

SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

Telephone No. 020 8402 0459 | bromley@rcaos.org.uk | www.stjosephsbromley.org

Third Sunday

Year B

21st January 2024

Readings on Page 129 of the Parish Mass Book

The Prophet Jonah, from which our first reading is taken today, is a prophet many of us will be familiar with from our childhood, having listened to the story of Jonah and the whale. Today's reading is the final act, in which Jonah finally comes to his senses and does what God asked him to do - to go to Nineveh and warn the people there of its destruction in 40 days' time. The people repented as a result and God did not inflict the disaster he had threatened.

I think Jonah's actions throughout what is one of the shortest books in the bible, are ones many of us can relate to. So, at the outset, the word of God came to Jonah, commanding him to preach repentance to the people of Nineveh, telling them to turn back to the Lord. What did Jonah do? He went in the opposite direction, boarding a ship to Tarshish in Spain, in the hope of escaping from the Lord! You might think this a pretty foolish move, but how many times do we turn away from Jesus, ignore His call and follow our own paths, typically related to the material things of this world?

Of course, Jonah's ship is trapped in a great storm, and he ends up being thrown overboard only to be swallowed up by a great fish. Now, this is not a literal story, it's a legend with a theological purpose, which is that God is everywhere. And in the confined space which Jonah finds himself, imprisoned and barely able to move, he reflects on his complete distress and anxiety, at which point he prays to the Lord, seeking repentance, which is granted. It's a fact that sometimes the worst experiences in our lives take us to where God wants us to be. And in Jonah's case that is back to where he started out from, a short journey to Nineveh!

In the week ahead perhaps take some time out to read the book of Jonah afresh. It will only take around 15 minutes. See what phrase or words strike you. Examine what your relationship with God is like. Pretty good or does it need a service? Are you heading in the wrong direction? What really are your desires and are they shutting out God? Whatever the case, make sure your personal sat-nav is pointing in the right direction!

Deacon Garry

Mass Intentions

Psalter Week 3

Saturday 20th January

10.00am K M Augustine RIP
6.00pm John O'Sullivan RIP

Sunday 21st January Third Sunday

8.00am People of the Parish
9.15am Int. Gilani Lontoc (Bull)
11.00am Thelma Malone RIP
5.00pm Nell Turner RIP (Sugrue)

Monday 22nd January

10.00am William Parker RIP
(McCarthy)

Tuesday 23rd January

10.00am Mass of Thanksgiving
(Maguire)

Wednesday 24th January

St Francis de Sales

10.00am Int Flordeliza Guzzan

Thursday 25th January

The Conversion of St. Paul

10.00am Sheila Egan & Joe
Broderick RIP (Cunniffe)

Friday 26th January

Saints Timothy & Titus

10.00am Jim & Kathleen Cunniffe
RIP

Saturday 27th January

10.00am Thanksgiving for Maarius
Mariyathanan and Family
6.00pm People of the Parish

Sunday 28th January Fourth Sunday

8.00am Van Wah Chan RIP
9.15am Int First Holy Communion
Families
11.00am Harry McAleer RIP (Adams)
5.00pm James McNamara RIP

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Daily Mass which can be viewed by visiting the Parish Website:

<https://www.stjosephsbromley.org/>

Please click on the link for the daily Mass.

Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confessions are available after the 10.00am Mass Monday-Saturday.

The Rosary is prayed at 10.30am Monday-Saturday followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 11.30am.

St. Swithun's Mass Intentions

Saturday 20th January

6.00pm Jeremy and Amelia Rodrigues—
Thanksgiving.

Sunday 21st January

10.00am Mario Coutinho &
Bianca Miranda RIP

Monday 22nd January

9.00am Holy Souls

Thursday 25th January

12.30pm **Funeral: Mary McLean RIP**

A message from Mary O'Sullivan. The family of the late John O'Sullivan on his 3rd anniversary would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to parishioners for their sympathy, support and prayers throughout these last few years. It is deeply appreciated and your kindness will always be remembered.

Deanery Catechists Day Saturday 10th February at St. James the Great, Petts Wood.

All Catechists are invited to attend this event from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Coffee/tea will be served from 9.30am. Please inform the parish office if you would like to attend.

Our Parish Faith Formation

The Journey in Faith Group will meet on Monday 22nd January at 8.00pm in Holy Trinity House and will discuss 'Mary & the Four Last Things'. New Enquirers only. For further information please contact Matt Gibbs on 07955 084287 or mattgibbsjif@gmail.com

Baptism Preparation. Please see reverse of Newsletter on how to register for our next Baptism Preparation Course.

First Holy Communion Preparation. Session 1 will be held on Monday 22nd January, Friday 26th January and Saturday 27th January.

First Holy Communion Parents Meeting to be held on Wednesday 24th January at 7.30pm in St. Joseph's Church Hall.

Mass for First Holy Communion Families on Sunday 28th January at 9.15am.

Confirmation Preparation Session 2 will be held on Saturday 27th January 2024 3.45pm to start at 4.00pm in Holy Trinity House.

Thanksgiving Mass and Parish Social Event.

Fr Peter will be celebrating a Thanksgiving Mass at 6.00pm on Saturday 3rd February followed by a parish social in the Club Room and Hall. Fr Peter would like to thank everyone who helps out in the parish in any way at all. All parishioners are invited to attend. **Please let the parish office know if you would like to attend or sign the Sign-Up Sheet in the foyer of the church.**

Lenten Course—The Lord's Prayer. The Bishops' Conference have produced a 5-session resource for small groups and individuals on The Lord's Prayer. **During Lent Fr Peter will lead a group on Monday evenings from 26th February to 25th March from 7.30-8.30pm in the Upper Room.** An 5 booklet will be available to assist with this course. Priced £2. Please let the parish office know if you would like to join Fr Peter's course or if you would like a copy of the booklet to use on your own during Lent.

Children's Liturgy. There will be **NO** Children's Liturgy on Sunday 28th January.

Scout leader Terry Gregory has retired. Calling all the hundreds of Scouts who had Terry as a Leader. **You are invited to Church Parade on Sunday 21st January at 9.15am** to say thank you for all Terry has done for us over more than 20 years. Refreshments will be served after Mass. **Please sign Terry's Retirement Card which is on display in the foyer of St. Joseph's Church.**

Seniors' Sandwich Lunch. The next Seniors' Sandwich Lunch will be held on Wednesday 24th January from 12 noon to 1.30pm in Holy Trinity House. Please inform the parish office if you would like to attend or complete the sign-up sheet in the foyer of St. Joseph's Church.

The Dad's Group will meet on Monday 29th January in the Upper Room from 7.30-9.00pm. This is open to all dads who still have a child at school and is an opportunity for dads in the parish to get to know one another. Refreshments will be provided.

Dates for your Diary:

Saturday 18th May. Walking Pilgrimage to St. Mary's Parish in Chislehurst. Please meet in St. Joseph's car park at 11.45am to leave at 12 noon. Aiming to arrive at St. Mary's at 1.00pm. Rosary and picnic lunch (please bring your own lunch). Leaving at 2.00pm to walk back to St. Joseph's.

Saturday 29th June. Parish outing to Aylesford Priory. Fr Peter will celebrate Mass in the Relic Chapel at 12.30pm followed by a picnic lunch. A coach will be available for those who do not wish to drive. Please let the parish office know if you would like to attend and if you would like a seat on the coach. £20 return.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje from 6th to 13th September 2024. Cost £730. To include: Return flights from Gatwick. 7 nights accommodation with breakfast and dinner. Coach transfer. Full religious programme with local guide. Early booking discount of £30 when deposit paid before 1st February. Single room supplement £150. For more information please contact Susan Lowery on 07973 296607 or email sclowery@hotmail.com. Please see poster in foyer and outside cabinet.

As part of the preparation for the 2025 Jubilee year, the Southwark Marriage and Family Team will be running a Building a Better Marriage Course throughout the Archdiocese from February 2024. The one day course is for married couples (whether married for one year, 60 years or anywhere in between). It seeks to help husbands and wives to make their marriage better and to improve their communication skills. There is no group sharing and private information remains private to each couple. Couples who have attended previously have found it enjoyable, informative, and uplifting. For more information contact the Marriage and Family Life team through the Archdiocese of Southwark: website. <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/marriage-and-family-life>

Racial Justice Sunday 28th January 2024. Archbishop John Wilson will be celebrating a Mass at 10.00am at St. George's Cathedral, London SE1 7HY. The Racial and Cultural Inclusion Commission, co-ordinated by Canon Victor Darlington, would like to invite you to this Mass. Those attending should dress in their traditional attires and costumes and possibly bring a flag of their country of origin. Please let the parish office know if you plan to attend.

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) White Flower Appeal. Thank you to all those who donated to this appeal. The following was given by our parish: St. Joseph's: £573.77 St. Swithun's: £114.92

Supporting the Parish. Parish Finances for last week.

Average weekly standing order contributions: £1400.

Mass Offertory last weekend:

St Joseph's: £1150.48 St. Swithun's: £151.67

Weekly Offertory. Thank you to all those who have set up standing orders for their weekly offering. If other parishioners would like the parish bank details to set up a standing order please email either the parish office or: bromleygac@raos.org.uk

If you would like one of our Priests to visit a sick or housebound relative please contact the parish office.

Please pray for all those who are sick in our Parish, in nursing homes, in hospitals and the housebound, remembering, Sue Fraser, Simon Franks, Bindu Cyriac, Luke Kelly, Susan Slipstead, Elisabeth Gimblett, Sister Veronica, Paul Wyatt, Tony O'Reilly, Jane & Paul Emans, Agnes Achampong, Rupi McConnell, Martin Garrity, Brian Daley, Veronica Alanemo, Bernadette Murray, Maria Lopes, David Silk, Billie McPartlan, Geraldine Colleary, Fr Bob Mercer, Ann Hoolihan, Patricai Lefkaridi, Fr. David Peck, Gail Mortimer and June Wilson.

Please pray for our deceased relatives and friends, remembering, Mary McLean, Graham Morton, Lucia Holder, KM Augustine, John Sullivan, Thelma Malone, Nell Turner, William Parker, Sheila Egan, Joe Broderick, Jim & Kathleen Cunniffe, Van Wah Chan, Harry McAleer and James McNamara.
May they rest in peace.

Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confession is available after the 10.00am Mass Monday to Saturday and on request.

Rosary: The Rosary is prayed at 10.30am Monday-Saturday in St. Joseph's Church followed by **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** until 11.30am. All welcome.

Baptism: Parents & Expectant Parents—You are invited to register for your child's baptism on line: www.stjosephsbromley.org/baptism-registration. A separate form needs to be completed for each child. Please register, and we will contact you to arrange your required Baptism Preparation. If you have completed one of our Preparation Courses please email the parish office to book a date and time for your child's baptism.

Marriage: Please contact a priest or deacon. **Six Months notice is required.**

Presbytery & Parish Office

Presbytery: 15 Marian Gardens, Bromley BR1 3FH Tel: 020 8402 0459
Emergency Telephone Number only: 07884 204103

Parish Office is open from 8.30am to 12.30pm Monday to Friday

Parish Pastoral Team

Fr. Peter Murphy	Tel: 020 8402 0459	e: petermurphy@rcaos.org.uk
Deacon Barry	Tel: 07445 417335	e: barrymellish@rcaos.org.uk
Deacon Aidan	Tel: 07747 036253	e: aidanmcpartlan@rcaos.org.uk
Deacon Garry	Tel: 07766 557213	e: garrycullen@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Susan Allatt Email: bromley@rcaos.org.uk

Follow us on **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/ssjosephandswithun/ and Twitter: [@SSJosephSwithun](https://twitter.com/SSJosephSwithun)

Surgery Times: Please contact the Parish Office if you would like a meeting with a member of the Pastoral Team

St. Joseph's School: Tel: 020 8460 1976 | Website: www.st-josephs.bromley.sch.uk

St. Joseph's Playgroup Ltd: Monday-Friday. Term time only. For enquiries please ring: Caroline O'Brien on 07961 413694.