

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:**

- 5th January: Thursday -**  
The Blessing of Epiphany Water??
- 6th January: Friday -**  
The Epiphany of the Lord.  
*Blessing of Chalk for the Blessing and Marking of Homes???*
- 8th January: Sunday -**  
The Baptism of the Lord:  
Where, when, on what date, and by whom were you Baptised?
- 23rd January: Monday**  
*The Espousals of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St Joseph.*
- 2nd FEBRUARY: THURSDAY**  
**THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**  
(a.k.a.:  
*The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or, CANDLEMAS, when our young people will receive THE FULLNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN CONFIRMATION administered by CANON VICTOR DARLINGTON V. G., Episcopal Vicar for the S.E Area of London.*
- 19th FEBRUARY: SUNDAY -**  
we will keep the Feast of **THE DEDICATION OF OUR PRESENT PARISH CHURCH: (22nd February 1987).**
- The Parish was founded 180 years ago in 1842; Present Church Building Foundation Stone laid on 29th April 1972;**
- The Present Building opened: 6th December (or earlier ?) 1973!**

**That day we will hold:**  
**AFTERNOON TEA,**  
**Sale of Goods and**  
**GRAND DRAW!**

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES**  
*continued:*

- 22nd February: Ash Wednesday -**  
Lent begins!
- 21st February: SHROVE TUESDAY -**  
the Episcopal Ordination of **Philip Moger** in St George's Cathedral Southwark.
- 25<sup>th</sup> March: Saturday -**  
**THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD - a bigger Feast than Christmas?**  
**A DAY WITH MARY**  
in St Anselm's, West Hill, Dartford.
- 2nd April: Palm Sunday**  
**6th April: Holy Thursday;**  
**7th April: Good Friday;**  
**8th April: Easter Vigil;**  
**9th April: EASTER SUNDAY**  
**16th April: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**
- 27<sup>th</sup> May: Saturday -**  
the Vigil of Pentecost  
**A DAY WITH MARY**  
in St Mary of the Crays  
in Mary's Month of May  
**c. 9:00am to 5:00pm.**
- 11th June: Sunday -**  
**CORPUS CHRISTI:**  
**A BLESSED SACRAMENT PROCESSION ??**

**MISSIO - RED BOXES**

- Total Donations for the Year 2022 were **£ 895.03p.**
  - Thanks to all contributors for your generosity.
  - Thanks also to our 3 promoters for your hard work.
  - If your Red Box has not been emptied for some time please, write your name on the label, leave your Box in Church and take an empty Box away with you.
- Local Secretary:  
Peter Tite 01322 558 220



**+ JESUS, + MARY AND + JOSEPH +**  
**25th December 2022 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD)**  
**ST MARY OF THE CRAYS, CRAYFORD:**  
**SUPPLEMENT TO THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**



**PLEASE USE THE PARISH MASS BOOKS, HYMN BOOKS & MASS CARDS**  
**THE READINGS, ETC., FOR THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - YEAR A**  
CAN BE FOUND FROM PAGE: 95, 98, 101, & 103.  
**THE ORDINARY OF THE HOLY MASS FROM PAGE: 7 and following**



Mary said **"Yes/Amen"** to God and became the Mother of the Son of God at the Annunciation:

**"Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to our word."** (Luke 1: 38)

Joseph "did" his "Yes /Amen" to God when he did what he was told to do by the Angel of this dream:

**"When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: ..."** (Matthew 1: 24)

Jesus Himself taught us to pray our "Yes /Amen" to God the Father in the Lord's Prayer:

**"Our Father, Who art in heaven, ... Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven."** (Matthew 6: 9, 10)

Jesus prayed and gave His Solemn "Yes / Amen" to the Father in His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane:

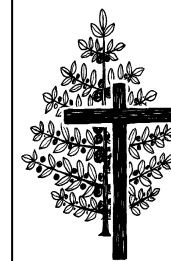
**"My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me, Nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."**  
(Matthew 26: 39)

Confirmation Candidates say their "Yes / Amen" to God when they say their "Amen" as they renew

the Profession of Faith, the Creed, **the Renewal of Baptismal Promises,** when they make

**their Solemn and binding Covenant with God** and are Confirmed with

the Fullness of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation!!

**THE CHRISTMAS TREE:**

points us backwards to the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden - the Tree of our human downfall of **death and the sins of pride and disobedience of both Adam and Eve.**

The Christmas Tree also points us forward to the Tree of Death which becomes the

Tree of Life - the Tree of the Crucifixion on Calvary and **the grace-filled humble Obedience of the Son of God: Jesus, the New Adam, whose Mother, Mary, stood beneath the Cross as the New Eve: the Mother of all the Living!**



**Please say: THE ANGELUS**  
Three times a day, everyday:

V: The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary;  
R: **And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

ALL: Hail **MARY, FULL OF GRACE,**  
the Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,  
**JESUS.** (pause)  
**Holy Mary, Mother of God,**  
pray for us sinners,  
**NOW and AT THE HOUR**  
**OF OUR DEATH. Amen.**

V: Behold the handmaid of the Lord;  
R: **Be it done unto me,**  
**according to thy word.**  
ALL: Hail Mary, ...

(Please, if you can, try and **KNEEL,**  
or **GENUFLECT,** or **BOW** your head,  
for this next verse...)

V: AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH;  
R: **AND DWELT AMONGST US.**  
ALL: Hail Mary, ...

V: PRAY FOR US, O HOLY MOTHER OF GOD;  
R: **THAT WE MAY BE MADE WORTHY**  
**OF THE PROMISES OF CHRIST.**

**Let us pray:**  
Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord, Your grace  
into our hearts; that we, to whom the Incarnation  
of Christ, Your Son, was made known by the mes-  
sage of an angel, may by His Passion and + Cross  
be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.  
Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Traditionally the Angelus is said  
**THREE TIMES** a Day:  
at **6.00** in the morning,  
at **12** noon and  
at **6.00** in the evening.

**Please say the following Prayer**  
**everyday for the next 40 days**  
to prepare **our Young People**  
**to Receive** the Fullness of the Holy  
Spirit in Confirmation, and for those of  
us who are already Confirmed in the  
Holy Spirit, to let and allow the Holy  
Spirit of God to direct and guide our  
actions, our lives, our hearts and our  
minds in God’s Will and ways:

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT:**

Come, O Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of Your faithful,  
and enkindle in them  
the fire of Your love.

V/: **Send forth Your Spirit**  
and they shall be created.  
R/: **And You shall renew**  
the face of the earth.

Let us pray:  
O God, Who taught the hearts  
of the faithful by the light  
of the Holy Spirit,  
grant that by the gift  
of the same Spirit  
we may be always truly wise  
and ever rejoice  
in His consolation.  
Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

**HOLY MICHAEL, THE ARCHANGEL,**  
defend us in battle. Be our safe-  
guard against the wickedness and  
snares of the devil. May God re-  
buke him, we humbly pray; and do  
thou, O Prince of the heavenly  
host, by the power of God cast into  
hell Satan and all the evil spirits  
who wander through the world  
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

**GUARDIAN ANGEL PRAYER:**

Angel of God,  
my guardian dear,  
to whom God’s love  
commits me here,  
ever this day (or night)  
be at my side,  
to light, to guard,  
to rule and guide. Amen.

**FORTHCOMING FUNERALS**  
**IN ST MARY OF THE CRAYS:**

**1) The Requiem Mass for**  
**JACK PEARCE**  
(ALBINS, CRAYFORD)  
will take place on  
**Monday 9th January 2023**  
at **2:00pm**  
followed by Committal  
at **Eltham Crematorium**  
at **3:30pm.**

**2) The Requiem Mass for**  
**HERMINE GALIBARDY**  
(FRANCIS CHAPPELL & SONS, BEXLEYHEATH)  
will take place on  
**Friday 13th January 2023**  
at **11:00am**  
followed by Burial in  
**St Paulinus’s Cemetery**  
at **12:20pm.**

**3) The Requiem Mass for**  
**PAULINE COPE**  
(LEVERTON, DARTFORD)  
will take place on  
**Wednesday 18th Jan. 2023**  
at **10:00am**  
followed by Burial in  
**Watling Street Cemetery**  
at **11:30am.**

**4) The Requiem Mass for**  
**SARAH ELLEN “HELEN” DAVIES**  
(NASH, CRAYFORD)  
will take place on  
**Wednesday 25th Jan. 2023**  
at **11:00am**  
followed by Burial in  
**St Paulinus’s Cemetery**  
at **12:30pm.**

**“... we believe that all the ties of**  
**friendship and affection which**  
**knit us as one throughout our**  
**lives do not unravel with death.”**

**MAY THEY, EACH ONE,**  
**REST IN PEACE**  
**AND RISE IN GLORY.**

**ABOUT THE DATE OF CHRISTMAS**  
**AND CHRIST’S BIRTHDAY**

‘ [...] Astonishingly, the starting point  
for **dating the birth of Christ was**  
**March 25.** As far as I know, the  
most ancient reference to it is in the  
writings of the African ecclesiastical  
author Tertullian (ca. 150 - ca. 207),  
who evidently assumes as a **well-**  
**known tradition that Christ suf-**  
**fered death on March 25.** in Gaul,  
right up to the sixth century, this was  
kept as the immovable date of Easter.  
In a work on the calculation of the  
date of Easter, written in A.D. 243,  
and also emanating from Africa, **we**  
**find March 25 interpreted as the**  
**day of the world’s creation,** and,  
in connection with that, we find a  
very peculiar dating for the birth of  
Christ. According to the account of  
creation in Genesis I, the sun was cre-  
ated on the fourth day, that is on  
March 28. this day should be, there-  
fore, be regarded as the day of  
Christ’s birth, as the rising of the true  
sun of history. **This idea was al-**  
**tered during the third century,**  
**so that the day of Christ’s Pas-**  
**sion and the day of His concep-**  
**tion** were regarded as identical. On  
**March 25, the Church honoured**  
**both the Annunciation by the**  
**angel and the Lord’s conception**  
**by the Holy Spirit in the womb**  
**of the Virgin. THE FEAST OF**  
**CHRIST’S BIRTH ON DECEMBER 25**  
**- NINE MONTHS AFTER MARCH 25 -**  
developed in the West in the course of  
the third century, while in the East -  
probably because of a difference of  
calendar - at first celebrated January  
6 as the birthday of Christ. [...]’

From: page 121  
Commemorative Edition

**THE SPIRIT OF THE LITURGY**  
by Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger  
(Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI)  
Ignatius press, San Francisco, 2018

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Abraham’s A  
Sacrifice of I