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THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (YEAR C) (PAGE 299)

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)

Monday 3rd February

Saint Laurence of Canterbury, Bishop/St Blaise

(usually we would have the blessings of throats today but there is no Mass)

Tuesday 4th February

Saint Henry Morse, Priest & Martyr

- 09.00 Mass for God's Protection & Guidance at work (Voke) (Fr L)

Wednesday 5th February

Saint Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

- 09.00 Mass for Elvin Antao RIP (Fr L)

Thursday 6th February

Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

- 09.00 Mass for Eddie Marsh RIP (Fr L)

Friday 7th February

Feria

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

Saturday 8th February

Saint Josephine Bakhita, Virgin

Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking

- 10.00 Mass for Anthony Da Costa RIP (Antao) (Fr L)
Confessions until 11.00am
12.30 Baptism of Elizabeth (Betty) Patricia Jeffries (Fr M)
15.00 Baptism of Winnie Darling McDonagh (Fr M)

Sunday 9th February

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 08.30 Mass for Noreen Lambe RIP (Inglis) (Fr L)
10.00 First Communion Session
10.30 Mass for Noreen Lambe RIP (Bird) (Fr M)
Children's Liturgy
Refreshments in hall after Mass
17.30 Mass for Private Intentions (Jobin) (Fr L)

Today we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord or Candlemas, when we bless a token number of candles. This is also called Little Christmas as it is a Feast of Jesus the Light of the World. Our Crib will be put away today and we need help after 10.30 Mass to put the statues in the cupboard and crib in the garage. Many hands make light work! 😊 Thank you.

A thank you message from The Bethlehem Nativity Group TBNG - Christian greetings and the Peace of our Lord be with you always. We would love to thank you by allowing our group to come to your church and sell the olive wood religious articles, the result of which was very beneficial and rewarding for our needy Christian families, which raised **£1739.00**. Your help is a great support for us, and for our Christian families in the Holy Land. We don't have enough words to thank you and your parishioners, but make sure that you are always in our prayers. If anyone has missed the carvings display, You can place an order online directly from them at www.tbng.co.uk. God bless you all. Love and blessings from The Bethlehem Nativity Group

Sad News: We heard from Fr Jeff last weekend that unfortunately Smokey had to be put to sleep. She had gone completely blind and was struggling to cope with this. As you know, Fr Jeff had Smokey for many years and he never truly knew her real age. We grew very fond of her at St John Vianney. She was always very vocal in the Presbytery making her presence known. She loved to sit on the laps of Fr Jeff and Fr Michael and was always sitting on Cath's desk, giving her input! Farewell true friend and companion.

Bexley SPUC would like to thank Fr Michael, Fr Luke, Cath and all the parishioners of St John Vianney for their welcome and generosity on White Flower Sunday. As always, I was cheered by the high attendance at all 3 services. Please remember to take and send off the UN petition cards at the back of the church. God bless. Rob.

"Called to Bear Fruit": Have you had an opportunity to read through the booklet yet? Do you feel it is time to get involved in your parish and have your say? Now is that time.

We are asking parishioners to come together, be it in your homes, maybe over a coffee or even in our hall, to share the knowledge that you have of our parish. How do you feel we are growing in a community? Do we offer all the services you would like to see?

The questions are set out in the booklet, we just need your involvement now as the laity. This is your parish, what direction would you like to see it go in? We are opening our hall on 11th February at 7.00pm with refreshments for you to come along and engage. We encourage you to please get involved. Fr Michael and Fr Luke

If you require a lift, please contact us or email: bexlevheath@rcaos.org.uk

Last Thursday, Year 6 pupils from St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, Sheldon Road, Bexleyheath took part in the Mass. They were extremely well-behaved, read and sang beautifully and were very prayerful. We look forward to welcoming other pupils during the year. It was lovely to see parents and parishioners too. Fr Luke.

Thrifty Threads – Second Look Styles

A social evening for all the ladies

We are looking for donations of good quality ladies' clothes to recycle and re-sale. There will be a separate collection box in the porch from next weekend. We will be hosting another evening on Saturday 22nd February at 7pm in the Church Hall and invite all the ladies to join us for a lovely social evening, a chance to browse in a relaxed atmosphere, and the opportunity to grab a few bargains. All monies raised goes to charity. On this occasion, we would like to raise money for Age Exchange. Age Exchange, with Community Integrated Care, has a unique mission to bring arts, culture and creative expression into the lives of thousands of people who draw upon social care, live with dementia and face isolation.



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 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.

Daniel Francis MP is producing an e-newsletter at the end of each month which will share details of upcoming events from local churches, schools, community centres, football clubs, places of worship, organisations, businesses, community groups and other. To sign up to receive this, please go to www.danielfrancis.uk and complete a form. Alternatively, there is a QR code on the poster in our porch.

Southwark Catholic Youth Service are offering retreats and events in February and March. This is aimed at 13 - 17-year olds. Do have a look on their website for more information and to get involved. www.southwarkcatholicyouthservice or email: youth@rcaos.org.uk

Message from CAFOD: A Year of Hope: Introduction to the Jubilee Year

How can we respond to Pope Francis' call to be "tangible signs of hope" in this Jubilee Year? Find out by watching this inspirational event (find it and other Jubilee resources at cafod.org.uk/jubilee). Featuring Fr Jan Nowotnik, Director of Mission at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, CAFOD Director Christine Allen and more. Discover how we can act in faith and in love as pilgrims of hope this Holy Year.

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.

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

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: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk: 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.

Reader's Rota: Copies of the rota for March-April are in the porch.

Cleaners' Rota: Copies of this year's rota are available in the porch.

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.