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

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Michael Jones
Email: michaeljones@rcaos.org.uk
ASSISTANT PRIEST: Fr Luke Malunze
Email: lukemalunze@rcaos.org.uk
PARISH SECRETARY: CATH BIRD
(Office hours are Tuesdays and Fridays 8.30am – 4.30pm)
Parish Office Email bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk
Parish Website: www.StJohnVianney-Bexleyheath.org
Tel: 020 8303 1957

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES:
CATH BIRD
Email: bexleyheathsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
Tel: 07927 637425
LENA PETT
Email: bexleyheathsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
Tel: 07927 637424

Safeguarding: The Archdiocese of Southwark is committed to the safety and welfare of children and vulnerable adults. The Diocese co-operates fully with the CSAS, the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service, which aims to help the Church become an example of best practice in the Safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, and develop a "culture of vigilance" to ensure that children and vulnerable adults in our care are kept safe from harm.

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A) – PAGE 140

Sunday 11th October 2026
Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time/
Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their families

08.30 Mass for Deceased Members of The Chitty Family (Fr L)
10.30 Mass for Ollie Vines RIP (Smith)
Children's Liturgy
Refreshments in hall after Mass
17.30 Mass for Narcis Faria RIP and all members of the Faria Family (Fr L)
Fourth and Final Mass Count

Monday 12th October
Saint Wilfrid, Bishop

No Mass

Tuesday 13th October
Feast of Saint Edward the Confessor, King

09.00 Mass for Michael Curl RIP (Kerins) (Fr L) followed by the Rosary
11.30 Deanery Meeting at Bexley
Teach Me to Pray online session

Wednesday 14th October
Saint Callistus, Pope and Martyr

9am Mass for Holy Souls (Fr L) followed by the Rosary

Thursday 15th October
Saint Teresa of Jesus (of Avila) Virgin and Doctor of the Church.

09.00 Mass for Anthony Da Costa RIP (Anniv) (Antao) (Fr L) followed by the Rosary

Friday 16th October
Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin

09.00 Mass for Mary Coyle RIP (Fr M)
Adoration until 10.00am
Confessions straight after the Blessed Sacrament is Exposed

Saturday 17th October
Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr

10.00 Mass in Thanksgiving for Master Sylvester Chukwyemeka Obilor's 18th Birthday (Family) (Fr L) followed by the Rosary
Confessions
12.30 Baptism of Aoife Jo Hurt (Fr L)

Sunday 18th October
Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time. World Mission Sunday: Day of Prayer for the Evangelization of the World

08.30 Mass for Michael Teye McCarthy for speedy recovery from surgery (Rufina) (Fr L)
10.30 Mass for Steve Shea RIP (1st Anniv) (Alaminos) (Fr M)
Children's Liturgy
Refreshments in the hall
17.30 Mass for Welfare of Kath Curl (Kerins) (Fr L)

Second Collection for Missio / **(Saint Luke, Evangelist)**

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

Today is a Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their families: At this time when our prisons are in a critical state this Day of Prayer for all involved in the justice system is very timely. As you know from the news, a number of prisoners are being released early, some of whom are guilty of violence. This is because we do not have enough prison places. Governments over the past 30 or so years have not built new prisons or indeed repaired the crumbling Victorian prisons. Prisoners live in crowded prisons, and the staff have the same problem - working in difficult conditions. We pray for prisoners, their families, prison staff and all who work in probation and the justice system. It is an opportunity to reflect on Christ's call, "I was in prison and you visited me".
PACT is the national Catholic prison charity. We support prisoners, people with convictions, and their families. Rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, we believe in the dignity of every person and in the possibility of a fresh start. There are envelopes in the porch if you would like to make a donation to PACT.

There are twelve prisons in the Archdiocese: three are near to our parish: Belmarsh (high security), Thameside (private prison) and Isis (young offenders).
Fr Edward is the RC chaplain at Belmarsh with his dedicated volunteers. Belmarsh is his parish. His ministry includes presiding at Mass, celebrating the sacraments, pastoral care, gifting of rosary beads and miraculous medals, visiting prisoners in their cells, providing spiritual reading, liaison with outside agencies and maintaining the Catholic presence in the prison environment. Here in Belmarsh, the Church really is a field hospital; men come in with blown away consciences, shell shocked spirits, broken hearts and long sentences. Prison ministry is accompaniment and presence with prisoners on their pilgrimage through serving long sentences, repentance, gaining insight, restorative justice and conversion of life. Prison ministry is always sensitive and mindful of the victims of crime. Prisoners greatly appreciate your prayerful support.
Martin Stewart RC Chaplaincy Volunteer HMP Belmarsh

Get me to the Church on time: We have noticed that lots of people are coming into Mass very late. This is especially so at 10.30 Mass when some are arriving as late as 11am. I know it is sometimes difficult to park and to get the children ready but please try to leave home earlier so that you can be present for the start of Mass. It is great that many are coming to Mass with babies and young children. We love seeing you but would love to see you earlier! Fr Michael

October is the month of the Holy Rosary and today we celebrate Rosary Sunday. Perhaps families can pray the rosary at home and teach the children the meaning of the beads. Also, Fr Luke leads the rosary after he says Mass during the week and on Saturdays. You would be most welcome to join him.

Rest in Peace: Edna Pereira. Edna and Iggy used to live in Sheldon Road. Although they belonged to St Thomas More Parish, they often came to the 5.30pm Mass here and we knew them well. Now Edna has gone to join her husband Iggy. Our sympathy to all their family. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Congratulations to Kikungboh Luke Beshel-Ikwen who was baptised last weekend.

Please pray for the sick and those in special need of your prayers: Mick & Sylvie Carolan, Pat Tolhurst, Eileen Poulston, Katie Bingley, Fr Gareth Bowen, Mary Paul, John Yates, Meta James, Tracey James, Baby Teddy, Tom C, Susan, 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, Mrs Chris Lynch, Ashleigh, Fr Michael, Robin Robinson, Alice, John Moore, Pauline Viegas, Deirdre Collins, Susan Dassanyake, Nuala Pawley, Helena Riley, Richard Whiteside, Florrie Pereira, Jo O'Donnell, 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:

Electronic Newsletter: If you would like our newsletter emailed to you each week, please contact Cath at the parish office: 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. You can also make payments via our card machine located in the porch. Using this method, you can also pay for Repository items, Second Collections and Candles too. Please remember to Gift Aid if you are tax payer. If you wish to set up a regular standing order or make a payment via BACS, please contact the parish office for bank details: bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk

Fourth and Final Mass Count: Today is the last Sunday for counting attendees at Mass. Thank you to those who have undertaken this request whilst taking the collection.

World Mission Day: Next Sunday there is a Second Collection for Missio. Missio is the Church's official organ for the support of foreign missions. This collection in its entirety goes to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor. Missio works through local bishops, churches and missionary congregations to ensure that resources are distributed equitably and justly on the basis of need. The money goes directly from England and Wales to the bishops in the mission territories: local church directly helping local church.

Congratulations to our friends at Our Lady of the Angels as they celebrate the 800th Anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi in this special Year of Saint Francis. They also have the Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition and Franciscan Relics Exhibition, taking place from now until 10th October. (see poster for more information)

Young Adult Deanery Group: Today at each Mass, Jack McAlpine, will talk briefly about the organising of this group, being set up for young adults and professionals (18-35) to create a community where we can build each other up in faith, knowledge and friendship. please join us for our first introductory meeting on 22nd October 6.00pm to help build the starting direction of this new initiative. Graciously hosted at St John Vianney Parish hall 21 Heathfield Rd, Bexleyheath DA6 8NP.

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers' Formation Day – Saturday 31st October, 10:00am-2:00pm, at Our Lady of the Rosary, Erith: Please email Cath at the parish office bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk to advise whether you are able/unable to attend this day, as we need to advise numbers by 19th October. Thank you.

Mass Intentions: Just a gentle reminder to ensure you put in your Mass request in plenty of time. If you leave a contact number on the envelope, Cath will contact you to advise the date if it is not the one you've requested. Currently we are quite booked up for October, with only one or two dates available. We are grateful for the Mass bookings that you do make, as it goes towards the Priests' salary.

Signing of School Forms: Now is the time of year for parents to apply for Secondary and Primary School places. If you need your form to be signed, confirming your attendance at Mass, we ask that you give it to Fr Michael or Fr Luke, when you're at Mass. You will then be contacted by the parish office, advising when you can collect it.
Please be aware that Fr Michael may not know or recognise all of you applying, so he will consult Fr Luke to seek his confirmation of your attendance. Please ensure you are honest with your attendance when completing these forms. Thank you.

Manna Centre: You have until the end of October to bring in donations for Harvest Sunday for the Manna Centre. Various food items are needed along with clothing too. (Please see list in porch). Leave donations in the porch behind the Mass book trolley. Thank you.

Help with Children's Liturgy: As you will have seen from last Sunday's 10.30 Mass, we had a lot of children go out for Children's Liturgy. We really need more parents to come on board and get involved with helping at these classes. With Advent not far off, we need more leaders and parents to assist with teaching the children. Please speak to one of the catechists or contact the parish office.
Please remember: If you child has made their First Holy Communion, they should remain in church for the Mass and not attend Children's Liturgy, unless it is a Catechist's child who cannot remain on their own in church.

A Day With Mary is taking place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 7th November 2026 (9.45am to 5.00pm): The Most Reverend Richard Moth, Archbishop of Westminster will be the Celebrant & Preacher at 10.30am Cathedral Mass on that day. Further information is available at https://www.adaywithmary.org/

Vocation Conference for young adults aged 18+ who are currently discerning their vocation: Saturday, 24th October 2026 from 2:00pm-8:00pm at St Thomas More Catholic Church, 420a Long Lane, Bexleyheath, DA7 5JW.
The conference will be a wonderful opportunity for young adults to come together for prayer, fellowship and discussion, while exploring important questions about vocation, relationships and marriage. The programme will include:
• Talks on discerning vocations, relationships and marriage • Holy Mass • Snacks and social time

Christmas Fayre at St John Vianney – Saturday 28th November – 12.00pm to 2.00pm

We are planning on having the following stalls: Repository, Gift Tombola, Bottle Tombola, Fancy Goods, Bric a Brac, cake stall, as well as a Toy Stall, but we need donations from you to have these. We shall also have bacon rolls and hot soup on the day, along with the usual refreshments. Celine will also be on hand to take professional family photos, at a reasonable price.
This event cannot run without parishioners' help, so please do sign up to the list on the noticeboard if you can spare an hour or two, either setting up on the Friday 27th or running a stall on the 28th. It's an event that brings our parishioners together, young and old and knowing the importance of this, and having a place to sit and natter, whilst having a bit to eat, Celine's photos will be set up in the porch of the church, freeing up the backroom as a refreshment area.
Donations are welcome now. Please leave them in the porch, ideally labelled "Fayre". With grateful thanks.
If you have any questions, please email the parish office: bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk