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

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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) – PAGE 158

Sunday 8th March 2026

Third Sunday of Lent

08.30 Mass for Mrs E De Souza RIP (Fr M)
10.00 First Communion Session
10.30 Mass for David Smith RIP (Anniv) (Family) (Fr L)
Children's Liturgy
Refreshments in the hall
17.30 Mass for Ken Atmore RIP (Butler) (Fr M)
Installation of Officers of KSC after Homily

(Saint John of God, Religious)

Monday 9th March 2026 **Feria of Lent**
(Saint Frances of Rome)

No Mass

Tuesday 10th March 2026 **Feria of Lent**

09.00 Mass for Aunt Ursula Payne (John & Tracey) (Fr L)
followed by the Rosary
20.00 Stations of the Cross

Wednesday 11th March 2026 **Feria of Lent**

09.00 Mass for Iggy Pereira RIP (Fr L)
followed by the Rosary

Thursday 12th March 2026 **Feria of Lent**

09.00 Mass for Victor Lobo RIP (1 month's mind) (Pereira) (Fr L)
followed by the Rosary
19.00 Confirmation Session (hall)

Friday 13th March 2026 **Feria of Lent**

09.00 Mass for Pat Steele RIP (Anniv) (Bird) (Fr M)
Adoration until 10.00am
Confessions straight after the Blessed Sacrament is Exposed

Saturday 14th March 2026 **Feria of Lent**
(Saints Felicity and Pepetua, Martyrs)

10.00 Mass for Kay Hanrahan RIP (Parnell) (Fr Luke)
Confessions

Sunday 15th March 2026

Fourth Sunday of Lent/Laetare Sunday/ Mothering Sunday

08.30 Mass for Rosalind D'Costa RIP (D'Costa) (Fr L)
10.00 First Communion Session
10.30 Mass for Victor Leach RIP (Carolan) (Fr M)
Children's Liturgy
Refreshments in the hall
17.30 Mass for Private Intention (Seema) (Fr L)

Daffodils are given to all the ladies in the parish

The Gospels on 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent: These are special gospels used in Year A and also when you have people preparing for adult baptism at Easter. This Sunday we listen to the story of the Samaritan Woman at the well with its themes of living water, baptism and conversion. Next Sunday we will hear the story of the man born blind with its play on seeing and blindness. Baptism is also called Enlightenment when our spiritual eyes are opened. On the 5th Sunday we hear the story of the Raising of Lazarus from the dead, a foretaste of Our Lord's dying and rising. In Baptism we die to our old life of sin and are raised to new life in the waters. These are all powerful and dramatic gospels. They are quite long and Fr Michael will read the shorter version as he cannot stand for too long. It is well worth reading these gospels at home and praying them. They are rich in meaning.

Next Sunday is Laetare of Rejoicing Sunday: It marks Mid-Lent and today we wear rose vestments and can have a few flowers. It is also Mothering Sunday or Mother's Day when we celebrate our Mums. The servers will give out daffodils to all the ladies in the church during the notices

What's on during Lent?

Stations of the Cross: Every Tuesday: 20.00

We encourage parishioners: to sign up for different roles during Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Lists are on the noticeboard.

Help to cover statues: We need a couple of volunteers to cover the statues in purple cloths before the 5th Sunday of Lent. Are you free to help on Friday 20th March at 11.00am? Please let Cath know.

Altar Servers:

Practice for Palm Sunday; 22nd March after 10.30 Mass
Practice for Holy Week: Wednesday 1st April at 6.00pm
Practice for Easter Vigil: Holy Saturday 4th April at 11.00am
Please add your names to the lists in your room

Good Friday: Children's Stations of the Cross at 10.00am. We encourage all children, especially First Holy Communion and Confirmation children and parents to come along and take part. Evening Stations at 7.30pm

Decorating our Church: Help is needed on Holy Saturday 4th April at 12.00noon to prepare our church in readiness for the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday Services. Jobs entail removing cloths from statues, changing the backdrops etc. to gold, decorating the pillars and font, to name but a few. Also, if you have a talent for flower arranging, your services would be put to good use too! Do come along and have a cuppa and maybe a hot cross bun. Approximately 2 hours.

Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday 5th April after 10.30am. £1.00 entry per child. (Cash only)

Collections during Holy Week:

Retiring collection on Palm Sunday for Easter Flowers
Retiring collection on Good Friday for the Holy Places
Easter Collections are your personal gift to Fr Michael and Fr Luke

Please continue to keep in your prayers our First Holy Communion children: Sophia, Amy, Jidenna, Odera, Sienna, Aria, Kameron, Alfie, Cissy, Camile, Stanley, Noah, Chinelo, Gerrard, Kerem, Senanayaka, Lincoln, Joshua and Skye.

Also our **Confirmation Candidates:** James, William, Oliver, Aidan, Phoebe, Jaiden, Tochukwu, Dillyn, Serena, Nithuli, Elleanore, Mattia, Chiara, and Kimia.

Please pray for the sick and those in special need of your prayers: Katie Bingley, Rita Zaremba, Fr Gareth Bowen, Mary Paul, 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

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

A note from Janet, our Gift Aid Co-ordinator: Mass Offerings. We can receive Gift Aid on Mass offerings if you are a Gift Aid Donor. Could you please write on the envelope or email your gift aid number and amount that is enclosed? If you are paying by BACS, please ensure it is marked "Mass offering". Many thanks. Janet.

Gift Aid boxes: For parishioners who have signed up to Gift Aid and requested the little envelopes, your boxes are in the porch for you to collect.

On Sunday 22nd March 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.

Please consider having our weekly newsletter emailed to you every week. Email: bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk

Pray the Romero Rosary at St George's Cathedral: Join Archbishop John Wilson and the Cathedral clergy in praying the rosary every Friday at 5pm throughout Lent. This is a beautiful opportunity to draw closer to the Lord Jesus in prayer. Archbishop John will personally lead the devotion at the National Shrine of St Oscar Romero at St George's Cathedral (SE1 6HR) again on Friday 6th and Friday 27th March at 5pm. On all other Fridays during Lent, the Cathedral clergy will lead the rosary, followed by the Stations of the Cross at 6pm. Let the rosary connect you to the Lord Jesus this Lenten season. Find out more at: rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary

Pilgrimage to Lourdes: I warmly invite you to join me on this year's Southwark Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: 21st to 28th August 2026. A pilgrimage is a great opportunity to refresh and renew our relationship with the Lord Jesus, with the help of Our Lady's prayers. I have also found it a blessing to be able to accompany and to be inspired by other pilgrims, some of whom are sick, elderly or disabled.

Details for booking travel and accommodation can be found at https://www.tangney-tours.com/diocese-pilgrimages/diocese-ca/

We also ask pilgrims to complete a form with details, including medical requirements (if any) at https://www.catholicassociation.co.uk/join2026

For more information, please contact Canon Edward Perera (edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk) or Deacon John Fogarty (johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk) or myself, Bishop Paul Hendricks (paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk)

Donations for Local 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.

A Day with Mary is taking place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 14th March 2026 (9.45am to 5.00pm). Further information is available at https://www.adaywithmary.org/ or https://eventcatholic.com/ (see poster for more information)

Bexley Winter Shelter Donations: Thank you all who have bought sleeping bags and shower gel to help those homeless in Bexleyheath. We still need donations of new sleeping bags. Thank you.

Christ the King Sixth Form are seeking a qualified Accountant to join their Governing Body: Please see poster in porch for more information.

Musical Pilgrimage on the Augustine Camino June 8th-14th 2026: Setting off from Rochester Cathedral, we will walk about 10 miles a day through the beautiful Kent countryside to Canterbury, then onto the shrine of St Augustine in Ramsgate. Each evening, Eddie Gilmore will perform a little concert in a pub en route. Contact Eddie for more details: gileag@gmail.com www.eddiegilmore.org (see poster in porch)

Marriage and Family Life Events in 2026: Please look at information on noticeboard for events being held during 2026.

Olivet to Calvary – Sunday 29th March at 6.30pm: Members of the MacKenzie family supported by Bexley Phoenix Choir, with Simon Thorpe (Baritone) and Jane Noakes (Organ), will perform. This cantata by the Victorian composer, J H Maunder lasts about an hour and take us through the final few days of the life of Christ, starting on Palm Sunday and leading through to the Crucifixtion. (see poster for more information).

Discernment Retreats at Minster Abbey Benedictine Monastery: For single Roman Catholic Women aged 18-35 who are open to discerning a monastic vocation. Palm Sunday Weekend – 27th-29th March/7th-9th August/9th-11th October. (see posters for more information and to book).

Parish Easter Egg Hunt: Easter Sunday 5th April after 10.30 Mass- £1.00 entry per child

We are once again asking for donations of Easter Eggs (big and small) for our hunt taking place on Easter Sunday after 10.30 Mass. We ask First Holy Communion and Confirmation children/parents to get involved too with helping on the day and are appealing to any parishioners who would also like to help with running the refreshments. Please speak to Cath or email the parish office bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk if you can spare some time. Please leave donations of eggs in the porch behind the Mass book trolley. Thank you.