

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

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A) – PAGE 164

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

Monday 16th March 2026 **Feria of Lent**
No Mass

Tuesday 17th March 2026

Feast of Saint Patrick, Patron of Ireland

- 09.00 Mass for John Logue RIP (1st Anniv) (Keeney)
(Fr L) followed by the Rosary
20.00 Stations of the Cross

A Happy Feast Day to all our Irish Parishioners

Wednesday 18th March 2026 **Feria of Lent**
**(Saint Cyril of Jerusalem,
Bishop and Doctor of the Church)**

- 09.00 Mass for Mr F Pereira RIP (Fr L)
followed by the Rosary

Thursday 19th March 2026

Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the

Blessed Virgin Mary, and Patron of the Universal Church

- 09.00 Mass for José (Alaminos Fajardo RIP (Alaminos)
(Fr L) followed by the Rosary
19.00 Talk on First Confessions for First Communion
Parents **(Church)** (Fr M)
19.00 Confirmation Session **(hall)**

Friday 20th March 2026 **Feria of Lent**

- 09.00 Mass for Carmelina Fernandes RIP (Antao) (Fr M)
Adoration until 10.00am
Confessions straight after the Blessed
Sacrament is Exposed
11.00 Covering Statues in Church (help needed)

Saturday 21st March 2026 **Feria of Lent**

- 10.00 Mass for Sean & Delia O'Connor RIP (Parnell)
(Fr L)
Confessions
11.00 First Holy Communion children's first confession

Sunday 22nd March 2026

Fifth Sunday of Lent

- 08.30 Mass for Ken Atmore RIP (Kelly) (Fr M)
10.00 First Communion Session
10.30 Mass for Mary McGinty RIP (Family) (Fr L)
Children's Liturgy
Altar Servers' practice after Mass for Palm Sunday
Refreshments in the hall
17.30 Mass for Private Intentions (Seema & Jobin)
(Fr M)

Second Collection for Poor Parishes

Today 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.

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. Last Sunday we listened to the story of the Samaritan Woman at the well with its themes of living water, baptism and conversion. Today 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. Next 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.

Congratulations to Romie Tom Hook who was baptised last Saturday.

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 the following children:

First Holy Communion children:

Sophia, Amy, Jidenna, Odera, Sienna, Aria, Kameron, Alfie, Cissy, Camille, Stanley, Noah, Chinelo, Gerrard, Kerem, Senanayaka, Lincoln, Joshua and Skye.

Confirmation Candidates: James, William, Oliver, Aidan, Phoebe, Jaiden, Tochukwu, Dillyn, Serena, Nithuli, Eleanore, Mattia, Chiara, and Kimia.

Please do sign up to become a prayer partner.

Please pray for the sick and those in special need of your prayers: Jodie Bannell, 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

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.

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.

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 Crucifixion. (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. Our First Holy Communion parents and Confirmation Candidates are getting involved in organising this and helping on the day too. If you'd like to join us, please speak to Cath or email the parish office bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk
 Please leave donations of eggs in the porch behind the Mass book trolley. Thank you.



Crib Offerings: We were delighted to send a payment of £727.66 to the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust. This was raised from £147.31 Crib Offerings and £580.35 from our refreshments after Mass each Sunday. Please see their poster of thanks in the porch.

February's Offertory Donations

Date	Basket	Gift Aid	Loose	S/O	Card Machine	Total
1.2.26	555.95	119.95	436			
8.2.26	693.87	199.9	493.56			
15.2.26	469.44	117.2	352.24			
22.2.26	480.23	131.2	349.03			
	2199.49	568.25	1630.83	1795.67	570.51	4565.26

SPUC News – Message from Rob Hills: There is a rally on the 18th of March 2pm till 4pm outside Parliament against the decriminalisation of abortion. Further details at www.spuc.org.uk