

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

www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/school-places

The School is holding an
Open Event on the following date:

Thurs. 8th Jan. 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.**

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 in-
cludes 15 actions points for renewal, is
available at

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 togeth-
er 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 con-
fidence, becoming ever more a commu-
nity of missionary disciples filled with
joy and hope for the future. As an Arch-
diocese, we will continue to discern the
process of renewal, and further updates
will be provided in due course.



Of your charity, please pray
for the Repose of the Soul of
my elder Sister:

CLARE ELUNED FRANCES

GUMMETT MEB,

who died on

the 20th November.

Her Funeral Rites begin on

Wednesday 17th in the

evening with a vigil of prayer.

On Thursday 18th at 11:30am

her Requiem Mass will be

offered in Sacred Heart

Church, Edge Hill, Wimbledon.

Her Burial will be on

Friday 19th in Merton.

**Eternal rest grant unto her,
O Lord, and let perpetual light
shine upon her.**

May she rest in Peace.

Fr David.

**JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH,
I GIVE YOU MY HEART AND MY SOUL.**

**JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH,
ASSIST ME IN MY LAST AGONY.**

**JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH,
MAY I SLEEP AND TAKE MY REST IN
PEACE WITH YOU.**

THE JUBILEE YEAR
OF HOPE OF 2025
formally closes in
our Archdiocese at
St George's Cathedral
on Sunday 28th December,
and in Rome on
Tuesday 6th January 2026.

3. **+ J. M. J. + JESUS, + MARY, and + JOSEPH +**
Newsletter Supplement: 14th December Anno Domini 2025
THIRD (or: "GAUDETE") SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)
Year A is the Year when we read mainly from the Gospel according to St Mathew.

4. **THE ANGELUS:**
A daily, 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 Resurrection. Through the
same Christ Our Lord. AMEN.



**This weekend, may we
continue in our Advent
preparations for the
Birthday of
Our Lord Jesus?**

Please join
This Sunday the
Parish Carol Service
at 3:30pm
in St Mary's.

PLEASE COME.



4. MORE ABOUT ADVENT:

"ADVENT HAS A TWOFOLD CHARACTER, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time of remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight."

"Advent is the season apt for reflecting on the role in our redemption of Mary, the Mother of God."



"In THE SECOND PHASE of the Season of Advent, from 17th December, the Liturgy is more directly addressed to preparation for the celebration of the birth of Our Lord."

In these last days of the Season of Advent, please read, at home, the Infancy Narratives from the Gospels according to Matthew, Luke and John: Matthew: chapters 1 - 2 , Luke: chapters 1 - 2, and John: chapter 1: 1 - 18 (the "Prologue").

PENITENTIAL SERVICES

With Individual Confessions:

both on Monday 22nd December at 7:00pm

1) at St John Fisher Church, Thanet Road, Bexley, and:

2) at Our Lady of the Angels, Northumberland Heath, Erith.

+++++

THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE OF 2025

formally closes in our Archdiocese at St George's Cathedral on Sunday 28th December, and in Rome on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

5.

CHRIST - MASS:
THE BIRTHDAY OF JESUS
OR THE WINTER SOLSTICE?

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, formerly known as Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, writing in his book:

"**The Spirit of the Liturgy**" on Time and Space in the Liturgy about Times, Feasts and Seasons of the Church Year:

"Let us turn - albeit very briefly - to the second focal point of the Church's year, the Christmas season, [...]" *About the third century* "[...] the feast of the Epiphany emerged in the East on January 6 and the feast of Christmas in the West on December 25. The two feasts had different emphases because of the different religious and cultural contexts in which they arose, but essentially their meaning was the same: the celebration of the birth of Christ as the dawning of the new light, the true sun, of history. [...] **Astonishingly, the starting point for dating the birth of Christ was March 25.** As far as I know, the most ancient reference it is in the writings of the African ecclesiastical author Tertullian (A.D. c. 150 - c. 207), who evidently assumes a s a a well known tradition the Christ suffered 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 created on the fourth day, that is March 28. This day should, therefore, be regarded as the day of Christ's birth, as the rising of the true sun of history. This idea was altered during the third century, so that the day of Christ's Passion and the day of His conception 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, [...] . The claim used to be made that December 25 developed in opposition to the Mithras myth, or as a Christian response to the cult of the unconquered sun promoted by the Roman emperors in the third century in their efforts to establish a new imperial religion. However, these old theories can no longer be sustained. **The decisive factor was the connection of creation and Cross, of creation and Christ's conception."**

Pages 119-122 from
"The Spirit of the Liturgy" by
Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger,
Ignatius Press, 2018, San Francisco.