



## 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

### Sunday School

You will be please to know that Sunday School will begin on January 7<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> January – Gifts for the mothers and children in the Women's refuge at Bexley – Toiletries, nappies, crayons and story books, etc, etc

**Crayford Living Churchyard AGM  
13<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm in the Youth hall**

**Friends of St Paulinus Quiz Night  
10<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm. Come aand join us.**

## ST PAULINUS CHURCH, CRAYFORD



**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve  
Merry Christmas to you all.**

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

### 8am Low Mass & Homily

Celebrant: Fr Paul Prentice  
Preacher: Richard Demuth

### 10am Parish Mass & Sermon

Celebrant: Fr Paul Prentice  
Preacher: Richard Demuth

### 4pm Nativity

### 6pm Carols by Candlelight

### 11.30pm Midnight Mass

### Season: Christmas

Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	8am Low Mass & Homily 10am Family Mass – Toy service.
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> December St Stephen	11am Low Mass
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> December St John the Apostle	9.30 Low Mass
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> December Holy Innocents	9.30am Low Mass
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15am Low Mass
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> December Holy Family	8am Low Mass & Homily 10am Parish Mass & Sermon

**The office is closed from 25<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> January  
Fr Paul is off duty from 1<sup>st</sup> January for a week.**

**FIRST READING 2 Samuel 7.1–11, 16**

A reading from the second book of Samuel.

1 Now when David, the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him,

2 the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.'

3 Nathan said to the king, 'Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.'

4 But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan:

5 Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in?

6 I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle.

7 Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?'

8 Now therefore you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts:

I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.

10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies.

Moreover the Lord declares to you, David, that the Lord will make you a house.

16 Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.

**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 Romans 16.25–27**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

25 To God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ,

according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles,

according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith –

27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever! Amen.

**GOSPEL Luke 1.26–38**

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

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.

The virgin's name was Mary.

28 And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.'

29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

30 The angel said to her,

'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.

31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.

33 He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

34 Mary said to the angel,

'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'

35 The angel said to her,

'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

36 And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.

37 For nothing will be impossible with God.'

38 Then Mary said,

'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.