church, Confirmed and made her First Holy Communion last weekend.

Called to Bear Fruit: Last week we listened to a Pastoral letter from Archbishop John and gave out the booklets: "Called to Bear fruit". I hope you took a copy and more importantly, read it at home. The Archbishop wants to get your ideas on how we can revitalise our Diocese and parish. There are six themes for discussion and prayer and the idea is that parishioners will form small discussion groups for between 4 to 7 people to look at these. The booklet gives the format for discussion. You can meet in your homes or in the church or hall depending on availability. You can meet in the morning, afternoon or evening. Each group needs a leader and someone to take notes. The notes can be fed back to the "Called to Bear Fruit Team". I know this is going to be difficult as we do not have many ready-made groups such as a prayer or rosary group. If you would like to take part in the discussions let Cath know. If you would like to lead and form a group, again let Cath know. I am not sure what the best way forward is. It may be that we only have two or three groups. Some of you out there are really good at organising meetings. How should we proceed with this? Let us know your practical ideas. If you didn't receive a copy last week, copies are available in the porch for you to take one.

In order to "get the ball rolling", we have arranged a meeting on Tuesday 11th February at 7.00pm in the hall. The meeting should last no longer than 1 hour. Please do consider coming along and getting involved in this. As the evenings will still be dark, if you would like a lift to this, please email Cath: bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk or call the parish office 020 8303 1957. Thank you. Fr Michael.

Refreshments are held every Sunday after 10.30 Mass in the hall. It's lovely to see more and more parishioners coming together over a cup of tea or coffee, or for the children squash and many biscuits! We are appealing to those who do attend, to make sure they give a donation when they buy their cuppa. All donations go to charity. Some parishes when they have refreshments, actually stipulate the costs of purchasing items, but we don't want to do that at St John Vianney. All we ask is that you make a reasonable donation. If you would like to assist with refreshments on a Sunday, please email me at the office: bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk Many thanks. Cath

Mass Intentions: As mentioned previously, please ensure you allow enough time when you're requesting a Mass. We are still receiving requests for dates in a week's time or even a couple of days' time. If you know the date of an anniversary and would like a Mass, request it now for the specific date. I don't like to disappoint parishioners. I'm aware that with a bereavement, this can be unexpected, and it's important that Masses are said, and we do try to say these as soon as possible. Please remember 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

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 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 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 recently printed 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.

Bereavement Group: Unfortunately, February's group is cancelled. Please check the newsletter in the coming weeks for the next date.

Pilgrimage in the Deanery: As it is a Jubilee Year, "The Year of Hope", our Deanery are organising a Pilgrimage. St John Vianney Church has been chosen as the venue to host this Pilgrimage, whereby clergy and parishioners from each church in the Deanery, will walk to us and meet in our church for a service. This will then be followed by refreshments in the hall afterwards. The date chosen is **Saturday 5th July**. Help will be required for the event, so please email Cath if you would like to offer your services bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk More details will follow, but please do make a note of this date. Thank you.

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.

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: bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk. A DBS form will need to be completed and passed prior to helping. Thank you in advance. Cath

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, rice, 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/>

Bexley Winter Shelter: Thank you for the items you've donated so far. I urgently need new men's boxer shorts (small, medium and large) please. Also, warm coats for young men (medium size). Thank you once again. Cath

Archbishop John Wilson has written a new book entitled **The Romero Rosary**. With introductory chapters about St Oscar Romero and the rosary, this beautiful and creative new book contains reflections on the traditional mysteries of the rosary (*Joy, Light, Sorrow & Glory*) and the **NEW Romero Mysteries** (*Charity, Compassion and Mercy, & Justice and Peace*) – all illumined for reflection and prayer by the words of St Oscar Romero. The book is available from Pauline Bookshops and online at www.paulineuk.org. The Archbishops warmly invites everyone to the book launch on **Wednesday 12 February 2025 at 6.00 for 6.30pm** at **Amigo Hall, adjacent St George's Cathedral, Southwark, South London. SE1 7HY**.

Building a Better Marriage (BABM) – Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of Hope: To celebrate Jubilee 2025 one day Building a Better Marriage events will be held during 2025. The day starts at 9.30am and finishes at 4.30pm and is free to attend. The day will be open to other deaneries in 2026 who have not experienced the event. To join one of these days please contact Carole on 07983 524 727 or email: milkent@rcaos.org.uk: 25th January - St Stephen Church, Welling; 1st February – Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs; 15th March – Our Lady Queen of Peace, East Sheen; 12th April – St Mary Church, Croydon West; 28th June – St Raphael Church, Kingston Upon Thames; 5th July – St Thomas More, Dulwich; 13th September – Southwark Cathedral, London; 4th October – Holy Cross, Catford; 1st November – St James the Great, Petts Wood.