

**Special dates– April 2009**  
The year dedicated to St Paul

- 5<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday *Holy Week starts*  
9<sup>th</sup> **Easter Tridium** Chrism Mass at St George's Cathedral  
*blessing of Holy Oils*  
Evening **Mass of the Last Supper Mandatum** (Washing  
of Feet) Silent watching till midnight  
10<sup>th</sup> **Good Friday** no Mass fast and abstinence Solemn Liturgy  
of the Cross and Holy Communion about 3pm  
11<sup>th</sup> Holy Saturday no Mass until **Easter Vigil Mass** *new fire,*  
*Exsultet, Liturgy of Baptism and reception of Oils*  
12<sup>th</sup> **Easter Sunday** *Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord*  
19<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter **Divine Mercy**  
23<sup>rd</sup> St George Protector of England *Solemnity*  
25<sup>th</sup> St Mark *Feast*

***What is.....***

the message of a hot-cross bun?

Traditionally hot + buns were eaten on Maundy Thursday before the fast and abstinence of Good Friday. The mixture of fruits and spices and the unleavened bread cross on the top, pointed to the Jewish Passover meal recalling the Israelites flight from Egypt to journey to the Promised Land. That night of the 'passing over' of the Angel of Death they ate a hurried meal, sacrificial lamb with bitter herbs, spices and unleaven bread (without yeast as they had no time to prove it). 'Passover' became the Christian feast of Easter. For Christians the meal is the Last Supper, the cross is Jesus' crucifixion *sacrificed Lamb of God* and the bun resembles the rock of the tomb, rolled away at the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter morning.

Number 21, April 2009

“The

# ***Deanery Notices***

For Bexley”

***Newsletter of events in RC Deanery of Bexley***

***Archdiocese of Southwark***

This holiest Season of the Church's year brings together so many liturgical messages and insights about the meaning of the Old Testament and its fulfilment in the person of Jesus, Son of God. Palm Sunday to the Easter Vigil is especially rich in showing how Jesus took upon himself the mantle of the Messiah and suffered as God's servant, obedient to death 'even to death on a cross for our sake'.

Reading the Old Testament books brings to life the whole richness, meaning and purpose of Jesus' mission and how His life, cut short so cruelly, becomes LIFE for us all. Time this month spent studying the 'suffering servant' psalms or the prophetic writings will prove rewarding.

## ***Diocesan News***

'Celebrate Love' has a non-residential weekend for married couples to help them rekindle their passion and joy of being 'in love'. Led by married couples it explores practical and spiritual aspects of relationship and intimacy. Suitable for couples of all ages, it is presented in the context of the Catholic faith, though all faiths are welcome. Book places for West Malling on 6-7 June or information 020 7931 6064 or [www.rcdow/celebratelove](http://www.rcdow/celebratelove)

**Happy Easter to you all!**

**Day of Recollection  
for Ministers of Holy Communion**  
At St Stephen's Deepdene Rd. Welling  
On 18<sup>th</sup> April

**50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Open Day**  
St John Vianney Heathfield Rd Bexleyheath  
On 9 May 10am to 4pm  
There will be an exhibition at Bexleyheath Library from  
25<sup>th</sup> April to 5<sup>th</sup> May showing SJV's history and place in  
the local community

**Lesnes Abbey Annual Procession**  
With Bexley and Greenwich Deaneries  
On the feast of Corpus Christi  
14 June at 3pm

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

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

***to post your comments and news to the subscribers***

## ***See on the Web***

**[www.caritas-socialaction.org.uk](http://www.caritas-socialaction.org.uk)** part of the Bishops  
Conference of England and Wales. Its purpose is to  
support the Catholic Voluntary Sector. Areas of  
expertise are Collaboration with Schools, Children and  
Families Services, Adult Services and Older People  
Services (coming soon a Catholic Care Home Directory  
for England and Wales.)

### ***Parishes in Bexley Deanery***

St John Fisher Bexley 01322 524813  
[stjfisher@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:stjfisher@tiscali.co.uk)  
[www.freewebs.com/stjohnfisherchurch](http://www.freewebs.com/stjohnfisherchurch)  
St John Vianney Bexleyheath 020 83031957  
[parish@stjv.org.uk](mailto:parish@stjv.org.uk) [www.stjohnvianney-bexleyheath.org](http://www.stjohnvianney-bexleyheath.org)  
Our Lady of the Rosary Blackfen 020 83002697  
[rosary@freeuk.com](mailto:rosary@freeuk.com) [www.rosary.freeuk.com](http://www.rosary.freeuk.com)  
St Thomas More Bostall Park 020 83032189  
St Mary of the Crays Old Road Crayford 01322 523492  
[www.stmarycrays.org.uk](http://www.stmarycrays.org.uk)  
Our Lady of the Angels Bexley Road Erith 01322  
402060  
Fax 01322 402061 [ola@btinternet.com](mailto:ola@btinternet.com)  
[www.our-lady-of-angels.org.uk](http://www.our-lady-of-angels.org.uk)  
St Lawrence of Canterbury Sidcup 020 83002480  
Fax 020 8308 9880 [stlawrence@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stlawrence@hotmail.co.uk)  
[www.rc.net/uk/southwark/stlawrence](http://www.rc.net/uk/southwark/stlawrence)  
St Stephen's Deepdene Road Welling 020 83034422  
[www.saintstephens.co.uk](http://www.saintstephens.co.uk)