



Church Notices

Christmas Day service will be a toy service for the children to bring their new toys to church.

Before you go home today remember to sign the "Demelza" card with your greeting to the church family – please then place a donation in the jar.

Thank you

Church Flowers - update

Unfortunately, due to the falling numbers, the flower group will be disbanded from January, if you are interested in taking this over please speak to Joan Bishop or Fr Paul. Many thanks Joan Bishop

Carol Singing down the Penny Farthing micro-pub , Waterside (opposite the bridge to Lindy Lou's)

Wed 20th December 7.45pm. This is an opportunity for the church family to get together with the Crayford Community and sing carols with them - its always an enjoyable experience so do come and sing with us. Carol & Richard Demuth.

Sunday School

You will be please to know that Sunday School will begin on January 7th 2018 and will be led by a team of 4: Carol Demuth, Tackela Olugbuyi, Chiazio Ezenwa, and Mary Oguike. We look forward to the children joining us in the New Year.

Baptism Stewards

We are looking for people to join the baptism stewards team. Baptism stewards attend the service to welcome the families, direct people to their seats, help to make sure the service runs smoothly, help if anyone has any difficulties, help to clear up at the end of the service and collect donations.

Baptisms are an important part of mission in our church and how we welcome families into our church is just as important. I hope that we might find some willing volunteers amongst us.

If you are interested please ask one of the churchwardens, one of the ministry team or Fr Paul.

MU Subscription

M.U Membership is now due please £26
Chq payable to St.Paulinus Mothers' Union.
Pat Carter.

Sunday 24th December – This morning will be the last chance to sign the Demelza Christmas card and send your greetings to the members of the church family.

Epiphany Sunday 7th January – Gifts for the mothers and children in the Women's refuge at Bexley – Toiletries, nappies, crayons and story books, etc, etc

ST PAULINUS CHURCH, CRAYFORD



Sunday 17th December – Advent 3

A warm welcome to newcomers and visitors.
We hope you enjoy worshipping with us today.

8am Low Mass & Homily

Celebrant: Fr Paul Prentice

Preacher: Roger Laing

10am Parish Mass & Sermon

Celebrant: Fr Paul Prentice

Preacher: Roger Laing

Season: Advent

Monday 18 th December	
Tuesday 19 th December	10.30am Shenstone Christingle 2pm St Paulinus School service
Wednesday 20 th December O Clavis	9.30 Low Mass 11am Funeral
Thursday 21 st December O Oriem	
Friday 22 nd December O Rex	9.15am Low Mass
Saturday 23 rd December	
Sunday 24 th December Christmas Eve	8am Low Mass & Homily 10am Parish Mass & Sermon 4pm Nativity Service 6pm Carols 11.30pm Midnight Mass

FIRST READING Isaiah 61.1–4, 8–11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The servant of the LORD said:

1 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;

2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion –
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

4 They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

8 For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

9 Their descendants shall be known among the
nations, and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a
people whom the LORD has blessed.

10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Canticle Luke 1.46b–55

R My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.



46 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;

47 My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

48 For he has looked with favour on his lowly servant;
from this day all generations will call me blessed.

49 The Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name. **R**

50 He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

51 He has shown the strength of his arm;
he has scattered the proud in their conceit. **R**

52 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
and has lifted up the lowly.

53 He has filled the hungry with good things
and the rich he has sent away empty. **R**

54 He has come to the help of his servant, Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy.

55 The promise he made to our forebears:
to Abraham and his children for ever. **R**

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5.16–24

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the
Thessalonians.

My brothers and sisters,

16 Rejoice always,

17 pray without ceasing,

18 give thanks in all circumstances;

for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

19 Do not quench the Spirit.

20 Do not despise the words of prophets, but test
everything;

21 hold fast to what is good;

22 abstain from every form of evil.

23 May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely;
and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound
and blameless

at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

GOSPEL John 1.6–8, 19–28

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
John.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was
John.

7 He came as a witness to testify to the light,
so that all might believe through him.

8 He himself was not the light,
but he came to testify to the light.

19 This is the testimony given by John
when the Jews sent priests and Levites from
Jerusalem

to ask him, 'Who are you?'

20 He confessed and did not deny it,
but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.'

21 And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?'
He said, 'I am not.'

'Are you the prophet?'

He answered, 'No.'

22 Then they said to him, 'Who are you?'

Let us have an answer for those who sent us.

What do you say about yourself?'

23 He said,

'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
"Make straight the way of the Lord,"'
as the prophet Isaiah said.

24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.

25 They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing
if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the
prophet?'

26 John answered them, 'I baptize with water.

Among you stands one whom you do not know,
27 the one who is coming after me;

I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.'

28 This took place in Bethany across the Jordan
where John was baptizing.