

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD/THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (A)

Sunday 25th December Christmas Day
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

09.30 Holy Souls
Readings from The Dawn Mass

No Evening Mass

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7
Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14
Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

A very Happy Christmas to you all!

Monday 26th December
Feast of Saint Stephen, Deacon & First Martyr.

NO MASS

Tuesday 27th December
Feast of Saint John the Apostle, Evangelist

NO MASS

Wednesday 28th December
Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs.

NO MASS

Thursday 29th December
Feast of Saint Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop & Martyr. Patron of pastoral clergy in England & Wales.

NO MASS

Friday 30th December
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

10.00 Funeral Mass for Antonia Nanette Gowers (Nan)
11.30 Burial at Sidcup Cemetery.

Saturday 31st December
Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas & New Year's Eve.

NO MASS

Sunday 1st January 2023
The Solemnity of Mary, the holy Mother of God.

New Year's Day & Octave Day of Christmas

08.30 Canon Colm Acton RIP
10.30 Mel Herman RIP/For all the parishioners
NO EVENING MASS

We wish everyone a Happy New Year

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2023

The Collection at Christmas is your personal gift to Fr. Michael

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Fr Michael: On Wednesday, Fr Michael became unwell and as a result of this, has had a stroke. Due to the speed of getting him to Q.E. hospital, they were able to transfer him to the Princess Royal Hospital, Farnborough, where he is in the stroke unit and receiving the necessary care. We ask parishioners to refrain from visiting him, as this could be overwhelming and he is very tired. Updates will be given. Please keep him in your prayers, asking Our Lord to look after him and return him to full health. If you have any parish concerns, please email bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk or call Cath on 07989 156111.

Regarding Masses going forward, we shall have Sunday Mass on New Year's Day and Sunday 8th January 2023. There will be no weekday Mass currently. Updates will be given in next week's newsletter.

The Crib Offerings go to The Southwark Crisis Fund managed by the Catholic Children's Society [Westminster]

Many thanks to all who helped prepare the parish for Christmas. More thanks in the next newsletter

Next Sunday is New Year's Day and the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God. We wish you every happiness and good health this New Year. **Please note that there is no 5.30pm Mass next Sunday.**

Children's Liturgy: As yet, we don't have a date to resume, but hopefully in the next week or two. We encourage little children and those who have not yet made their First Holy Communion to join Children's Liturgy to learn about The Bible and Jesus. Please do consider offering to help. You will not be on your own. It is very rewarding. 😊 Please let Cath know if you would like to help. Thank you.

Southwark Directories have arrived. They are £5 each. We have only ordered a few. Please put money in the wall donation box "CTS & Cards"

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023:

Parents/Guardians who have registered your child, please make a note of the following dates:

5th January 2023 @ 7.30pm – Parents/Guardians meeting in the hall

8th January 2023 @ 10.30 am – Mass of Commitment

15th January 2023 @ 10.00am – First Session for children in the hall

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

Kirsty, Robin Robinson, Irene Holliss, Yvonne James, Ann Bugden, Anne Brady, John Howard, Gerry McDonagh Jnr, Cathy Raine, John Moore, Pauline Viegas, Deirdre Collins, Susan Dassanyake, Michael Collins, Alice, Nuala Pawley, Martin McDonagh, Annie McDonagh, Helena Riley, Richard Whiteside, Gerry McDonagh, Sally Pain, Florrie Pereira, Kay Hanrahan, Fr John Ryan (former Parish Priest of Crayford), Gemma Braganza, Jo O'Donnell, Alf Middleton, Matthew Butler, Nadia Sheehy, Gloria Wood, Steve Pitt, Goretti Stone, Little Buster Sprules, David Collison, Carmen Fernandez, Christine Edwards, Santana Fernandes, Maria Pereira, Leonie Viegas, Stephen Stewart, Paul Robson, Jack Goodrich, Bridget Slaney, Gloria Slaney, Andy Wansbury and Roy Miller.

Update on Gerry McDonagh Junior. Gerry continues to make progress at rehabilitation centre. We ask for prayers for his speech to return.

FOODBANK: We know that money is tight for everyone at the moment, but if you can, please don't forget to add a few items to your weekly shopping to donate to the foodbank. Our box is labelled in the porch. This is delivered twice a week by one of our parishioners. Thank you.

Update on Ann Bugden: Ann has booked herself into respite at a nursing home in Hutton, Essex. She'll be away for a month over Christmas and the New Year, with the view to making it permanent. She sends her best wishes and asks you to keep her in your prayers.

Rotas for 2023: Copies of Readers' Rotas and Cashier Rotas are now available to collect in the porch.

HALL HIRE: Contact Sarah Tremain: 020 8301 2103

SAFEGUARDING AT ST JOHN VIANNEY

Our Parish Safeguarding Representatives are Cath Bird (07444 060578) and Lena Pett (07444 060577). Please see our Safeguarding Noticeboard for further information.

Bexley Winter Shelter: We are delighted to announce that St John Vianney Parish shall be offering our hall to the BWS on Friday evenings, starting from January 2023 to March 2023. This year we engaged with many guests, played cards and ate fish and chips. If you would like to consider volunteering, please speak to Cath or email:

caththebird@gmail.com As previously, we would be grateful for any donations of toiletries (toothpaste, razors, deodorant, shower gel etc.) as men and women's warm clothing. Please leave donations in the porch, separate from the foodbank. Thank you.

Message from Cath: "Some Definite

Service: Both myself and Sean O'Connell attended a recent zoom meeting with Archbishop John and other Parish Leads and Deanery Mentors in the Diocese. We discussed "being called by name to receive Jesus", not just us but sharing him with everyone. We have a hope in Jesus and we cannot keep it to ourselves. The Diocesan Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis (AEC) is responding to this call and asking parishes to assist by having Parish Leads in Evangelisation, Catechesis and Formation. This is where we need parishioners help. If you feel you would like to "come aboard", please email me or have a chat after Mass. Our parish needs to work together and offer help and support in all Sacramental areas. "People, Parish Plan, Prayer". In time, our parish will have to put together a plan. Should you wish to know more, please email me:

bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk or call me 07989 156111. God bless. Cath

Purchasing of card machine: Following a zoom meeting with members of the finance committee and "Donations", we have purchased a contactless payment system. This will be set up to use in the New Year. We are also purchasing a SIM card that will allow us to have WiFi in the church, in order to operate the machine. As we become more and more a cashless society, this is the way forward. When it is installed, please don't be afraid to use it. Help will be on hand to assist you. It will be located on a stand in the porch, on the right-hand side as you enter the church. You will be able to set up "Gift Aid" on it too. Using this will allow you to pay for candles, Masses, Repository items as well as the main and second collections.

Parish Pastoral Council: Sadly, due to the bad weather, our scheduled meeting this week was cancelled. We are looking for a new date in the New Year, with the possibility of doing it online. We appreciate that everyone is leading busy lives, and parish life is no different, so we ask you to search in your heart and consider joining our PPC. Parishioners of all ages are welcome to join. Any skills you have will be put to good use. **St John Vianney Parish Needs YOU!!** 😊 Please contact Cath: bexleyheath@rcaos.org.uk if you would like to volunteer. Thank you.

Serving at St John Vianney: Without sounding like a "stuck record", please do consider volunteering at St John Vianney. Your help is needed in many ways. Our Lord serves us all and calls us to serve others. Time costs nothing. Maybe it's something you've considered in the past. Now is the time to act. From the many volunteers and our PPC, we can become a very active parish once again, holding not only prayer and other liturgical groups, but running Christmas Fetes, Quiz Nights etc., bringing the parish together and evangelising without realising. (Yes, it does rhyme 😊). Yours gratefully, Cath.

The Universe Catholic Weekly – Message from Michelle Jones:

In order to keep our high standard going and maintain a strong weekly Catholic voice at a time when it is much needed in the world, please consider taking out a subscription. We have an excellent website full of trustworthy articles and an online shop with all subscribers receiving a 10% discount. Order **your Digital** 4 weeks **FREE introductory offer** by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

FINANCE INFORMATION:

Offertory Collections:

This week's collection £520.76
(Gift Aid: £142.00)

Thank you for your donations each week.

Don't forget you can make online payments. Our details are as follows:

Account No: 21089620

Sort Code: 51-70-14 Name: RCAS Bexleyheath. Please add your Gift Aid number.

PLEASE CONSIDER GIFT AIDING YOUR DONATION, IF YOU'RE A UK TAX PAYER.

A note from Janet Gift Aid: Thank you to everyone that have signed up to gift aid following our recent talk.

If you took a form and would still like to sign up, you will find me at 10.30 mass in the choir. Alternatively, you can give your form to Father Michael and he will pass it on to me.

If you would like more information you can call me on 07922 408550. Many thanks

well as men's clothing. Please leave donations in the porch, separate from the foodbank. Thank you.

St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, Sheldon Road, Bexleyheath Final Open Morning: 10th January 9.30a.m

World Youth Day 2023: See noticeboard for more information

