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 includes 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 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.



Thank you for all your condolences and your charity, in praying for the Repose of the Soul of my elder Sister:

> **CLARE ELUNED FRANCES GUMMETT BEM,**

(Yes, I misspelled the British Empire Medal last weekend! Mea culpa. mea culpa, me maxima culpa.)

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in Peace.

JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH, I GIVE YOU MY HEART AND MY SOUL. JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH, ASSIST ME IN MY LAST AGONY. **IESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH,** MAY I SLEEP AND TAKE MY REST IN PEACE WITH YOU.

+ **J. M. J.** + **JESUS**, + **MARY**, and + **JOSEPH** + Newsletter Supplement: 21st December Anno Domini 2025 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

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

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, IESUS.

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.

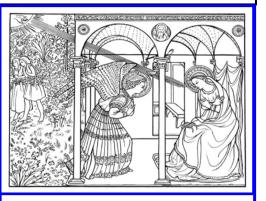
HAIL MARY...

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

Please join the

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.

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").

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

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6th January 2026.



In his annual Christmas message, Archbishop John Wilson said: "The beautiful truth of Christmas is that because of God in Christ we are never lost. God chose to be near us, to stay close to us always, to draw us to himself, always. In his endless mercy, the Lord Jesus chose to love us, so we could know and believe that "God is love" (1 John 4:16). In turn, all the Lord Jesus asks of us is to not be afraid and to say yes to him, to draw close to him, to love him". You can watch and read the full message at reaos.org.uk/christmasmessage2025.

