

6.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES PLEASE:**

Sunday 12th November at 1:30pm:  
Blessing of Graves at  
Watling Street Cemetery, Dartford.

Sunday 19th November at 3:00pm  
**REMEMBRANCE SERVICE**  
in St Mary of the Crays.

**Sunday 3rd December**  
**First Sunday of Advent.**

Saturday 9th December **12PM-3PM**  
**CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON TEA**

Saturday 16th December  
Churches Together in Crayford  
**ADVENT PILGRIMAGE**  
between the 3 Churches 4:00pm

**SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER:**  
**AROUND 3PM**  
Parish **CHRISTMAS RAFFLE DRAW**  
will be held in the **SOCIAL CLUB**

**Also:**  
**SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER**  
**AT 4:00PM**  
**PARISH CAROL SERVICE IN**  
**CHURCH**

\*\*\*\*\*

**HOLY MASSES**  
**23rd, 24th & 25th December:**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**Saturday 23rd December**  
**6:30pm and**  
**8:30am and 10:30am on**  
**Sunday 24th December**

**CHRISTMAS EVE:**  
**Sunday 24th December**  
**5:00pm Christmas Vigil Mass;**  
**12 midnight: Midnight Mass**

**CHRISTMAS DAY:**  
**Monday 25th December**  
**8:30am and 10:30am**

**HOMES FOR UKRAINE**  
**MATCHING SERVICE**

**CARITAS SOCIAL ACTION NETWORK,**  
**in partnership with**  
**ST JOHN OF GOD**  
**HOSPITALLER SERVICES,**  
**an international Catholic charity**  
**with many services**  
**for the vulnerable**  
**in the UK and Ireland,**  
**are matching Ukrainian people**  
**displaced by the brutal war with**  
**people in the Catholic community**  
**willing to host them in their**  
**homes for six months.**  
**If you have room in**  
**your home and in your heart**  
**to consider welcoming a stranger**  
**displaced by war, then**  
**we'd love to hear from you.**

**Please visit:**  
**[https://sjog-](https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/)**  
**[homesforukraine.uk/](https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/)**

**A message from**  
**a former Parishioner:**

**Please add:**  
**ISABEL GILLFEDDER RIP**  
**to our prayers for those who**  
**have died recently.**  
**Isabel and her late husband,**  
**Frank, were active members of**  
**this Parish in the 1970s when**  
**the Church was being built.**

3.

**+ J. M. J. +**

***Sunday 12th November 2023***  
**NOVEMBER SUPPLEMENT TO**  
**ST MARY OF THE CRAYS**  
**NEWSLETTER**

**FOR THE HOLY LAND:**

**‘NOW IS THE TIME FOR US TO JOIN**  
**TOGETHER IN PRAYER!’**

***“God of Mercy***  
***and Compassion,***  
***of grace and reconciliation,***  
***pour out Your power***  
***upon all Your children in***  
***the Middle East:***  
***Jews, Muslims***  
***and Christians,***  
***Palestinians and Israelis.***  
***Let hatred be turned into***  
***love, fear to trust,***  
***despair to hope,***  
***oppression to freedom,***  
***occupation to liberation,***  
***that violent encounters***  
***may be replaced by***  
***loving embraces,***  
***and peace and justice***  
***could be experienced by all.***  
***Amen.”***

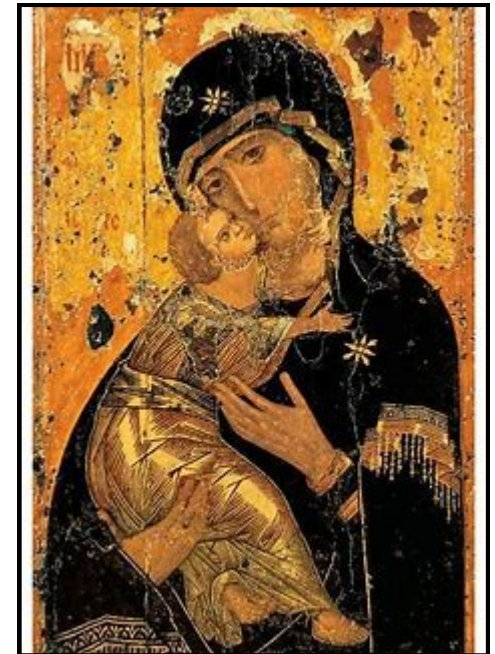
**From:**  
***Friends of the Holy Land.***

**PRAYER FOR UKRAINE**

**Mary, Our Lady of Kiev,**  
**Mother of God,**  
**we ask you to intercede**  
**for the people of Ukraine,**  
**for their government,**  
**and all who suffer**  
**as a result of war.**

**Be with them**  
**as you stood bedside your Son,**  
**suffering on the Cross on Calvary.**  
**Give them strength and courage**  
**through faith, hope and justice.**

**May we, in our turn,**  
**support them through**  
**prayer and generosity**  
**that human lives may be saved,**  
**that the injured may be healed,**  
**that the dead may rest in peace,**  
**that there will be peace after war.**  
**Amen.**



## Some Reflections in Light of the Synod on Synodality - Summary

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

I returned recently from the month-long Synod on Synodality in Rome, convened by our Holy Father Pope Francis to reflect on communion, participation, and mission in the Church's life. It was a remarkable journey, both engaging and exhausting, that led us forward on the way together – the Way who is the Lord Jesus himself, our Truth and our Life. (cf. Jn 14:6) I share with you a summary of my reflection on the Synod on Synodality available at

<https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk>

Please take a moment to read it in full.

Taking place against the backdrop of war, we prayed for peace in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine, Sudan and elsewhere. We heard harrowing first-hand accounts of war from delegates. For me, meeting people from across the Universal Church, and hearing their experiences, was the most enriching and stimulating part of the Synod.

Our Archdiocese took part in the preparatory synodal process, demonstrating a deep love for the Lord Jesus and his Church, and a desire to be more hospitable and evangelising. This is something we do together, recognising both the distinctiveness and complementarity of those who share Christ's priesthood

through baptism and those who share it through ordination. I took to the Synod the passion and energy the Archdiocese showed for enacting the evangelising mission entrusted to us by Christ.

Sincere sharing of human experiences, sometimes charged with emotion, highlighted a perceived tension between truth and love for those who may struggle to accept or live to the Church's teaching. How can we better include people who feel unwelcome? We need a patient openness to receiving people's experience. There is a caution, however, in setting human experience against divine revelation, received through Scripture and Tradition, as if it were somehow corrective of a now outdated deposit of faith. As Pope Francis reminded us, the Synod is not a parliament. Discernment is not a referendum on Church teaching, or a ballot where individuals vote according to what they believe the Holy Spirit is saying personally to them. Our faith is given to us through the Church in the Apostolic Tradition.

In his earthly ministry, the Lord Jesus was open to everyone. Through acts of healing and forgiveness, he never remained passive. He always offered a way forward. Not everyone could accept this – the rich young man (cf. Mk 10:17-22) left sorrowful. Others, like Zacchaeus (cf. Lk 19:1-10), transformed their lives. Christ never rejects us. He leaves us free to follow him or not.

We understand ourselves in the light of Christ's call to discipleship. The Gospel challenges us to accept Christ's invitation, finding in him a merciful and loving Saviour, especially as we face our own sinfulness. If we empty the Gospel of its challenge, adapting it to our own way of thinking, then we empty the Gospel of its power to save.

The Gospel teaches we cannot dislocate truth from love or love from truth. The Lord Jesus does, indeed, meet us where we are, but loves us too much to leave us there. The Church is called to welcome people with kindness and respect, sharing the truth and love of Christ and his Gospel. It is by encountering the Lord Jesus more deeply and personally that we grow in discipleship and service.

We continue to pray and discern what synodality means for our Archdiocese. I thank you all for your witness. We are one in faith, hope, and love, each of us with a unique part to play in loving Christ and serving him in others. May we share this responsibility passionately and joyfully in the harmony of the Holy Spirit. Be assured of my continued prayers and please pray for me.

Most Rev John Wilson  
Archbishop of Southwark

## Hymn for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

*(Tunes: "Lord Jesus think on me,"  
or,  
"To Christ the Prince of Peace")*

**1 Remember those, O Lord,  
Who in Your peace have died,  
yet may not gain love's high reward  
till love is purified.**

**2 With You they faced death's  
night,  
sealed with Your victory sign,  
soon may the splendour of Your  
light  
on them forever shine.**

**3 Sweet is their pain, yet deep,  
till perfect love is born;  
their lone night watch they gladly  
keep  
before Your radiant morn.**

**4 Your love is their great joy;  
Your will their one desire;  
as finest gold without alloy  
refine them in love's fire.**

**5 For them we humbly pray:  
perfect them in Your love.  
O may we share eternal day  
with them in heaven above.**

**6 Eternal rest, give them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light  
shine on them now and evermore,  
within Your Day so bright.**

*(From the Morning Prayer:  
The Office for the Dead)*