

**THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST. JOHN VIANNEY, 21 HEATHFIELD ROAD, BEXLEYHEATH, KENT DA6 8NP**

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**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C) (PAGE 153)**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> 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)

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March**

**Feria of Lent**

**No Mass**

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March**

**Feria of Lent**

- 09.00 Mass for Pat Steele RIP (Anniv) (Bird) (Fr L)
- 19.00 Lenten Faith Group in the Children's Chapel
- 20.00 Stations of the Cross

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

**Feria of Lent**

- 09.00 Mass for Holy Souls (Fr L)

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March**

**Feria of Lent**

- 09.00 Mass for Holy Souls (Fr L)
- 16.00 Funeral Service of Marjorie Whitaker at Eltham Crematorium (Fr L)
- 19.00 Talk on First Reconciliation (Confession) in the Hall for First Communion Parents

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March**

**Feria of Lent**

**CAFOD FAST DAY**

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

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March**

**Feria of Lent**

- 10.00 Mass for Manuel dos Santos RIP (Alaminos) (Fr L)  
Confessions
- 10.45 Celebration of First Confessions (First Communion Children/Parents)

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

**Second Sunday of Lent Year C**

- 08.30 Mass for Rosalind D'Costa RIP & Patricia Roberts RIP (Guilbert) (Fr M)
- 10.00 First Communion Session
- 10.30 Mass for Parents & Siblings (Josephine) (Fr L)  
Children's Liturgy
- 17.30 Mass for Holy Souls (Fr M)

**Second Collection for CAFOD**

**Rest in Peace:** Ana Rita De Souza, Mother of Dr Philip (Deceased), Rosemarie, Sandra, Bridget, Tony and Christine who died last Saturday at home where she had been lovingly cared for by her family for several years. She was 88. Ana Rita was a very devout Catholic who prayed a great amount. She loved Our Lady and prayed many devotions. Now she is reunited with her husband Camilo. They used to attend Sunday Mass at St John Fisher Primary School in Thamesmead years ago. May She rest in peace and rise in glory.

**Congratulations** to Elyna Hope Yimga Woppiwo & Yona Sinda Woppiwo who were baptised last weekend.

**Season of Lent:** It was heart-warming to see so many of you at our Ash Wednesday services in the week. As we now embark on our Lenten Journey, we encourage you to join our Lent Faith Group "Year of 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 every Tuesday during Lent at 7.00pm. This is followed by Stations of the Cross at 8.00pm. Again, we ask for volunteers to lead this. Please do take the time to sign up for our Lenten Services. We also have on sale our "Walk with Me" booklets at £1.00 each and also a Children's Chart at 30p. Payment can be made in the box in the wall marked "Cards & CTS". Our Lenten Charity this year is Greenwich & Bexley Hospice.

**First Holy Communion:** This Thursday at 7pm we have a talk on First Reconciliation [Confession] in the hall. On Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> at 10.45 we celebrate First Confessions and invite parents also to go to Confession. Lent is the ideal time. We expect all children and parents to attend these meetings, unless illness prevents. We have noticed that some children have missed quite a few sessions and some have left after the session and not gone in for Mass. We remind parents that we expect them to make Holy Communion a top priority. Thank you to those who have been coming week by week and who let us know if their child cannot attend. Apart from illness, there should be no excuses. We know that parents have to work sometimes on Sundays, but we do feel that some of you are not taking it seriously. Perhaps we have been too easy going. But if children keep on missing sessions and Mass, then they will not be ready to make their Communion in June. Other parishes are much stricter than we are. One strike and you are out! Fr Michael

**Baptism Buddy:** Fr Michael requires assistance on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 12.30pm. 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](mailto:bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk) Thank you in advance.

**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](mailto:bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk)

**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.

**CAFOD Fast Day – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March:** Please donate to our *Family Fast Day* parish collection to be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. You'll be supporting communities suffering the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope. Use the CAFOD envelope attached to this newsletter, card machine (second collection), donate online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call 0303 303 3030.

**Registration Form:** please remember to complete one of our registration forms if you are new to our parish or know that we don't have your details. They can be found in the porch on the wall (Census Forms). Thank 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](mailto:bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk)

**Receiving electronic newsletter:** Please email [bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:bexleyheathgac@rcaos.org.uk). Thank you.

**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

**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, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025.** £799.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights' in 4\* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, Quiet Man Museum. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com). (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](http://www.southwarkcatholicyouthservice.org.uk) or email: [youth@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:youth@rcaos.org.uk)

**Youth Festival Medjugorje Pilgrimage 2025:** 4<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> 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 Noleen for payment on 0203 808 5156 or contact the group leader Adamma Oguh (07957 211056 or [adanmaoguh@gmail.com](mailto:adanmaoguh@gmail.com)) for more information or book online using this link <https://marian-uk.com/onlineBooking1.asp?id=Medjugorje&tour=7028>

**"A Day of Reflection with David Wells" – Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

During the Season of Lent,, 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 Cath at [bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk)

If you feel you can help with either of these roles, please let us know as soon as possible, either by speaking to Fr Michael, Fr Luke or myself, or emailing [bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk). With grateful thanks, Cath.