

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;**  
**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.**

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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 **Thursday:**

**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 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 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: 7th December Anno Domini 2025**  
**SECOND 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.



**So: 'Thank you', thank you, thank you" to all those who laboured so lovingly and enthusiastically last weekend to plan, prepare and present the Parish Christmas Fete!**

**As you have seen:**

**£ 1,300 by the Fete, and**  
**£ 1,400 by the Grand Draw, an**  
**amazing £ 2,700 total necessary**  
**funds for the upkeep and**  
**continuing running of**  
**our Parish and Church!!!**

**Thank you so much!**

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

**Please join the Churches Together in Crayford mini pilgrimage on Saturday beginning in St Paulinus at 4:00pm, then at St Mary's and concluding in Crayford Baptist Church down Chapel Hill.**

**On Sunday the Parish Carol Service at 3:30pm in St Mary's.**

**PLEASE COME. PLEASE PREPARE.**

4. St. Jerome lived in the 5th century after Christ. He is most famous for translating the Scriptures into the common tongue of his day, the Latin language. He was an austere and solitary scholar. He did much of his translating work in a cave in Bethlehem, desiring to be as close to the conditions of Christ's birth as possible.

Legend has it that while he was putting the finishing touches on his translation of the Bible, the Christ child appeared to him in a vision. At the sight of this, Jerome fell to his knees and did the Lord homage. **The Christ child then asked Jerome how he would honour Him for his coming birthday.** Christmas was right around the corner. Jerome said, "Lord, I have completed my translation of the Holy Scriptures so that all peoples might come to know your Word. I give it to you to the honour of your name." The Christ child replied, "Jerome, your labours please me, but this is not what I desire for my birthday." Flustered at this, Jerome scrambled to think of something fitting for the Lord. Finally, he said, "Lord, I give the few remaining possessions I have to the poor in your honour, and I will fast and pray in preparation for Christmas, your birthday." Again, the Christ Child replied, "Jerome, this would please me very much, but it is not what I want for my birthday." Jerome, at a loss, broke down, begging the Lord to tell him

what He wanted for his birthday. The Christ child responded, "**Jerome, I, THE SON OF GOD, BECAME A CHILD TO TAKE AWAY YOUR SINS. WHAT I WANT FOR MY BIRTHDAY IS TO TAKE AWAY YOUR SINS. GIVE THEM TO ME. I want you to go to one of my priests and to confess your sins so that I may free you from them.**" At this Jerome was struck to the heart and did as the Christ child commanded.

*(From: Revd Thomas Macdonald,  
St John's Seminary, Boston, Massachusetts,  
9th December 2023)*

#### **WORKS OF MERCY: SPIRITUAL AND CORPORAL:**

##### **The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy:**

1. Counsel the doubtful.
2. Instruct the ignorant.
3. Admonish sinners.
4. Comfort the afflicted.
5. Forgive offences.
6. Bear wrongs patiently.
7. Pray for the living and the dead.

##### **The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy:**

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Clothe the naked.
4. Shelter the homeless.
5. Visit the sick.
6. Visit the imprisoned.
7. Bury the dead.

*"TRULY, I SAY TO YOU, AS YOU DID IT  
TO ONE OF THE LEAST OF THESE MY BROTHERS  
AND SISTERS YOU DID IT TO ME."  
Matthew 25: 40*

#### **5. The Precepts of the Church**

2041 The precepts of the Church are set in the context of a moral life bound to and nourished by liturgical life. the obligatory character of these positive laws decreed by the pastoral authorities is meant to guarantee to the faithful the indispensable minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth in love of God and neighbour:

2042 The first precept ("You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.") requires the faithful to participate in the Eucharistic celebration when the Christian community gathers together on the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord.

The second precept ("You shall confess your sins at least once a year.") ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation, which continues Baptism's work of conversion and forgiveness.

The third precept ("You shall humbly receive your Creator in Holy Communion at least during the Easter season.") guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and centre of the Christian liturgy.

2043 The fourth precept ("You shall keep holy the holy days of obligation.") completes the Sunday observance by participation in the principal liturgical feasts which honour the mysteries of the Lord, the Virgin Mary, and the saints.

The fifth precept ("You shall observe the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence.") ensures the times of asceticism and penance which prepare us for the liturgical feasts; they help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart. The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to his abilities.

#### **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS:**

1. I, the Lord, am your God.  
You shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day.
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
9. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbours' goods.

Reflecting on the legend of  
St Jerome and the Child Jesus,  
**WHAT SHALL WE GIVE JESUS  
FOR HIS BIRTHDAY THIS YEAR?**

Please find the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, (done in love and out of love for others), and the Ten Commandments and the Precepts of the Church, as a means to review our lives and examine our conscience to prepare for Confession. The Beatitudes: Matthew 5:1-12, and St Paul's song about love/charity: 1 Corinthians 12:31-13: 13, are also good for reflection.