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EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR C) (PAGE 144)

Sunday 2nd March

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Day for the Unemployed

- 08.30 Mass for Thomas & Delia O'Connor RIP (Parnell) (Fr M)
 10.00 First Communion Session
 10.30 Mass for David Smith RIP (11th Anniv) (Fr L)
 Children's Liturgy
 Refreshments in hall
 17.30 Mass for Kuba RIP (Coroi) (Fr M)

Monday 3rd March

Feria

No Mass

Tuesday 4th March

Saint Casimir (Shrove Tuesday)

- 09.00 Mass for Elvin Antao RIP (Fr L)
 12.30-2.00pm Fr Michael has a Grace Meeting in the hall
 19.00 Bereavement Group (small hall)

The end of Ordinary Time

THE SEASON OF LENT

Wednesday 5th March

ASH WEDNESDAY

(Day of Fasting and Abstinence) Blessing of Ashes

- 10.00 Mass for Holy Souls (Fr M)
 19.00 Mass for Holy Souls (Fr L)

Thursday 6th March

Feria of Lent

- 09.00 Mass for Holy Souls (Fr L)
 11.00 Funeral Mass for Linda Wilson RIP followed by Cremation at 12.30 at Eltham (Fr M)

Friday 7th March

Feria of Lent

- 09.00 Mass for Holy Souls (Fr M)
 Adoration until 10.00am
 Confessions straight after the Blessed Sacrament is exposed
 1.00 Memorial Service for John Barton RIP (Fr M)

(First Friday)

Saturday 8th March

Feria of Lent

- 10.00 Mass for Stelian's health and strength for his family (Coroi) (Fr L)
 Rite of Election at the Cathedral

Sunday 9th March

First Sunday of Lent

- 08.30 Mass for Visitación Morcillo Sánchez RIP (Alaminos) (Fr L)
 10.00 First Communion Session
 10.30 Mass for Blessings on Angelo and Anne (Josephine) (Fr M)
 Children's Liturgy
 Refreshments in hall
 17.30 Mass for Holy Souls (Fr L)

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday: It is a day of fasting and abstinence. After the short homily the ashes are blessed and distributed. All can receive the ashes on their forehead, even babies and those who are not Catholics. They are a sign of repentance and humility. Yes, we will soon be moving from Green time to Purple time. Ash Wednesday falls on 5th March. We will be asking for people to sign up to lead the Stations of the Cross on Tuesdays at 8.00pm. We will also have our usual lists up asking for Welcomers, Readers, Servers, Eucharistic Ministers etc. during Holy Week and Easter. **Please do sign up.** We have once again purchased "Walk with Me" booklets costing £1.00 each and the Children's Calendar for 30p. Please put money in the wall donation box marked "CTS/cards". Thank you.

Lenten Faith Group: We re-started this group last Lent and are continuing this Lent. The theme this year is "We Dare to Hope". "We Dare to Hope" is a resource for small group faith-sharing and for individual meditation, featuring five sessions on the theme of Christian Hope. Each session includes scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions. The relationship between the virtue of hope, our lives and the source of all hope, Jesus, is explored. Wisdom from the saints is offered for the spiritual growth of group participants and individuals alike. Please do come along and join us in the Children's Chapel at 7.00pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Stations of the Cross on Tuesday evenings at 8pm. Once again, we ask parishioners to sign up to lead the Stations. Let's have some new names as well as the old hands.

Lenten Charity: Following our recent Liturgy Meeting, it was decided that this year we would support the Greenwich & Bexley Hospice.

Congratulations to Florence Eve Joyce Thackray who was baptised last weekend.

Second Collections: We have noticed that there has been quite a reduction in our Second Collections and for this reason we have decided to change from "Retiring Collections" to "Second Collections". They will take place whilst the notices are being read out. The Diocese requires us to take collections this way too. Please remember, that you can use the card machine for Second Collections. Just tap the screen, choose "second collection", enter the amount and please gift aid it if you can. Thank you.

Baptism Buddy: Fr Michael requires assistance on Saturday 22nd March at **12.00pm**. Can anyone spare an hour to help him please? If you can, either speak to Fr Michael or contact parish office bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk Thank you in advance.

Registering at St John Vianney: If you have started coming to St John Vianney over the past year or so, we really need you to complete a census form so that we have your contact details and members in your family. It also gives us an idea of the area we are covering. Forms are available in the porch for you to complete and return to either Fr Michael or Fr Luke, or just put in the Offertory as it comes round. It will be given to the office. Many thanks. Cath

Can you help please? Does anyone know a Sylvia Jones who donated clothes to our "Thrifty Threads" event held last week? If you do, could you please contact Cath by phoning the office on Tuesday or Friday 020 8303 1957 or emailing bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk

A note from Janet Gift Aid Organiser: The new boxes for 2025/26 are ready for collection in the porch. If you are no longer requiring the box please let me know. Many Thanks for your support. Janet

Our next Bereavement Group is this Tuesday (4th) at 7.00pm. Mary and Maura look forward to seeing you.



Please pray for the sick and those in special need of your prayers: Stelian, 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.

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.

Jubilee Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 6th April 2025. (SEE POSTER FOR MORE INFORMATION)

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.org.uk or email: youth@rcaos.org.uk

Youth Festival Medjugorje Pilgrimage 2025: 4th-11th August 2025 led by Fr. Innocent Ezeonyeasi. The full cost of the pilgrimage is £770 including flights from Gatwick, half board accommodation coach transfers with a local guide. A deposit of £150 needs to be paid immediately to secure your place. Please feel free to share this information with friends & family, who may benefit from this. Please contact Noeleen for payment on 0203 808 5156 or contact the group leader Adamma Oguh (07957 211056 or adanmaoguh@gmail.com) for more information or book online using this link <https://marian-uk.com/onlineBooking1.asp?id=Medjugorje&tour=7028>

Job Vacancies at St Catherine's Catholic School: St Catherine's is currently looking for a Teacher of English, Teacher of Computer Science, Teacher of Drama and Teacher of Spanish. All job vacancies are on the noticeboard in our porch if you are interested. (deadline Monday 3rd March)

"A Day of Reflection with David Wells" – Saturday 5th April 10.30am – 3.00pm at St Stephen's Church, Welling: Our Communion prayer reminds us to wait in joyful Hope. What is hope, what difference does it make and why are we called by Pope Francis to be *Pilgrims of Hope*? Refreshments available from 9.45am. Please bring a packed lunch.

We really need your help at St John Vianney: Could you please consider offering to help when you're next at Mass? We need Welcomers, someone to open the Repository, First Aiders and Fire Marshals. See what is required below:

Welcomers at 8.30, 10.30 and 5.30pm Masses: This involves arriving early to handout missals and hymn books to parishioners. Organising people to take the collection (usually 4 is required) and bring up the Offertory gifts. After Mass, one person to put Offertory money into the safe whilst others retrieve books as parishioners leave. Turn out lights and lock church.

Repository: Our shop is usually open at 8.30am and 10.30am Mass on Sundays. We need help in opening the shop before Mass (usually 20 minutes beforehand) and manning the shop after Mass as parishioners leave. All items are priced.

First Aiders are needed at each Mass. Training will be given to you. It is essential to have trained First Aiders on site when Mass is taking place.

Fire Marshals: This role involves highlighting an emergency, evacuating parishioners in a calm and orderly manner, contacting the fire brigade if deemed necessary etc. Onsite training will be given.

With Lent around the corner, maybe now is the time to consider becoming more involved in parish life and ensuring that all our Health & Safety needs are met.

If you would like to discuss this further or need more information, please contact me at bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk

So at Mass today, you will find on the pew a volunteer form, which I would appreciate you filling in and returning as soon as possible. You can complete it today and put in the Sacristy or give to either Fr Michael or Fr Luke, or email the office offering your help. Thank you. Cath

Offertory Collections for February 2025

Date	Basket	Gift Aid	Loose	S/Orders	Card	Total
2.2.25	709.82	150.00	559.82			
9.2.25	528.79	152.85	375.94			
16.2.25	546.70	189.00	357.70			
23.2.25	436.86	167.00	269.86			
	2222.17	658.85	1563.32	1720.67	352.37	4295.21