

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

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**EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD (YEAR A) – 216 (Vigil) PAGE 251 (Day Mass)**

**5<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

08.30 Mass for Tina Ghosh (Jones) (Fr L)  
10.30 Mass for Ken Atmore RIP (Morris) (Fr M/Fr L)  
Following Mass, Easter Egg Hunt in the garden

**No Evening Mass**

*The Collection at Easter is your personal gift  
to Fr Michael and Fr Luke*

*Small Easter Eggs will be distributed  
to the children after the Easter Masses*

*Easter Egg Hunt takes place after 10.30 Mass today  
Entry is £1.00 per child (cash only)*

**6<sup>th</sup> April – Monday within the Octave of Easter**  
**(Bank Holiday)**

10.00 Mass for Holy Souls followed by Rosary (Fr L)

**7<sup>th</sup> April – Tuesday within the Octave of Easter**  
**(Saint John Baptist de la Salle, Priest)**

09.00 Mass for James Gordon RIP (Denis & Margaret)  
followed by Rosary (Fr L)

**8<sup>th</sup> April – Wednesday within the Octave of Easter**  
**(Saint Julie Billiart)**

09.00 Mass for Richard Slaney RIP  
followed by Rosary (Fr L)

**9<sup>th</sup> April – Thursday within the Octave of Easter**

09.00 Mass for Elvin Antao RIP  
followed by Rosary (Fr L)

**10<sup>th</sup> April – Friday within the Octave of Easter**

09.00 Mass for Arthur Edward Page (1<sup>st</sup> Birthday)  
(Fr M)  
Adoration until 10.00am  
Confessions straight after the Blessed  
Sacrament is Exposed

**11<sup>th</sup> April – Saturday within the Octave of Easter**  
**(Saint Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr)**

10.00 Mass for Private Intentions (Hensman) (Fr L)  
Confessions  
12.30 Baptism of Frederick Nicholas Mythen-Smith  
(Fr M)

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Second Sunday of Easter/Octave Day of Easter/  
Divine Mercy Sunday**

08.30 Mass for Marie Slaney's Birthday (Offord) (Fr L)  
10.30 Mass for Patsy Taylor's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday (Carolan)  
(Fr M)  
Refreshments after Mass  
17.30 Mass (Fr L)

**Fr Michael** prays that you all have a Happy and Holy Easter. Hopefully you will have the chance to enjoy family and friends as well as the spring weather. Easter is not just Easter Sunday but the whole season of seven weeks up to Pentecost. The celebrations will continue! Rejoice the Lord is risen. He is risen indeed Alleluia!

**Easter Sunday Reflection – “HE ROSE”**

Some years ago, I saw a documentary titled “Inquest at Golgotha”. The documentary can equally be termed in ordinary parlance a probe into what happened to the body of Jesus two days after his death and burial. A number of witnesses were invited to testify at the inquest (probe). They represented diverse interests.

The “enemies” of Jesus – the chief priest, the scribes and Pharisees – all said that the disciples of Jesus stole his body from the tomb where it had been buried. But that was downright unconvincing, since the tomb had been heavily guarded round the clock by Crack Roman Soldiers. The “Friends” of Jesus – his disciples, Mary of Magdala and a bunch of other women – testified that he had risen from the dead. That sounded like a fairy-tale. Nobody had ever been known to rise spontaneously from the dead before. There had been several well documented cases of someone raising a dead person back to life. Jesus himself did that at least three times during his public ministry. But that a dead person would rise from the dead by himself or herself, had never been heard or seen before. The “neutrals” – those who were neither “friends” nor “enemies” of Jesus – simply said that they did not know what happened to his body. One moment it was there in the tomb, the next moment it was gone! How it left the tomb or where it went they did not know.

Somehow, the disciples of Jesus were convinced enough of their own version that he had risen from the dead that it became the cornerstone of their entire lives and subsequent preaching. Nothing, no amount of threats could sway them from their position. When the Sanhedrin (the supreme council of the Israelites nation) ordered Peter and John not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus and about his resurrection, the defiant answer they got from the two apostles was “whether it is right in God's sight to listen to you rather than God, you must judge. We cannot keep from speaking about what we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:19-20). That was the point. They had seen and heard. During the period of forty days after his body left the tomb, Jesus showed himself to his disciples on a number of occasions and under different circumstances. At first, they too were sceptical. They dearly wished that it was true, that he had risen indeed from the dead. But that did not square with common sense. Nobody had ever done it before. Were they seeing a vision? Was it a ghost? Jesus went to great lengths to convince them. He asked them to touch him, feel his body, that it was real, not a phantom, nor a ghost. He asked them for food and ate in their presence. Gradually they came to the conviction that he had risen indeed. It had been a difficult journey. But once they got there, they were never going to go back, not even if it meant being arrested, flogged, killed.

That is what happens when we have seen or heard something ourselves. That is, we have been eye-witnesses. Somebody did not tell us. Even if we lie to others about what we have seen or heard, we cannot lie to ourselves. Somewhere in the deep recesses of our consciousness, we will still know the truth about what we have seen and heard.

Therefore, faith in the resurrection of Jesus is rooted in the eye-witness profession of his immediate disciples, what they saw and heard. It is not a fairy-tale. It is the pillar on which the entire fabric of the Christian religion rests: HE HAS RISEN AS HE SAID. ALLELUIA!

Happy Easter to you all. Fr Afam Luke Malunze.

**Rest in Peace:** Rita Zaremba who died last weekend in QE hospital. Rita had lived for over 58 years in our parish and worked some years ago at St Catherine's Catholic Girls School. Funeral arrangements to follow. May She rest in peace and rise in glory.

**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, 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)

**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

Please consider having our weekly newsletter emailed to you every week. Email: [bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk)

**Please continue to keep in your prayers the following children:**

**First Holy Communion children:** Sophia, Amy, Jidenna, Odera, Sienna, Aria, Kameron, Alfie, Cissy, Camile, 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.**

**Book of Remembrance:** At the back of the church by the Offertory Gifts, there is a Remembrance Book for you to add the names of your loved one so that they are remembered this Easter. It is brought up at the Offertory along with the Gifts. Lillies will be included in our Easter flowers.

**Mass Offerings:** Please do consider having a Mass said, possibly for a loved one or maybe as an Easter gift. Please remember the Mass offering goes directly to the Priest saying the Mass and is part of their income. The more Masses we have, the greater their income. You can email the request to the parish, [bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk) and make the payment via BACS (details under Offertory Donations) advising if you're a gift aider or not. Alternatively, write your intention on the envelope in the porch "Mass Offering" and include the money. The cost is usually £10.00 per Mass. Thank you in advance.

**Pilgrimage to Lourdes:** I warmly invite you to join me on this year's Southwark Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk)) or Deacon John Fogarty ([johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk)) or myself, Bishop Paul Hendricks ([paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk))

**St. Fidelis Catholic Nursery:** Children born between 01.09.2022 and 31.08.2023 Full-time, morning, and afternoon places are still available. Please return our Supplementary Form to the School Office. <https://www.st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk/admissions>

**Bexley Winter Shelter Drop-In Centre Donations:** Thank you for all your support with donations. We now need new men's boxer shorts (Medium and Large) and also ladies knickers (size 10,12 & 14). Please leave donations in the porch for me to collect. Thank you. Cath

**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.

**Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, 11<sup>th</sup> July, at St George's Cathedral:** If you are celebrating your 1<sup>st</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>/40<sup>th</sup>/50<sup>th</sup>/60<sup>th</sup> + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know as soon as possible, and no later than the middle of May, providing the following details: your names in the format John and Mary Smith, your home address, your parish, and the anniversary you are celebrating, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Spaces are limited. Contact us at [mflse@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflse@rcaos.org.uk) As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Clapham, Beckenham.

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

**Vacancy for part-time caretaker at St Mary of the Crays, Crayford:** 8 hours per week, flexible schedule. £12.71 per hour. Deadline for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> April, with a view to starting on 4<sup>th</sup> May. (Please see poster in church porch for more information on duties required)

**Help Needed:** On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30 Mass, our Confirmation Mass will take place with Reverend Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar for the South East presiding. We need help in serving refreshments on the day. Please speak to Cath or contact the parish office if you are free to help: [bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk) Thank you in advance.