

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

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SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY (YEAR A) – PAGE 111

Sunday 4th January 2026

Second Sunday after the Nativity

08.30 Mass for Holy Souls (Fr M)

10.30 Mass for Cath & Alan Bird & Family (Carolan) (Fr M)

Refreshments resume today

17.30 Mass for Nicholas Burke RIP (OLA)

Monday 5th January 2026 Feria of Christmastime

No Mass

Tuesday 6th January 2026

The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
& Holyday of Obligation

10.00 Mass for Parishioners (Fr M)

No Evening Mass

Wednesday 7th January 2026

Feria of Christmas/Saint Raymond of Peñafort,
Priest

No Mass

Thursday 8th January 2026 Feria of Christmastime

09.00 Liturgy of Word with Holy Communion

Friday 9th January 2026 Feria of Christmastime

09.00 Mass for Anne & Peter Hammond & Family (Carolan) (Fr M)

Adoration until 10.00am

Confessions straight after the Blessed Sacrament is Exposed

Saturday 10th January 2026 Feria of Christmastime

10.00 Mass for Welfare & Wellbeing of Malanka Cardim (Family) (Fr M)

Confessions

Sunday 11th January 2026

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

08.30 Mass in Thanksgiving & Honour to the Holy Trinity (Guilbert) (Fr M)

10.30 Mass for Breeda & Davey O'Neill RIP (Fr M)
Children's Liturgy resumes
Refreshments resume

17.30 Mass for Fr James Austin RIP (Foundation) (OLA)

The end of the Season of Christmas

Rest in Peace Ken Atmore: It is with profound sorrow that we announce the death of our very dear friend and parishioner Ken Atmore. He died peacefully at home in Izane Road with his dear wife Ann close beside him. Ken had been ill for a short while with brain cancer. He did not want many people to know this so we did not pray for him publicly by name but prayed for him in our hearts. We thought Ken might get better, but it was not to be. Ken was a great parishioner involved in so many activities: taking communion to the sick, reading at Mass, Chair of the Parish Council, cutting our grass and the odd bit of painting. He did whatever was needed without being asked. He helped with the Sick and Retired Priests' Fund in the Deanery and was also active in charity work with Starlight. But above all he was a good man. His faith was deep and he was loving and generous. Ann and Ken married here 55 years ago and they were such a wonderful couple – so devoted to each other. We pray for Ann who will miss him so much. We will also miss our amazing Ken. I could go on for ages about how he helped us. We offer our deepest sympathy to his wife Ann, his children Ian and Natalie, the grandchildren and his brothers. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. West Bromwich Albion have lost a fantastic fan.

Rest in Peace Mary Edwards who died recently aged 95. She and her husband John had lived in The Grove, Bexleyheath. He died some years ago and we have a Foundation Mass for him. This was Mary's childhood parish as well as being her family parish when she had the children. We offer our sympathy to her family. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Rest in Peace Maud Roussetty: We have just heard that Maud died a few weeks ago in Mauritius. She left our parish to go back to her home place of Mauritius a year ago. I think she may have been 95 when she died. She was in a care home run by the Loreto Nuns and was safe and well looked after. Maud was a parishioner here for a long time. She came to our lunch club and was a member of our Bible Group. Despite her years she was very active and enjoyed various activities including Tai Chi. Maud had a great Catholic faith and was a woman of great intelligence. Sadly, she had various mental health issues and could be difficult and hard to please. At other times she was sweetness and light. She was certainly a character and I liked her. Our sympathy to all her family. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

The Feast of the Epiphany is this Tuesday 6th January: It is a Holyday of Obligation but there is only one Mass at 10.00am. Because Fr Luke is away until 4th February, Fr Michael does not feel up to celebrating another Mass at 7pm. On the Sundays of January, one of the Friars from Our Lady of the Angels will be celebrating the 5.30pm Mass. During the week we have Mass on Fridays and Saturdays as usual. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, we will have a service of Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion at 9am. Getting priests to supply is expensive for the parish – about £85 for a Sunday Mass!

Readers' Rotas: January-February 2025: These are available in the porch to collect.

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

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.

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. **Payment online:** Account No: 21089620 Sort Code: 51-70-14 Account Name: RCAS Bexleyheath

Christmas Thanks: we thank everyone who helped prepare the church and parish for the celebration of Christmas. Among those we thank Cath, Keith, Cheryl, Rosemarie, other musicians and the choir, the servers, readers, EMs, welcomers, flower arrangers, those who decorated and cleaned the church and anyone who has been forgotten. Fr Michael and Fr Luke thank you for your generous Christmas collection £5700.03, plus cards and presents. We hope you enjoyed the various services.

Altar servers: We had lots of servers at Christmas, and many served at more than one Mass. Last Sunday we enrolled some of them into the Guild of Saint Stephen at the 8.30 and 10.30 Masses and presented them with the medal. We therefore congratulate: Angus, Agnes, Ambrose, Anselm, Aquinas, Keliam and Micaiah. We are always happy to welcome new servers.

Our 2026 First Holy Communion Programme begins soon: Meeting for Parents & Guardians on Thursday 15th January at 7.00pm in the hall. Mass of Commitment, Sunday 18th January at 10.30am Mass.

Radio Maria is a global network of 24-hour Catholic radio stations that broadcast religious programming to support listeners' spiritual lives. <https://radiomariaengland.uk/>

Congratulations to Bishop Richard Moth of Arundel & Brighton Diocese, who has been appointed as the new Archbishop of Westminster. I studied with him at St John's Seminary although he was in a lower year. I knew him quite well and we met up again when I was a priest at our Cathedral and he was Archbishop's Secretary and then Chancellor. He has always been a hard worker and very pastoral. We also congratulate Canon Gerard Bradley, Episcopal Vicar for the SW area who has been appointed our new auxiliary Bishop. His ordination is at St George's Cathedral on 2nd February. I knew Gerard from when I was a priest at Anerley. His family came from South Norwood and a relation of his was our housekeeper. When I went back to the Seminary as a priest for an Easter retreat, he was the first person I met, and he greeted me warmly. He is a fine priest and very wise and prayerful. Fr Michael

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. Please donate via our box by the Crib or go to <https://bethlehemcareandhospicetrust.org/>. Thank you.

New Catholic Title: Pope Leo XIV on Love, Truth, and the Church's Mission: POPE LEO XIV Amor sed Amor — Love, but Love. A clear Catholic response for our time — In a world shaped by Artificial Intelligence, individualism, and moral relativism, this book presents Pope Leo XIV's compelling call to the Church: to love with truth, to evangelise with courage, and to remain faithful to Christ in a changing culture. (See poster for more information)

St Fidelis Catholic Primary School with Nursery Unit 2026 Admissions: The open mornings for admission to Nursery for September 2026 will take place at the following times: • Tuesday 27th January 1:30pm • Wednesday 4th February 9:30am • Tuesday 10th March 1:30pm • Wednesday 18th March 9:30am. (See poster for more information)

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School's last Open Morning is on Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 9.30am.

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.

Racial Justice Sunday 1st February 2026 – Mass at 10.00am at St George's Cathedral: See poster for more information.

Retrouvaille helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships. Next date: 12th February 2026. www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

Fr Luke is now away until 4th February: Fr Michael will be on his own and will say Mass on Fridays, Saturdays and Sunday 8.30 & 10.30. One of the priests from Erith will celebrate the 5.30pm Mass. There will be Liturgy of the Word Services with Holy Communion on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9.00am. There are no baptisms during January. If we have funerals with burials the local priests of the Deanery have shown their willingness to help.

Thank you from Kay Offord: Thanks to all who made my 100th birthday so memorable. I was overwhelmed to receive so many gifts, many from whom I did not know. It is impossible for me to thank everybody individually. A Mass will be offered for you all. Thank you once again and a Happy, Healthy New Year to you all. Kay