

Special dates– December 2008

The year dedicated to St Paul

- 8th **Immaculate Conception of BVM** *Solemnity*
24th **Christmas Eve** *vigil Mass of Christmas*
25th **Christmas Day The Nativity** *Holy day of Obligation*
26th St Stephen *Patron of Deacons and Altar Servers*
27th St John *Apostle and Evangelist*
28th The Holy Family
29th St Thomas of Canterbury *Diocesan patron*

Website [www. bexleydeanery.org.uk](http://www.bexleydeanery.org.uk)

and post your comments and news to the subscribers

What is.....

the Immaculate Conception of Mary?

This important teaching of the Church is that at the moment St Anne, her mother, conceived Mary in her womb, God intervened so she would be free from any stain of sin. The human race, since the Fall, has been tainted by ‘Original’ sin. This has deformed our character leaving us wilful and attracted towards wrong. It also meant we are damaged and must die. Jesus is God’s Son and became Man so sin could be defeated. Mary said ‘Yes’ when God asked her to become Mother of Jesus ergo ‘Mother of God’. It would not be fitting for God’s Son to be born from an unclean vessel so it is recognised that she was pure. This purification could only be given if Jesus became the sacrifice by dying in our place. He was a substitute through love. The defeat of evil He gained by dying on the cross was applied retroactively to Mary and now is given to us at Baptism.

Number 17, December 2008

“The

Deanery Notices

For Bexley”

Newsletter of events in RC Deanery of Bexley

Archdiocese of Southwark

December for most people is Christmas shopping, parties, presents and a week or more of extra holiday. This year will certainly be different. We’ve had the “seven years of good harvests {or more} now the seven years of famine are beginning”. Within the Church we are well aware of the need to put by in times of plenty and be ready when times get tough. The purpose and meaning of Advent is to recognise our need for God to come into our lives and to ‘prepare the way for the Lord’, so that the coming of the infant Jesus really is a time of rejoicing and happiness. Today we must be preparing for the Second Coming of Jesus as Lord and Master of all. The celebration will be at the Heavenly Banquet for those who are found ready!

Brunch Club at St John Vianney Bexleyheath
'Irish in Greenwich Brunch Club' invite any*
over 55's to this activities based club
In Church Hall on Wednesdays from 11.30am.
Volunteers also required. Contact Angela 020
8854 4466 *no need to be Irish

Missa Cantata monthly on Saturday
6 December at 10.30am at
Our Lady of the Rosary Blackfen
The Traditional Latin Mass with Gregorian
chants followed by Benediction. Confessions
from 11am

Dates for your Diary

Meet John Pridmore

'From Ganguid to Promised Land'
at Our Lady of the Rosary, Blackfen.

6.30pm 9th January 2009

Hear his dramatic life-changing story
All the youth of the Deanery are specially
invited. Interested adults just turn up.

See on the Web

www.bexleydeanery.org.uk

www.stmarycrays.org.uk

New interactive site for Crayford Parish

Parishes in Bexley Deanery

St John Fisher Bexley 01322 524813 stjfisher@tiscali.co.uk
www.freewebs.com/stjohnfisherchurch

St John Vianney Bexleyheath 020 83031957

parish@stjv.org.uk www.stjohnvianney-bexleyheath.org

Our Lady of the Rosary Blackfen 020 83002697

rosary@freeuk.com www.rosary.freeuk.com

St Thomas More Bostal Park 020 83032189

St Mary of the Crays Old Road Crayford 01322 523492

www.stmarycrays.org.uk

Our Lady of the Angels Bexley Road Erith 01322 402060

Fax 01322 402061 ola@btinternet.com

www.our-lady-of-angels.org.uk

St Lawrence of Canterbury Sidcup 020 83002480

Fax 020 8308 9880 stlawrence@hotmail.co.uk

www.rc.net/uk/southwark/stlawrence

St Stephen's Deepdene Road Welling 020 83034422

www.saintstephens.co.uk

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve (vigil Mass = V)

Christmas Eve (Carols & Midnight Mass = M)

Christmas Day (Mass = C)

Boxing Day feast of St Stephen (Mass = B)

Bexley V 7pm; M 11.30pm; C 8.30, 10.30am; B 10am

Bexleyheath V 6pm; M 11.20pm; C 9.30am; B 10am

Blackfen M 11.20pm; C 9.00, 10.30am; B 10.30am

Bostal Park V 6pm; M 11.30pm; C 9.00, 10.30am; B 10am

Crayford V 6pm; M 11.30pm; C 8.30, 10.30am; B 10am

Erith V 6pm; M 11.30pm; C 8.30, 9, 10.30am; B 10.30am

Sidcup V 5pm; M 11.15pm; C 8.30, 10 am; B 9.30am

Welling V 6.30; M 12am; C 8.30, 10, 11.30am; B 10.30am