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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR C) (PAGE 156)

Sunday 16th 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

Monday 17th March

Feast of Saint Patrick, Bishop & Patron of Ireland

No Mass

*A Happy Saint Patrick's Day
to all our Irish parishioners!*

Tuesday 18th March

Feria of Lent

- 09.00 Mass for Holy Souls (Fr L)
 19.00 Lenten Faith Group in the Children's Chapel
 20.00 Stations of the Cross

Wednesday 19th March

Solemnity of Saint Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Patron of the Universal Church

- 09.00 Mass for Holy Souls (Fr L)

Thursday 20th March

Feria of Lent

- 09.00 Mass for Holy Souls (Fr L)

Friday 21st March

Feria of Lent

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

Saturday 22nd March

Feria of Lent

- 10.00 Mass for Manuel dos Santos RIP (Alaminos) (Fr L)
 Confessions
 12.00 Baptism of Yazmyn Rose Daisy Fysh and Kameron John Reuben Fysh (Fr M)

Sunday 23rd March

Third Sunday of Lent

- 08.30 Mass for Margaret & Patrick Parker RIP (Fr L)
 10.00 First Communion Session
 10.30 Mass for Reg Jones RIP (Wheeliker) (Fr M) Children's Liturgy
 17.30 Mass for Holy Souls (Fr M)

Second Collection for poorer parishes

Rest in Peace: Ignatius [Iggy] Pereira from Sheldon Road who died this past week. Although not living in our parish Iggy and Edna often came to St John Vianney. He was a lovely man and had a hip replacement not so long ago. We offer our deepest sympathy to his wife Edna and the rest of the family. May He rest in peace and rise in glory. They used to come to 5.30pm Mass and sit at the front.

Next Sunday there is a second collection for Poor Parishes, formerly the Needs of the Diocese collection. This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the poorer parishes in the diocese.

The Transfiguration: we always hear this Gospel on the Second Sunday of Lent. The Transfiguration was an important even in the life of Jesus. The word means transformation or change to the appearance of Jesus. Jesus took his three special disciples up Mount Tabor so they could be alone and pray. Mountains in the Bible are good places to pray and experience God's presence. Mountains are remote and away from the bustle of life. While at prayer the face of Jesus shines like the light; his clothes become dazzlingly white. This experience is overwhelming for Peter, James and John. Sleep overtakes them as it does Abraham in our first reading when he too encounters God. As at the Baptism, The voice of the Father is heard proclaiming Jesus as his Son and telling us to listen to Him. At the Transfiguration the disciples get a glimpse of God's glory shining in the face of Jesus. This experience will strengthen them for when they come down from the mountain and continue their journey to Jerusalem where Jesus will suffer and die on the cross. His face and appearance will be disfigured. We see who Jesus really is on the mountain. There is so much that could be said about the Word of God today. We are journeying with Jesus in our lives and sometimes it is difficult. Our prayer can be dry and arid like the desert. There are moments when we climb the mountain and have an experience of God. As we look down from the heights we can get a better perspective on our life. We can see what really matters: faith, family, our relationship with God. But we cannot stay on the mountain for ever. We thank God for these moments of understanding and epiphany. We pray by listening to Jesus in the Scriptures and in those we meet. Prayer is also seeking the face of Jesus.

Season of Lent: We encourage and welcome parishioners to join our Lenten Faith Group to discuss "Year of Hope" every Tuesday at 7.00pm during Lent and also Stations of the Cross at 8.00pm. We also ask you to volunteer during Holy Week. See our lists on the noticeboard in the porch. Resources to purchase – "Walk with Me" booklet £1.00 each and "Children's Chart" 30p each.



Our Lenten Faith Group – "We Dare to Hope"

Come along and join us every Tuesday at St John Vianney at 7.00pm in the Children's Chapel. We look forward to welcoming you.

Lent 2025 reflections – Sign up to the Spirituality Commission Lent reflections:

Each day during Lent, the Southwark Spirituality Commission will be sending out a reflection to help you draw closer to the Lord Jesus.

The email will arrive in your inbox each morning, featuring thoughts, Scripture and prayer.

These reflections will allow us to hear the readings anew, looking at where they resonate in our own lives and how they can draw us nearer to God.

<https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/news-events/news/len-2025-reflections/>



Parish Pastoral Council: Our next meeting will be on Monday 24th March at 7.00pm in the hall. If you would like anything mentioned at our meeting, please do leave a note in the PPC box in the porch or drop an email to: bexlevheath@rcaos.org.uk 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

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.

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.

Can you help please? Does anyone know a Sylvia Jones who donated clothes to our "Thrifty Threads" event? 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

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.

News from SPUC: 'Please see the Lives Worth Living flyer at the back of the church. It explains why you should tell your MP to vote against assisted suicide at the third reading. To find out more please visit www.livesworthliving.org.uk. There are also petition cards asking the UK government to adhere to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and a card - Yes to our hospices, No to assisted suicide. I will send them off on masse if you just sign. Best wishes Bexley SPUC'

Reconciliation Service to be held at St Stephen's RC Church, Welling on Saturday 12th April at 11am. (see poster)

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

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>

"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.

Volunteering at St John Vianney Parish: Thank you to the few parishioners who have come forward offering to help. We still need volunteers in all areas, so I please ask you to consider offering assistance when you come to Mass. It only has to be once a month even. Please contact me at the office bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk if you can or complete a volunteer form in the porch. With thanks. Cath