

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

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**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) – PAGE 265**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026**

**Fifth Sunday of Easter/Safeguarding Sunday**

- 08.30 Mass for Mary Paul (Kelly) (Fr M)
- 10.00 First Holy Communion Session
- 10.30 Mass for Atmore Family Intention (Fr L)  
Children's Liturgy  
Refreshments in hall after Mass
- 17.30 Mass for Private Intentions (Coroi) (Fr M)

**(Saints Philip and James, Apostles)**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Feast of the English Martyrs/Bank Holiday**

**No Mass**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Day of Prayer for Survivors of Sexual Abuse**

- 09.00 Mass for Private Intention (Jobin & Seema)  
followed by the Rosary (Fr L)

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Saint John Paine, Priest & Martyr**

- 09.00 Mass followed by the Rosary (Fr L)

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Council Elections (St JV hall being used)**

- 09.00 Mass followed by the Rosary (Fr L)

**Feria**

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Our Lady of the Sacred Heart**

- 09.00 Mass for Josefina & Conceicao Antao RIP (Anta)  
Adoration until 10.00am  
Confessions straight after the Blessed  
Sacrament is Exposed

**Feria**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

- 10.00 Mass followed by the Rosary (Fr L)  
Confessions

**Feria**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

- 08.30 Mass for Deceased Members of O'Connor Family  
(Parnell) (Fr L)
- 10.00 First Holy Communion Session
- 10.30 Mass for Deceased Members of Gnana Pragasam  
(Josephine)/Crowning of Our Lady takes place at  
this Mass (Fr M)  
Children's Liturgy  
Refreshments in hall after Mass
- 17.30 Mass for Private Intentions (Coroi) (Fr L)

**MAY IS THE MONTH OF MARY**

**Today is Safeguarding Sunday – Both Cath and Lena, our Parish Safeguarding Representatives will speak at each Mass today.**

**Message from Diocese Safeguarding Office:**

This important day reminds us that safeguarding is a responsibility shared by us all. It is part of the Christian duty we owe to one another; especially to those who are most vulnerable. It calls us to help ensure that every person is safe, valued, listened to, and treated with the dignity which is theirs in Christ.

Safeguarding is not simply a matter of policies or procedures, necessary though these are. It is also an expression of our deepest moral and spiritual responsibilities. It asks of us a spirit of attentiveness, compassion, and courage: a readiness to recognise harm, to respond wisely to concerns, and to stand alongside those who are in need of care and support.

In this way, safeguarding is closely bound to the Church's social teaching, which places at its heart the God-given dignity of every human person, and calls us to uphold the common good by protecting the weak, the vulnerable, and those whose voice may too easily go unheard. To safeguard others well is, therefore, not only a practical responsibility, but also a work of justice, solidarity, and Christian love. Safeguarding Sunday gives us, as an Archdiocese, an opportunity to renew our commitment to building communities in which dignity is honoured, concerns are taken seriously, and help is always available. It is also a moment for each parish community to strengthen its resolve to listen well, to act wisely, and to care faithfully for one another.

**A Sincere Gratitude:** I appreciate immensely those who made our Confirmation this year, 2026, a huge success.

Fr. Michael, thanks a lot for your kindness, love and the permission given for the Confirmation to take place.

To our dear Catechists, Cath, Lena and Maria, we cannot thank you enough for your kindness, love and the time you devoted to teach our lovely children so well. Thanks as well to Linda who stood in for Cath and Maria in one of the classes when they were away.

My gratitude to our children who were Confirmed, they performed exceptionally well. They were attentive in the Confirmation classes and their performance during liturgy was superb.

Many thanks to Brenda, who adorned our Church with beautiful flowers.

My appreciation to the parents, relatives and friends of those who were Confirmed for the support and encouragement you gave them.

To the sponsors also, we cannot thank you enough for sacrificing your time and accepting to be the Sponsors of these our dear children. Many thanks to John, the photographer, for his coverage of the event.

Huge thanks, to our Choir for the wonderful rendition, your voices were angelic. To the congregation, kudos to you for participating actively in the mass.

Canon Victor, you are a jolly good fellow, a very big thank you for coming and Confirming our children despite your tight schedule.

Thank you also, for the inspiring homily.

We pray that the Almighty God will continue to keep us all in His love.

**Fr. Afam Luke Malunze**

**Next Sunday we will have the Crowning of Our Lady:** We ask children for donations of flowers for Our Lady, which will be brought up at the Offertory at 10.30am Mass.

**Please pray for the sick and those in special need of your prayers:** Pat Tolhurst, Eileen Poulston, Katie Bingley, 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, 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)

**A Day with Mary:** Saturday 30 May at St Anselm, West Hill, Dartford (See poster for more information)

**May is Mary's Month: Rosary For Life.** Archbishop John Wilson is calling on all of us to join him in praying the Rosary for Life this May (Month of Mary). Together, we will pray through the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries, each one offered for the most vulnerable facing growing threats to life: unborn children at risk of abortion, victims of war and persecution, people with disabilities, and the elderly and vulnerable. For video, audio and written versions of the Rosary for Life, visit [rcaos.org.uk/rosaryforlife](http://rcaos.org.uk/rosaryforlife). Pray the Rosary. Encounter Christ. Defend life.

**Rita Zaremba's Funeral Mass** will be on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am at St John Vianney, followed by cremation at 12.30pm at Eltham Crematorium. Refreshments will be held in our hall afterwards, which parishioners are invited to attend. We need help in organising the hall and serving the refreshments. Is anyone available to help setup the hall first thing on Tuesday morning and then serve tea and coffee after Rita's service? It would be lovely to come together and give Rita the send-off she deserves, after being a parishioner for so many years. If you can assist, please contact Cath at [bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk) or call the parish office.

**First Holy Communions:** These will take place over two weekends, Sundays 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am Mass. We ask that you continue to keep in your prayers the following children and their families: Sophia, Amy, Jidenna, Odera, Sienna, Aria, Kameron, Alfie, Cissy, Camile, Stanley, Noah, Chinelo, Gerrard, Kerem, Senanayaka, Lincoln, Joshua and Skye.

### **St John Vianney's Parish Day – Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2026 after 11.00am Mass**

Some of you may not be aware that every year we hold a Parish Day to celebrate the consecration of the Church of St John Vianney. Usually this is at the beginning of May, however, this year, as in another year, we are holding it on Pentecost Sunday. 10.30am Mass that day will be 11.00am instead. The day brings all our parishioners together, to sit and have natter and catch up on news, but also to "break bread" with one another and shared food. We ask parishioners to bring along something to eat that others can enjoy too. This may be a traditional dish, or if not, we ask for donations of cold meats, finger foods, sausage rolls, the usual buffet-type food. Refreshments will be available on the day, however, please bring your own alcohol if you wish to drink wine etc...

Help is needed setting up the day before, on the day itself laying out the donated food, and clearing up after the event. Food will not be served until both Fr Michael and Fr Luke have said Grace in the hall, so please be patient if you're tummy is rumbling! 😊

It would also be nice to have activities for some of our young children to take part in and we're appealing for parents to get involved with this. We have various games, i.e. Connect Four, Snakes and Ladders etc., but it would be nice to maybe have some other activities too.

On the noticeboard in the church is list for you to add your name and contact details and ways in which you'd like to help. Please do get involved. Parishioners were very kind in supporting our Christmas Fayre, so let's get together again to make Our Parish Day a great success.

In respect of the Mass at 11.00am, if you would like to read a bidding prayer in your native language, please let Cath know at [Bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:Bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk). Our bidding prayers are usually for the Pope, peace in the world, the sick of our parish and prayers to Our Lady. As this is Pentecost Sunday, calling on the gift of the Holy Spirit would be a lovely prayer to write too. You only need to write a few lines. Don't be shy, give it a try.

**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))

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

**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.

**Donations for Local Foodbanks:** Items needed are cereal, sugar, tea, coffee, UHT milk, toilet rolls, tinned meat, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit, soup etc. Thank you for supporting this.