

6.  
**ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY RECEPTION  
PLACES SEPTEMBER 2026**  
[www.bexley.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.bexley.gov.uk/admissions)  
(Bexley residents)

[www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places)

The School is holding a number of Open Events on the following dates:

**Monday 8th December 5.00pm;  
Thursday 8th January 2026:  
9.15am**

A presentation by the Head of School will be followed by a guided tour of the school. The closing date for applications is **15th January 2026**.

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**ROOTED IN LOVE -  
AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MARRIED  
AND ENGAGED COUPLES**

Want to grow closer as a couple while deepening your faith and meeting new people? All engaged and married couples are invited to a **monthly online meeting** where we share friendship, reflect on real-life topics, and pray together as we grow in love rooted in Christ. Gathering monthly on zoom **Thursdays: 27 November at 8:30pm, 11 December at 8:30pm**  
Email [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk) to sign up or receive more information.

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**CALLED TO BEAR FRUIT  
CONSULTATION RESPONSE PUBLISHED.**

Thank you to the thousands of people who took part in the Called to Bear Fruit consultation. We are grateful to you all for sharing so openly your hopes for the life of the Church in our Archdiocese. The consultation response, which includes 15 actions points for renewal, is available at

[rcaos.org.uk/calledtobearfruit](http://rcaos.org.uk/calledtobearfruit) and hardcopies will be sent to every parish. The consultation revealed a burning desire within our parishes to be missionary and evangelising disciples of

the Lord Jesus Christ, who work together to help people encounter His love. So, as we move forward on the next steps together, let's build up the Body of Christ in Southwark with faith and confidence, becoming ever more a community of missionary disciples filled with joy and hope for the future. As an Archdiocese, we will continue to discern the process of renewal, and further updates will be provided in due course.

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**ARCHBISHOP JOHN'S  
ADVENT 2025 REFLECTION.**

This Advent, Archbishop John is calling us on to reflect on the "astonishing truth" that the "Lord Jesus is, and always will be, Emmanuel: God with us, God beside us, God within us". In a [video reflection](#), Archbishop John said that: "to say God is with us is not poetry but power. It means that the Lord Jesus stepped into our humanity so that we might step into his divinity. It means that God is no distant deity, but one who draws near; who shares our joys and carries our sorrows; who opens heaven to earth, and earth to heaven". You can watch his full reflection at [rcaos.org.uk/advent2025](http://rcaos.org.uk/advent2025).

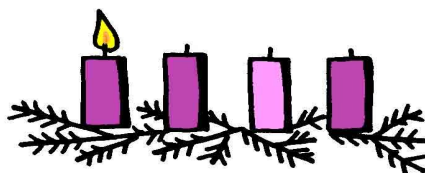
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**SOUTHWARK SPIRITUALITY  
COMMISSION ADVENT REFLECTIONS.**

The [Southwark Spirituality Commission](#) will be sending daily reflections during Advent featuring Scripture, thoughts and prayers. Sign-up to receive them directly into your inbox each morning via

[tinyurl.com/SSCAdvent2025](http://tinyurl.com/SSCAdvent2025).

These reflections are a great way to keep your mind focussed on the Lord Jesus during the busy Advent season.



3. **+ J. M. J. + JESUS, + MARY, and + JOSEPH +**  
**Newsletter Supplement: 30th November Anno Domini 2025**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)**

*Year A is the Year when we read mainly from the Gospel according to St Mathew.*

**ADVENT:**

Time to prepare for

- 1) the Final / Second Coming of Christ at the end of Time, or,
- 2) at the end of our earthly life, and also for

3) our daily encounters with Him.  
Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB, from the "WEDNESDAY WORD", for this Sunday's Gospel, writes:

"We do not even know whether the final confrontation, when each of us is brought face to face with the awesome presence of God, will be a unique event for each of us at death, or whether it will be a group event, as in Matthew's parable of the sheep and goats sent to right and left. There is no time in eternity, no waiting room! It will not be as any human mind can envisage it."  
From:

**"Wednesday Word Parish Version"**  
*A weekly prayer custom.*

Please, may I recommend this prayerful preparation for the Sunday Readings. St Joseph's School, and St Columba's School both make this prayerful reading of scripture available for their families, others might look it up on the internet. Dom Henry's commentaries are also available on [Universalis.com](http://Universalis.com).

*Please, try it this Advent. Fr David.*

**FOR THE CHRISTMAS  
MINI-FETE  
TODAY — SUNDAY  
30TH NOVEMBER  
12 NOON TO 4:00PM:  
PLEASE BRING CASH  
AND CHANGE.  
WE HAVE ONLY  
ONE CARD MACHINE.**

**&  
IF YOU ARE PROVIDING  
FOOD FOR SALE,  
PLEASE GIVE  
FOOD ALLERGY  
INFORMATION AS WELL.  
PLEASE COME.**

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**A GRACE BEFORE MEALS:**

"The eyes of all creatures look to You, O Lord, and You give them their food in due season.

You open Your hand, and fill every living thing with Your blessing.

The poor will eat and will have their fill. Those who seek the Lord will praise Him. Their hearts will live for ever and ever. Amen."

**A GRACE AFTER MEALS:**

We give You thanks, Almighty God, for all Your benefits, Who live and reign for ever and ever.  
Amen.

#### 4. THE ANGELUS:

An Advent and Christmas Prayer

V. The Angel of the Lord  
declared unto Mary.

**R. And she conceived  
of the Holy Spirit.**

HAIL MARY, full of grace,  
The Lord is with Thee;  
Blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,  
**JESUS.**

**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.**

HAIL MARY...

*(please kneel or bow for the next verse)*

V. And THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH.

**R. AND DWELT AMONG US.**

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 Thee,  
O Lord, Thy grace into our  
hearts, that we to whom  
the Incarnation of Christ  
Thy Son was made known  
by the message of an angel,  
may by His Passion  
and *(make the Sign of the  
Cross)* Cross be brought to  
the glory of His Resurrec-  
tion. Through the same  
Christ Our Lord. AMEN.**



5.

**26 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS DAY,  
and then 40 DAYS UNTIL  
THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD  
IN THE TEMPLE.**

**that is: 66 DAYS UNTIL THE END OF  
THE OLD CHRISTMAS SEASON.**

**LIKE THE BOY SHEPHERD, DAVID,**  
*who became the great King of Isra-  
el, we can learn from our earliest of  
years to struggle against the Powers  
and Principalities who are against  
like Goliath and the Philistines. We too  
have FIVE SMOOTH PEBBLES to take  
from the Stream of the River of Life to  
combat against our Goliaths:*

**EVERY DAY:**

- 1: **Daily** Pray the Rosary from  
the Heart, and in the Family;
- 2: **Daily** read the Bible  
within the Family;
- 3: **Daily**, take part in  
the Holy Mass,  
if you are able,  
and if not,  
**then as a minimum:  
at least EVERY SUNDAY  
(or Saturday evening)**

**EVERY WEEK:**

- 4: **Weekly**, do some penance by  
fasting on  
bread and water on  
Wednesdays and Fridays  
- Fridays are "Meat-free"  
days in England and Wales;

**EVERY MONTH:**

- 5: **Monthly**, Confess your sins  
in the Sacrament of  
Reconciliation,  
Pardon and Peace.

#### **A SHORT ROAD TO PERFECTION**

FROM BLESSED JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 1856

It is the saying of holy men that,  
if we wish to be perfect, we have  
nothing more to do than to per-  
form the ordinary duties of the  
day well. **A short road to perfec-  
tion - short, not because easy,  
but because pertinent and in-  
telligible. There are no short  
ways to perfection, but there  
are sure ones.**

[...]

I insist on this because I think it  
will simplify our views, and fix  
our exertions on a definite aim. If  
you ask me what you are to do in  
order to be perfect, I say,  
first –

- **Do not lie in bed beyond the  
due time of rising;**
- **give your first thoughts  
to God;**
- **make a good visit to the  
Blessed Sacrament;**
- **say the Angelus devoutly;**
- **eat and drink to God's glory;**
- **say the Rosary well;**
- **be recollected;**
- **keep out bad thoughts;**
- **make your  
evening meditation well;**
- **examine yourself daily;**
- **go to bed in good time,  
and -**

**YOU ARE ALREADY PERFECT.**