

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Michael Jones
Email: michaeljones@rcaos.org.uk
ASSISTANT PRIEST: Fr Luke Malunze
Email: lukemalunze@rcaos.org.uk
PARISH SECRETARY: CATH BIRD
Parish Office Email bexlevheath@rcaos.org.uk
Parish Website: www.StJohnVianney-Bexlevheath.org
Tel: 020 8303 1957

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES:
CATH BIRD
Email: bexlevheathsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
Tel: 07927 637425
LENA PETT
Email: bexlevheathsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
Tel: 07927 637424

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) – PAGE 82

Sunday 30th November 2025

First Sunday of Advent – Year A
Visit of the Little Sisters of the Poor

- 08.30 Mass for Atmore Family Intentions (D'Costa) (Fr L)
 10.30 Mass for Anne Hammond (Birthday) (Carolan) (Fr M)
 Children's Liturgy
 Refreshments in the hall
 17.30 Mass for Laurente & Felicidade D'Sa RIP (D'Sa Family) (Fr L)

Celebration of Birthdays and Anniversaries
Second Collection for the Little Sisters of the Poor
(St Andrew, Apostle & Patron Saint of Scotland)

Monday 1st December 2025

Saints Edmund Campion, Ralph Sherwin
and Alexander Briant, Priests & Martyrs

No Mass

Tuesday 2nd December 2025

Feria

- 09.00 Mass for Elvin Antao RIP (Fr L)
 followed by the Rosary
 09.30 Open Morning at St Thomas More Primary School

Wednesday 3rd December 2025

Saint Francis Xavier, Priest
Day of Prayer for Migrants

- 09.00 Mass for Armando Pereira RIP (Anniv) (M&S Pereira) (Fr L) by the Rosary

Happy Feast Day to our Goan parishioners

Thursday 4th December 2025

Saint John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church

- 09.00 Mass for Narcis, Anna & Louisa Faria RIP (Gomes) (Fr L) followed by the Rosary

Friday 5th December 2025

Saint John Almond, Priest & Martyr

- 09.00 Mass in Thanksgiving for Adina's Birthday (Antao) (Fr M)
 Adoration until 10.00am
 Confessions straight after the Blessed Sacrament is Exposed

Saturday 6th December 2025

Saint Nicholas, Bishop

- 10.00 Mass for Patrick, Sheila & Alan Warde RIP (Turner) (Fr L)
 Confessions
 12.30 Baptism of Ifunanyachukwu Jasmine Onyejiukwa (Fr L)

Sunday 7th December 2025

Second Sunday of Advent – Year A

- 08.30 Mass for Wanda Borowska RIP (Yolanda) (Fr M)
 10.30 Mass for Camilo De Souza RIP (D'Costa) (Fr L)
 Children's Liturgy
 Refreshments in the hall
 17.30 Mass for Noreen Lambe RIP (1st Anniv) (Family) (Fr M)

Today marks the start of the Season of Advent and the beginning of a New Church Year: The first part of Advent looks forward to the Second Coming of Christ while the second part prepares us for the coming of Christ at Christmas and the celebration of the Incarnation. It is a penitential season and so the colour is purple. But it is not as solemn as Lent. Purple is the colour of hope and during this time we listen to the prophets as they hope for the coming of the Messiah. The readings and the plainchant for this season are simple and beautiful. We do not use the Gloria but at 10.30 Mass will sing the Kyrie and Lamb of God.

Advent Wreath: On the First Sunday of Advent we will bless the Advent Wreath with its five candles: three purple, one pink and one white. The pink is for Gaudete Sunday (3rd Sunday) and the white candle is lit at Christmas for Christ. Each week we will ask a child to light the candle of that Sunday and then we will sing our Candle Song. The Advent Wreath with its greenery is a symbol of our Advent hope and our countdown to Christmas.

The Jesse Tree is a bare branch in a pot which we decorate with symbols each week. Symbols are people and events from our Salvation History. Children colour in these symbols during their own Liturgy in the hall and bring them up at the Preparation of the Gifts (as in previous years). The Jesse Tree is depicted in medieval art as the ancestry tree of Jesus. It is named after Jesse, (not the cowboy) the father of King David. Jesse is usually shown asleep on the ground and tree growing from his loins. On this tree in stained glass windows, you can see the prophets as well as Mary and then Jesus. Some trees, like ours, go back to Adam and Eve. It is a good way of learning Bible stories and connecting them together in the history of our Salvation. This week's symbols are: Adam & Eve, Noah and Abraham & Sarah.

Advent "Walk with Me" booklets are available in the porch to buy at £1.00 each, together with the Children's Advent Calendar at 30p each. Please put money in the wall box labelled "cards etc." Thank you.

Decorating for Christmas: We will be decorating the church and tree on Monday 22nd December at 10.00am. If you can spare some time, please do come along and join the festivities as we prepare the Way for Our Lord.

Volunteering at Christmas: Our lists are on the noticeboard in the porch for you to sign up as a Welcomer, Reader, EM and Altar Server for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We are also looking for people to read the poems at our 9.30pm Carol Concert. We encourage you to put your name down. Thank you in advance.

MASSSES AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve: 6.00pm First Mass of Christmas (especially for children) (Fr M); 9.30pm Carol Service & 10.00pm Christmas Night Mass (Fr L)

Christmas Day: 9.30am The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ (Fr M/Fr L) Please note there is no Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and no evening Mass on Christmas Day. Please ensure you take a copy of the Christmas Programme.

Today Sister Monica from the Little Sisters of the Poor, Vauxhall will be visiting and there will be a second collection for them. They provide care and support to the elderly, poor and aged. They also look after and care for the sick and retired priests of the Southwark Diocese. This is where Fr Michael has recuperated when he has had knee and hip surgery. It is also where Fr Jeff is Chaplain.

Sr Monica will attend all Sunday Masses and give a short talk.

Congratulations to Henry Joseph Luis Poland who was baptised last weekend.

Late attendance at Mass: We have noticed that some parishioners are arriving very late for Mass, especially at 10.30 and 5.30pm. We understand that people may have difficulty in parking but if you leave a little earlier, you can arrive at Church before Mass starts which gives you time for moments of recollection and prayer. We have also noticed people leaving Mass early, sometimes after Communion. Thank you to those who come early and stay to the end.

<p>Please pray for the sick and those in special need of your prayers: Meta James, Tracey James, Baby Teddy, John Smith, Tom C, Susan, Adelina Braganza, Stelian, Claire Wansbury, 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, 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, Jo O'Donnell, Matthew Butler, Nadia Sheehy, Steve Pitt, Little Buster Sprules, David Collison, Christine Edwards, Santana Fernandes, Maria Pereira, Leonie Viegas, Paul Robson, Jack Goodrich, Gloria Slaney, Andy Wansbury, Josephine da Silva and Roy Miller.</p>
<p>Hiring of Hall: Please contact Cath Bird: 07989 156111 or email:</p>
<p>Receiving the newsletter online: In order to reduce paper wastage, if you would like to have our weekly newsletter emailed to you, please contact the parish office bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk and it will be sent to you weekly.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>Payment online: Account No: 21089620 Sort Code: 51-70-14 Account Name: RCAS Bexleyheath</p>
<p>Baptisms: We are not celebrating baptisms in January since Fr Luke is away. We will start again in February. I am guessing that many of you will wait until the Spring.</p>
<p>First Holy Communion: Next Sunday 7th December is the deadline for registering your child for their First Holy Communion in 2026. Your child must be in Year 3 or above. We'll be in touch shortly to arrange a meeting in the New Year.</p>
<p>Confirmation: Next Sunday is the deadline for children in Years 8 and above to register their interest in making their Confirmation. Fr Michael and Fr Luke have asked to meet with the children who have already registered, after 10.30am Mass next Sunday to have a brief chat. This is just for the children, not parents.</p>
<p>Counters needed for Offertory Collections: We need some more volunteers to come and help count the weekly collection, usually on a Tuesday morning. If you feel you could help, please email bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk or speak to either Fr Michael or Fr Luke. Thank you in advance.</p>
<p>EVERYONE IS WELCOME... to become a welcomer at one of the three Sunday Masses. The more people who volunteer will enable us to start a rota and consequently the more people on the rota means there are fewer times you have to do it. The parish needs you to help it continue to grow and for Father Michael and Father Luke to provide you with Spiritual help and guidance. Support your parish. It needs you.</p>
<p>Called to Bear Fruit consultation response published: Thank you to the thousands of people who took part in the Called to Bear Fruit consultation. We are grateful to you all for sharing so openly your hopes for the life of the Church in our Archdiocese. The consultation response, which includes 15 actions points for renewal, is available at rcaos.org.uk/calledtobearfruit and hardcopies will be sent to every parish. The consultation revealed a burning desire within our parishes to be missionary and evangelising disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, who work together to help people encounter His love. So, as we move forward on the next steps together, let's build up the Body of Christ in Southwark with faith and confidence, becoming ever more a community of missionary disciples filled with joy and hope for the future. As an Archdiocese, we will continue to discern the process of renewal, and further updates will be provided in due course. Archbishop John. Copies of this Report are in the porch for you to take.</p>
<p>Come and See – Advent Course: 4 weekly sessions start on the 27th November and the last session is on the 17th December. Wednesday evenings 7pm-8pm. https://comeandsee.org/advent-bible-studies</p>
<p>Job Vacancies at St Catherine's Catholic School for Girls: We are seeking to appoint inspirational leaders in teaching who can deliver high-quality lessons and secure outstanding outcomes for our amazing students. These include Head of Art; Teacher of Humanities (Geography, History and RE) Part Time for a fixed term post; Teacher of Geography for a fixed term post; Teacher of Science; Teacher of Science for a 0.6 Maternity Leave cover; Cover Supervisor (36 hours/week, term time only). Please visit https://www.stccg.co.uk/Teaching-Vacancies/ for more information on each role. Thank you.</p>
<p>Open Mornings at St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, Long Lane: Tuesday 2nd December 2025/Tuesday 9th December 2025 – 9.00am/Tuesday 13th January 2026. Timings are 9.30am-10.30am for each date.</p>
<p>Donations for Local Foodbanks: We have now resumed collecting donations for the foodbanks. Items needed are cereal, sugar, tea, coffee, UHT milk, toilet rolls, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, soup etc. We've also been made aware that hats and gloves are in urgent need too, so if you could supply these also, it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for supporting this.</p>
<p>The Eltham Utopians are looking for dancers and actors: The date of the panto is 20th and 21st February which will take place in Bexley village or Chislehurst, the auditions and rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings in Eltham, they are desperate to recruit more actors/dancers to make the panto happen! Susie Clarke is a ballet teacher contact her if interested 07587146877.</p>
<p>CAFOD WORLD GIFTS: The 2025-2026 catalogue of Christmas gifts and other products is available for you to take home from the porch, or check out their full range at cafod.org.uk/worldgifts</p>

<p>Christmas Fayre: Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our Fayre yesterday. I hope you enjoyed yourselves and managed to pick up a bargain or two! The amount raised will be in next week's newsletter.</p>
<p>Christmas Raffle: Attached to this week's newsletter are 5 strips of raffle tickets. Please complete each one individually with your name and phone number and return in the envelope provided along with your money. Please then place in the bucket in the porch marked "Christmas Raffle". This will be drawn after 10.30am Mass on Sunday 14th December. Prizes are: 1st 4 tickets to either Cheltenham Festival or England International Cricket Match 2nd Christmas Hamper 3rd £50.00 M&S Voucher 4th Bottle of Glenfiddich 5th Bottle of Port 6th Bottle of Southern Comfort 7th Biscuits, tea & chocolate</p>