

ST. LAWRENCE OF CANTERBURY R C CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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29TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR A - 22ND OCTOBER 2023

(Psalter Week 1)

Entrance Antiphon: ***To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.***

Responsorial Psalm: Give the Lord glory and power.

Communion Antiphon: ***The Son of Man has come to give his life as a ransom for many.***

The Sacrament of Penance is available on Saturday mornings from 11am until the final confession and before and after Mass on Saturday evening and by prior arrangement.

ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has announced Friday 27 October as a day of prayer and fasting for an end to the Israel-Hamas conflict. On this day we will be celebrating the Solemnity of Our Lady, Queen of Palestine and all the Holy Land.

1st November is All Saints Day and is a holyday of obligation, Masses are at 7.30pm (Vigil) and 9:30am. 2nd November is All Souls Day, Masses are at 9:30am and 7:30pm.

In the month of November we pray for the faithful departed. The dates and times for the grave blessing services at the various cemeteries in the Bexley Deanery are in the newsletter. Mass Envelopes for the Holy Souls are available at the back of the church.

Have a blessed week.

Fr. Paul.

EXTERNAL PAVING WORKS TO PARISH OFFICES

We applied for and received a £10k award from the National Lottery as a contribution towards the cost of this work as we are providing disabled access for community use. If you would like to volunteer to secure funding from various third parties then please email sidcup@rcaos.org.uk. Support and training may be available from our Archdiocesan Fundraising Team. There may be pockets of money available that we can apply for, e.g. the front area of our church is available for public use and may attract funding for upkeep?

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION APPLICATION FORMS

The First Holy Communion programme for children in Year 3 and above will be starting in November. Both parent and child will need to be regular Sunday Mass attendees in this parish in order to join the course. For an application form please see Fr. Allan after Mass. The parents meeting is on Thursday 2nd November at 7 pm in the Church Hall. The Enrolment Mass is on Sunday 19th November at 10 am, both parent and child will need to attend the Enrolment Mass.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Thinking about becoming Catholic? As an adult are you thinking about becoming Catholic or are you considering the sacrament of Confirmation as an adult? If so please speak with Fr Allan about an application form. The first meeting for RCIA candidates will be on Thursday 9th November at 7:30 pm in the parish office.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM

Fr. Allan is leading a Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham leaving St. Lawrence's on Tuesday 21st November after the 9:45am Mass, staying overnight and returning on Wednesday 22nd November.

Pilgrims have to book their own accommodation as soon as possible and by Friday 3rd November. Bookings can be done through the Pilgrim Bureau, Friday Market Place, Walsingham, Norfolk, NR22 6EG. Tel: 01328 820217, Web: www.walsingham.org.uk. Email: reservations@walsingham.org.uk. We have reserved some rooms so please mention that you are part of the St. Lawrence Sidcup Pilgrimage when booking your accommodation.

We are also requesting for volunteers willing to car pool to the shrine with the cost of petrol shared amongst the group. If you are interested in joining this pilgrimage please email your names to the parish office on sidcup@rcaos.org.uk please also let the parish office know if you are willing to car pool to the shrine or if you need a lift. For further information about the pilgrimage please speak with Fr. Allan after Mass.

FIRST FRIDAY LUNCH - 12NOON TO 2PM

All are welcome to join us for lunch in the church hall from 12 - 2pm every first Friday of each month. Our first lunch will be served on Friday 3rd November.

PARISH MEN'S GROUP

In collaboration with the Catenian Association it has been suggested to commence a men's group initially on a monthly basis. We will meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the parish hall. I envisage a presentation and/or catechesis on a relevant subject aimed specifically for the male churchgoing audience. If you are interested please email sidcup@rcaos.org.uk or speak with Fr Paul after one of the Masses. Hopefully this new initiative in the parish will be of interest. The group will finish around 8pm with refreshments & pizza.

TODAY IS WORLD MISSION SUNDAY - 2ND COLLECTION IS FOR MISSIO

Missio is the Church's official charity for the support of foreign missions. The Collection taken on this World Mission Sunday goes in its entirety to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor. The Holy Father invites all Catholics to contribute to the special collection for Missio as it is vital for the growth of the Church and the spread of the Gospel.

XMAS FAYRE DONATIONS APPEAL

Our parish Xmas Fayre is on Saturday 25th November 10.30am to 1.30pm. We are looking for the following donations: Chocolate, bottles/cans (wine, spirit or soft drinks), New Gifts, Teddies and Children toys (in working/good condition). Please bring your donations to the Parish office (Tuesday-Friday 10am-2pm). Any questions please ring Fabiola 0777 3793139. Thank you.

DEATH NOTICES

1. The Funeral Service for Gerard (Gerry) O'Dwyer RIP will take place on Friday 27th October at Eltham Crematorium at 12:30pm.
2. The Funeral Service for Lucy Figueiredo RIP will take place on Tuesday 31st October at Eltham Crematorium at 1:45pm.

May their soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

1ST NOVEMBER IS ALL SAINTS DAY AND IS A HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION

NOVEMBER - MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

The Holy Souls mass envelopes are available at the back of the Church. Please include the names of your deceased family members and friends along with your Mass offerings in the envelope. The envelopes will be placed in a basket at the front of the altar. Mass offerings will be used to celebrate Masses for Holy Souls during the year.

GRAVE BLESSING SERVICES IN THE BEXLEY DEANERY

The grave blessing services in the Bexley Deanery will take place as below:

St. Paulinus Cemetery Crayford - Sunday 5th November at 12.30pm.

Hill View Cemetery Welling - Sunday 5th November at 1pm.

Kemnal Park Cemetery - Saturday 11th November at 1:00pm.

Bexleyheath Cemetery - Sunday 12th November at 12:30pm.

Sidcup Cemetery - Sunday 12th November at 1pm.

Brook Street Cemetery Erith - Sunday 12th November at 3pm.

DEANERY MASS FOR THE DECEASED CLERGY OF BEXLEY

The Deanery Mass for the deceased clergy of Bexley will be celebrated at our parish at 11am on Tuesday 28th November to remember and pray for our past clergy, who served our communities. All are welcome.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND - 20TH - 27TH MAY 2024

Due to the tragic events in Israel and Gaza we are not taking any further names for the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. We will keep an eye on the situation and in due course advise on whether the pilgrimage will proceed.

ARCHDIOCESAN SEMINAR - SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER 9:30AM TO 4PM

On Promoting Racial and Cultural Inclusion in Parishes, Schools and Communities will take place at Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral. See poster on noticeboard for details.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday 21st October	29th Sunday of the Year A
6.30pm	Doreen Wilcockson RIP
Sunday 22nd October	29th Sunday of the Year A
8.30am	Deceased members of the Parkinson Family
10.00am	Mary Josephine McDonnell RIP - 1st Anniversary
11.30am	The People of the Parish
Monday 23rd October	Feria
9.30am	Marjory MacDonald RIP
Tuesday 24th October	Feria
9.45am	Holy Souls
Wednesday 25th October	Feria
9.30am	Annie and Mary Travers RIP
Thursday 26th October	Feria
9.30am	Lourenco Mendonca RIP
Friday 27th October	Solemnity of Our Lady, Queen of Palestine and all the Holy Land
9.30am	Joseph Kyne RIP
Saturday 28th October	Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles
9.30am	Holy Souls

Collection	15th October 2023
Cash	£427.23
Gift Aid	£323.80
Total	£751.03
Monthly Standing Order	£4785

Please pray for all the sick of our parish who are at home and in hospitals. Please also pray for the souls of all the faithful departed that God may grant them eternal rest.

Through Him, then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Hebrews 13:15