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Newsletter for the week commencing 12th January 2025

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (C)

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5; 9-11

Psalm 104 Response: Bless the Lord, O my soul! My God, how great you are!

Second Reading: the Letter of St Paul to Titus 2: 11-14; 3: 4-7

Gospel: Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

Father Behr writes:

Volunteers

Our parish has an amazing team of volunteers who help to make our parish such a friendly and welcoming place.

During this great Jubilee year please consider offering your valuable time to get involved.

There is so much to be done.

DO YOU LIKE A CLEAN CHURCH?

Sadly, the church does not clean itself! A small cleaning team keeps it as clean as possible but additional members of the team are badly needed.

Could you perhaps, as your New Year's resolution, commit to spare just one hour every 10 to 14 weeks to clean the church with a cleaning partner?

To volunteer or find out more, please contact Rachel and Martin on heinrichsmeier@btinternet.com or 01233 860256.

Fr Behr

Your Prayers are asked for:

Recently deceased: Betty Murphy RIP

Those ill or infirm: Michael Payne, Brian Lawrence, Roger Styles, Mary Basher, Paul Rumball, Paul Lane, Mara McDermot, June Munton, Ailish Cantwell (Jones), Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Patricia Hook, Josie Payne, Pat Holland and all those who are unwell and in need of our prayers.

Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time: Catherine Mellor, Norman Styles, Jan Czarski, Josephine Harrington, Mary Brangan, John Thompson, Norman Ulph, Alexander Watt, William Syer and Douglas Fowler.

Masses and services for the week (11th – 18th January), Feasts and Mass intentions.

Saturday 11th January	No public Mass am or Confession 6pm Vigil Mass <i>People of the Parish</i> Reader: Lorraine
Sunday 12th January THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	10am Mass <i>Roy Sturdy RIP</i> 12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass Reader: Rachel
Monday 13th January	10am Mass <i>Private Intention</i>
Tuesday 14th January	10am Mass <i>Donor's Intention</i>
Wednesday 15th January	10am Service of the Word and Communion
Thursday 16th January	9am – 10am Adoration 10am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>
Friday 17th January	10am Mass <i>Thanksgiving (Maureen Escott)</i> 10.30 – 11am Adoration
Saturday 18th January	No public Mass am 6pm Vigil Mass <i>People of the Parish</i> Reader: Pat
Sunday 19th January	10am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i> 12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass Reader: Collette
Flowers for 19th January - Kathy	

The Angelus

The Angelus is a beautiful traditional Catholic prayer. We will pray the Angelus before Mass during Christmastide. If you would like to learn more about the history of this devotion please visit <https://www.goodcatholic.com/the-angelus-prayer-its-history-meaning-and-graces/>

Confession Fr Behr is available for Confession every Saturday from 10.30am - 11am. He is also happy to visit those who are not able to come to church.

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy at the 10am Mass is on the first Sunday of every month. All children who have not made their First Holy Communion are welcome to attend. The next lesson with Lorraine on Sunday, February 2nd.

White Flower Appeal

This weekend we have the White Flower Appeal for those who would like to support the work of SPUC.

If you would like to find out more about the great work SPUC do please visit their website. <https://spuc.org.uk>

Our parish has a **WhatsApp group**. We will post parish events including social events, special occasions and requests for help in the parish as well as general parish news. If you would like to join please get in touch. Fr Behr

Save the date: Archdiocesan Jubilee celebration - 7 June 2025. On Saturday 7 June 2025, there will be an Archdiocesan Jubilee celebration at Aylesford Priory. This event will also mark the 60th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Southwark. We will be sharing more details about this exciting event in due course.

Disability Jubilee Pilgrimage to Rome in 2025. Kairos Forum and Bishop Paul Hendricks are leading a Disability Jubilee Pilgrimage to Rome in 2025. It is taking place **on 26 April 2025 to 1 May**. Mass will be celebrated every day, along with activities such as visiting the Holy Door and a meeting with the Holy Father in St Peter's Square. Email Cristina Gangemi at: kairosforumevents@gmail.com or visit here for more details: <https://tinyurl.com/mrxj7s99>.

Catechetical Institute. Thanks to the generosity of the [Archbishop's Appeal](#) and the Franciscan University, every parishioner, catechist, parent and teacher in our schools and parishes will now have **free access** to over 120 high-quality workshops from the Catechetical Institute. Each parish features on the [Franciscan platform](https://franciscanathome.com/southwark) (<https://franciscanathome.com/southwark>). It's simple to sign-up, with a short video on the Agency page (<https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/franciscan>) to guide you through. This offering is free to everyone until September 2025.

Building a Better Marriage (BABM) – Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of Hope

To celebrate Jubilee 2025 a one day Building a Better Marriage opportunity will be held in the following 9 Southwark deaneries during 2025.

The day starts at 9.30am and finishes at 4.30pm and is free to attend. The day will be open to other deaneries in 2026 who have not experienced the event

To join one of these day's please contact Carole on 07983 524 727 or email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

25 January - St Stephen Church, Welling

1 February - Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs

15 March - Our Lady Queen of Peace, East Sheen

12 April – St Mary Church, Croydon West

28 June – St Raphael Church, Kingston Upon Thames

5 July - St Thomas More, Dulwich

13 September – Southwark Cathedral, London

4 October – Holy Cross, Catford

1 November – St James the Great, Petts Wood

Grief in Loss, Hope in Christ retreat for the bereaved - Aylesford Priory 21-23 March 2025 and 10-12 Oct 2025

A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development: 2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop's Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) and more for a lively start to the Jubilee. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday, online. All welcome. Register here for free: cafod.org.uk/jubilee

Baby Basics

We now have an official collection box and thanks so much everyone for their generosity

Food Bank

Regrettably. The need for this collection continues and again many thanks to all the generous donors

Christmastide Reflective Services – Women of the Nativity – 9am – followed by light breakfast

The remainder of the services will be:

- Saturday 11th January – Mariamne’s story – St Michael and all Angels – St Michael’s
- Saturday 1st February – Anna’s story – St John, the Baptist, Wittersham

Christian Meditation

This will re-start on Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 6pm (45 minutes) and for the foreseeable future will be in the family room at Saint Andrew’s, because of the Saint Mildred’s refurbishment

Christian Unity Week 2025

Next year this begins on Saturday January 18th. We will be having our usual Christian Breakfast in Saint Mildred’s Church Hall, followed by our Annual Service. A service booklet with prayers/readings for the week will be provided at the breakfast.

Title for 2025: Do you believe this?

For 2025, materials were prepared by the ecumenical community at Bose in Northern Italy.

As we celebrate 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea, the worship service has at its heart, the Nicene Creed. Reflecting this, the scripture readings for this year focus on belief.

We are invited to reflect on the story of Martha’s confession of faith in Jesus as narrated in John 11:17-27. Each is called to sit with Jesus’ provocative question to Martha: “Do you believe this?”

The World Day of Prayer (formerly the Women’s World Day of Prayer)

In 2025, this will be on March 7th, 2025, and will be hosted by Saint Andrew’s. The material has been compiled by the women of the Cook Islands. Pat Sargent urgently needs volunteers PLEASE

Parish Magazine

This publication is now an ecumenical publication with contributions from the Catholic, Baptist and Church of England denominations. Please purchase a copy and leave your donation in the wall safe.

Lent 2025

Yes, it is coming. Churches Together in Tenterden are planning the following; Pancake Praise, Stations of the Cross, a Study Course, Discovering Faith through Craft, Good Friday Witness Service and a Dawn Service on Easter Sunday morning. More details to follow.

Memorial Mass for Father/Bishop John Hine

Our Deanery, Maidstone, will be holding a Memorial Requiem Mass on Wednesday 22nd January at 12 Midday at St Peter’s Bearsted. All parishioners are invited. Bearsted was a parish established by Father John and joined to the chapel at Harrietsham.

Churches Together in Tenterden

You are invited to join us for the first Breakfast of 2025 on Saturday 18th January 2025

Venue: St Mildred's Church Hall.

Time: 8.15 for an 8.30 start Finish at 10.

Enjoy a cooked breakfast and good fellowship, followed by a short service visibly demonstrating our shared faith across the Christian churches.

You will receive a copy of the Churches Together in England and Wales booklet for the week of prayer for Christian Unity.

Please book your place by Friday 10th January at the latest so we can confirm numbers with our caterers.

To book, please email Chris direct, if possible (christhecheesmans@gmail.com)

DREAMING SPIRES CANAL RETREAT 2025

To go on a narrowboat retreat is like stepping into a different world. The speed of the craft is just three miles an hour, which gives all the advantages of travelling slowly in the fresh air without walking, although there will be plenty of opportunities to leave the boat and stroll in quiet solitude or with others. Walkers will hardly be left behind!

Then there is the landscape. Open country welcomes, with waterfowl and wildlife, geology, and a delightful sense of being away from it all, which is the most precious gift of time spent on a narrowboat. Our narrowboat retreat will take us from Aldermaston to Oxford. We shall spend some time in Oxford before heading back.

If you'd like to be part of what we've called the Dreaming Spires Retreat, then get in touch as soon as possible. We have fewer than a handful of places available. The retreat begins on the 16th June and ends on the 23rd June. The cost will be £250 per person, plus food costs (which will include several pub lunches or evening meals).

Please contact Lindsay (01580 761591 / 07805 840493 / teamrector@tentrox.org) by the end of January.