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## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) – PAGE 85

**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)

**Monday 8th December 2025**

### Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 09.00 Mass for John Smith RIP (Hensman) (Fr L)  
 followed by the Rosary

**Tuesday 9th December 2025**

**Feria of Advent**

- 09.00 Mass for Fr James Malone (Foundation) (Fr L)  
 followed by the Rosary  
 09.30 Open Morning at St Thomas More Primary School

**Wednesday 10th December 2025**

### Our Lady of Loreto

- 09.00 Mass for Davis Family RIP (Fr L) followed by the Rosary  
 17.00 St Thomas More School Year 5 Carol Service.  
 18.00 St Thomas More School Year 6 Carol Service

**Thursday 11th December 2025**

**Feria of Advent**

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

**Friday 12th December 2025**

### Our Lady of Guadalupe

- 09.00 Mass for Charlie Logue RIP (Anniv) (Keeney) (Fr M)  
 Adoration until 10.00am  
 Confessions straight after the Blessed Sacrament is Exposed

**Saturday 13th December 2025**

### Saint Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

- 10.00 Mass for Derek George Butler & Mary Tucker RIP & all Deceased Relatives (Fr L)  
 Confessions  
 13.00 Baptism of Theodore Sherwood [Fr Luke]  
 14.30 Ecumenical Carols at the Clocktower

**Sunday 14th December 2025**

### Third Sunday of Advent/Gaudete Sunday

- 08.30 Mass for Dora & Robert Turner RIP & Richard Slaney RIP (Fr L)  
 10.30 Mass for Patsy & Neil Taylor (Diamond Wedding Anniversary) (Fr M)  
 Children's Liturgy  
 Refreshments in the hall where the Parish Draw will take place after 10.30 Mass  
 17.30 Derek Butler RIP (Fr L)

**(Saint John of the Cross, Priest & doctor of the Church)**

**Second Sunday of Advent:** Today we celebrate the Asperges or Sprinkling with Holy Water at all Masses. This is a reminder of our baptism and has a penitential aspect too. This Sunday and next we focus on John the Baptist who was sent by God to prepare the way for the Messiah and baptised Jesus in the Jordan. He straddles these two Sundays of Advent like a Colossus. John has a foot in the Old Testament and the New. He is both prophet and witness to Christ. He is the voice crying in the wilderness spoken of by Isaiah.

**Advent Wreath:** Today we will light our second purple candle. Our wreath has 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.

**Donations of Holly:** Now is the time to bring in your donations of holly to enable us to decorate the church. Please put in a black bag and leave in the room where the servers get ready. Thank you.

**Today** is the deadline for receiving First Holy Communion and Confirmation registration forms. Fr Michael and Fr Luke will meet with Confirmation Candidates after 10.30 Mass in the hall to have a brief chat with them.

**Next Sunday** is Rejoicing Sunday when we use rose vestments and light the pink candle on the Advent wreath. We are rejoicing that the Lord is near and for those of you having a penitential Advent, you can relax a little.

**This Wednesday** we welcome the Upper Juniors from St Thomas More School for their Carol Services at 5pm and 6pm. Parishioners are welcome to attend.

**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.

**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: Moses and the Ten Commandments, Ruth (the grandmother of Jesse) and the prophet Samuel.

**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 [bexlevheath@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:bexlevheath@rcaos.org.uk) or speak to either Fr Michael or Fr Luke. Thank you in advance.

**Thank you** for your generous support of the Little Sisters of the Poor at Vauxhall, following their visit last week. You donated £853.39.

**Radio Maria** is a global network of 24-hour Catholic radio stations that broadcast religious programming to support listeners' spiritual lives. Why not give it a try. <https://radiomariaengland.uk/>

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

**Hiring of Hall:** Please contact Cath Bird: 07989 156111 or email: [bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk)

**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](mailto:bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk) and it will be sent to you weekly.

**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

**Crib Donations:** This year, our Crib donations will be going to The Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust. This Trust was established following a request from Bethlehem Christians for help in establishing a hospice. Bethlehem has the highest reported number of cancer cases in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and cancer is the second highest contributor to Bethlehem deaths, with over 150% rise between 2000 and 2020. This is a registered charity in the UK and is also a registered NGO in Palestine. It is the only licensed palliative care provider in the OPT.

In Bethlehem, it has a strong infrastructure; an operations board with supporting financial and clinical governance committees. Last year The Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust nurses made over 2,000 home visits, providing end-of-life care and family support for 85 patients. There are a great many more people in need, whom the charity cannot reach without vital donations to support its ongoing work. The charity urgently needs support to enable sufferers to end their days pain free and with dignity.

To provide donations, please go to <https://bethlehemcareandhospicetrust.org/>

**Our Parish Christmas Fayre:** Many thanks to you for making the Fayre a great success and a fun event. Thanks to those who prepared the hall and put out the various stalls. Thanks to those who donated such high-quality items and thanks for coming. We had more people than before and lots of little children. It took a lot of hard work. The amount raised was £1,250 which was splendid. We are still selling raffle tickets at £1 per strip. Please ensure you write your name and telephone number on each individual ticket and place in the box along with your money. The Draw will take place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December after 10.30am Mass in the hall.

**Christmas Raffle:** Hopefully you collected your raffle tickets attached to last week's newsletter. Please remember to fill them in and place in the box in the porch. There's still time to purchase tickets if you weren't here last week. Tickets will be on sale after each Sunday Mass for the next two weeks. Tickets are £1.00 per strip. 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

**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.

**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.

**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.

#### Offertory Donations for November

	Basket	Gift Aid	Loose	S/O	Card Machine	Total
2.11.25	605.67	125	480.67			
9.11.25	630.66	183	447.66			
16.11.25	464.2	119	345.2			
23.11.25	522.09	142	380.09			
30.11.25	492.69	99	393.69			
	2,715.31	668	2,047.31	1,901.67	550.55	5,167.53

**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.

**Wintertime 2026:** Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January: Cost £139: For aged 11-15. This initiative is an offshoot of Summertime 2025. For altars servers and those who attend Sunday mass regularly aged 11-15. See poster for details. Forms will be available, or you can contact Fr. Stephen Boyle, [dartford@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:dartford@rcaos.org.uk). It takes place at Westminster Pastoral centre, Pinner. Names need to be known by 15<sup>th</sup> December, and forms received by Fr. Stephen Boyle by the 20<sup>th</sup> December. There are limited numbers, so we recommend booking early to book a place. A coach will be put on from St. Anselm's Dartford at a cost of £20 return.

**The Eltham Utopians are looking for dancers and actors:** The date of the panto is 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**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](http://cafod.org.uk/worldgifts)

#### MASSES 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.