

# SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

Telephone No. 020 8402 0459 | [bromley@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:bromley@rcaos.org.uk) | [www.stjosephsbromley.org](http://www.stjosephsbromley.org)

Second Sunday Year A 18th January 2026

Readings on Page 125 of the Parish Mass Book

## Behold, the Lamb of God

The Scripture readings this weekend remind us of our call to be a missionary disciple of Jesus. We hear in the first reading the missionary call of the prophet Isaiah (Isa 49:3-6) who reminds us of God's call to each of us from the womb of our mothers to be God's servants, a light to the nations, in order that God's salvation might extend to the ends of the earth. Similarly St. Paul speaks to us in 1Cor 1:1-3 as those who have been sanctified in Christ, called to be holy, called with Christ to further the Kingdom of God, to rebuild broken lives and be emissaries of God's reconciling love. John the Baptist in today's Gospel is pointing out Jesus and identifies Jesus as the Lamb of God. "Lamb of God" is the most meaningful title given to Jesus in the Bible. It is used 29 times in the book of Revelation. It sums up the love, the sacrifice and the triumph of Christ.

Lamb in the Bible is a sign of sacrifice. Based on then Jewish religious culture, according to the Law of Moses, a lamb was sacrificed each morning and evening in the Temple for the sins of the people. Also on the feast of Passover each family sacrificed a lamb and ate its meat in a sacrificial meal. This meal called to mind the meal the People of Israel ate on the night of the first Passover when they were rescued by God from slavery in Egypt.

Secondly, Lamb is a sign of liberation. Lamb also reminds Israel's liberation from slavery. Since sin is a form of slavery and is definitely something that we need rescuing from. So when John the Baptist said 'Look there is the Lamb of God' the people would have had understood that he was making an explicit link with the hundreds of lambs sacrificed for sin in the Temple and also the many more lambs sacrificed on the night of the Passover Feast. John is pointing out that Jesus is the one who is coming to free the people from their sins.

We acknowledge it in the Holy Mass at "the breaking of the bread" proclaiming, "Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us/grant us peace." Today at Mass, let us look at the Eucharist with love and adoration to affirm our faith in Jesus Christ, truly present in the Eucharist, who was sacrificed for us and opened us to God's forgiveness and joy.

**Fr Saju**

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday 17th January St Anthony

10.00am Bernie Sheahan RIP  
(Celine)  
6.00pm John O'Sullivan RIP

### Sunday 18th January Second Sunday

8.00am Irene Simenons RIP  
(O'Donovan)  
9.15am William Cullen RIP  
11.00am People of the Parish  
5.00pm Bobby & Anastasia  
Doyle RIP (Atkinson)

### Monday 19th January

10.00am Mr K M Augustine RIP

### Tuesday 20th January

10.00am Int. Lorena Bustamante  
Spiritual & Physical  
Wellbeing (Chauhan)

### Wednesday 21st January St Agnes

10.00am Mr Marjan Wosiek RIP

### Thursday 22nd January

10.00am Bernie Sheahan RIP  
(Valentina)

### Friday 23rd January

10.00am Wellbeing of Dr Jim White  
(Chauhan)  
Year 5 Class Mass

### Saturday 24th January

#### St Francis de Sales

10.00am Int. Dorcus & Peter  
Fernandez & Family  
6.00pm Mark Donlan RIP (O'Brien)

### Sunday 25th January Third Sunday

8.00am Frances Hegarty RIP  
(O'Donovan)  
9.15am Jose Kurion RIP  
FHC Families & Y4 Class Mass  
11.00am Annama RIP (Santhy)  
5.00pm People of the Parish

## Our Parish Faith Formation

All those registering to attend one of our Sacramental Preparation Courses are requested to meet with Fr. Saju/ a member of the clergy team during surgery hours. You will not be able to submit your Registration Form online.

Surgeries are held from 4.30-6.30pm in Holy Trinity House. **Please note: Fr Saju's next surgery will be held on Monday 26th January 2026.** Please contact the parish office if you require the services of a priest or deacon.

**Baptism Preparation.** Please see below how to enrol on our next Baptism Preparation Course.

### First Holy Communion Preparation:

**9.15am Mass on Sunday 25th January 2026** will be celebrated for the intention of the First Holy Communion Families.

**FHC Session 1** will be held on Monday 19th January, Friday 23rd January and Saturday 24th January 2026.

**Confirmation Session 2** will be held on Saturday 31st January at 3.45pm in Holy Trinity House. Following the session the Confirmation Candidates will attend the 6.00pm Mass for the **Rite of Enrolment.**

**RCIA: Our Journey in Faith Group meet on Mondays at 8.00pm in Holy Trinity House.** Please email Matt Gibbs at mattgibbsjif@gmail.com.

**Post RCIA Session** led by Fr Saju will be held on Monday 2nd February 2026 at 8.00pm in Holy Trinity House. All those who have journeyed through RCIA are invited to attend.

**Year of St Francis of Assisi.** In commemoration of the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi, Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed Jan. 10, 2026 – Jan. 10, 2027, an extraordinary **Jubilee Year** during which the faithful can obtain a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions by making a pilgrimage to a Franciscan conventional church or place of worship dedicated to the Saint. Following in the footsteps of the Poverello of Assisi, let us transform the hope that made us pilgrims during the Holy Year into fervour and zeal of effective charity. "May this Year of St Francis be for each one of us a providential occasion for sanctification and evangelical witness in the contemporary world, for the glory of God and the good of the whole Church."

**Christian Meditation** will be held on Thursdays at 7.00pm in the Upper Room. For further information please contact the parish office.

**Baptism Family Gathering and Thanksgiving Service to be held on Saturday 24th January 2026 at 11.30am in St. Joseph's Primary School.** All families who have celebrated their child's baptism in the past two years are invited to attend.

**Tea and Coffee** will be served in the Club Room after the 9.15am Mass. **The Scouts are holding a cake sale** after the 9.15am Mass on Sunday 18th January to raise money for Doctors without Frontiers. Please support this cause.

### 9.15am Sunday Mass:

Sunday 18th January Uniform Groups

Sunday 25th January Y4 Class Mass and First Holy Communion Families

If you would like one of our Pastoral Team 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,** Paul Lowing, Maureen Webster, Alan O'Donnell, Teresa Cadogan, Joseph Dyson, John Dias, Gina Clark, John Ammundsen, Stella Ludlum, Catherine Rideout, Betty Byrne, Mary Edwards, Faith Millar, Utz & Yoko Reiff, Veronica Alaneme, Bernadette Murray, Maria Lopes, Billie McPartlan, Fr Bob Mercer, Ann Hoolihan, Patricai Lefkaridi, Fr. David Peck and Gail Mortimer.

**Please pray for our deceased relatives and friends, remembering,** Noreen Farrell, Josephine Sheridan, Mark Donlan, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Francesco Marchi, Bernie Sheahan, Annie McGregor, Ronald & Emily Margaret Spink, Rita Cooke, John O'Sullivan, Irene Simenons, Frances Hegarty, Bobby & Anastasia Doyle, Mr KM Augustine, Marjan Wosiek, Jose Kurion and Annama. **May they rest in peace.**

**Churches Together in Central Bromley Pulpit Swap on Sunday 18th January 2026.** This is where clergy members from different churches within the Churches Together in Central Bromley (CTCB) Group exchange pulpits for a service. This practice is intended to promote Christian unity and fellowship among different congregations and denomination. **Rev. Jonathan McGill, Pastor from Bromley Town Church will be visiting our parish and will give the sermon at the 11.00am Mass.** Deacon Barry will be visiting Bromley Methodist Church and will give a sermon there.

**White Flower Appeal will take place at the end of all Masses on 17th/18th January 2026 for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC).** There will be a second collection. For further information on the work of SPUC please see: [www.spuc.org.uk](http://www.spuc.org.uk)

**Racial Justice Sunday 1st February 2026.** Archbishop John Wilson will celebrate Mass at 10.00am in St. George's Cathedral, Southwark. Refreshments will be served in Amigo Hall after the Mass. All welcome.

**Valentine's Retreat:** Generally couples seek quality time and meaningful connection. This is for couples of any age, on Sat 14 Feb from 11.30 am to 4.30 pm, the session is led by Annette and Paul O'Beirne, who have 40 years experience in marriage preparation and marriage enrichment to grow in happiness in couple's life. For queries or to book your place contact /email the parish office or see poster in foyer of the church.

**Bromley Homeless** need additional volunteers for their winter shelter for the homeless in Bromley. If you can help, please contact John Warren on 020 8467 7926 urgently. Thank you.

## **Supporting the Parish Parish Finances for last week**

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

### **Standing Orders:**

Average weekly contributions: £1400.00.

### **Cashless contributions last week:**

Mass offerings: £397.00 Building Fund: £5.00

### **Offertory Collection last week:**

St. Joseph's: £952.31 St. Swithun's: £129.40

### **Crib Collection:**

St Joseph's: £ 519.08 St Swithun's: £135.32

### **Gift Aid and Standing Order Enquiries:**

Please email the Gift Aid Co-Ordinator at: [bromleygac@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:bromleygac@rcaos.org.uk) or call the Parish Office on 020 8402 0459.

Please see below the **Cashless Giving QR code**.

Please scan the code with your smart phones to make cashless contributions.



### **Bank transfers for Offertory contributions can be made to the account below:**

Short bank account name: **St Josephs Parish**

Bank sort code: **60-04-02**

Account number: **84093595**

Reference: **Please show your surname and initials (eg. Bond J)**

**This weekend** there will be a second collection for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.

**Next weekend** there will be a second collection for St. George's Cathedral.

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays from 10.30-11.30am and 5.00-5.45pm and on request.**

**Rosary:** The Rosary and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be prayed in Holy Trinity Chapel between 10.30-11.30am from Monday to Friday. On Saturday it will be in the Church and Confession will be available.

**Baptism:** You are invited to register for your child's baptism on line: [https://www.stjosephsbromley.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Baptism-Registration-Form\\_July-2025.pdf](https://www.stjosephsbromley.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Baptism-Registration-Form_July-2025.pdf) Please complete and print the form and bring to one of the surgeries on Monday evening in the Parish to meet a deacon/priest in the Holy Trinity House for the completion of the application. The next Baptism Preparation Course will start on 10th January 2026.

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

**St Swithun's Church**  
**9 Fashoda Road, BR2 9RE**  
**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday 17th January**

6.00pm People of the Parish

**Sunday 18th January**

10.00am Int. All volunteers in the Parish & their families (Ada)

**Monday 19th January**

10.00am Int. Annie Fernandes

**Saturday 24th January**

6.00pm Amelia & Jeremy Rodrigues  
Birthday Thanksgiving

**Sunday 25th January**

10.00am Antonia Miranda RIP

**Monday 26th January**

10.00am Mark Donlan RIP (Grace Harriott)

**For Mass Intentions** please see *Nelson*

**Tea & Coffee** will be served in the church hall on Sundays after the 10.00am Mass.

**Confession** will be available in St. Swithun's Church on Saturdays between 5.20-5.45pm.

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**St Swithun's Hall Bookings:** 020 8402-0459

**Parish Social**

**Cancer Café Group** will meet again on Tuesday 20th January from 1.30pm in the Upper Room next door to the church. Please feel free to join us.

**The Dad's Group** will meet on Wednesday 28th January at 19.30 in The Crown for a board game evening. Please contact: Richard Barrett on 07729 392936 or email: [rgtbarrett@gmail.com](mailto:rgtbarrett@gmail.com).

**Seniors Lunch.** The next Seniors Lunch will be held on **Tuesday 20th January** from 12 noon to 1.30pm in Holy Trinity House. Please let the parish know if you would like to attend.

**Bromley Borough Foodbank.** Donations are still urgently required. Please leave long-life fruit juice, milk, desserts, shaving foam, ladies deodorant, nappies size 6 in the box in the foyer of the church. The items will be delivered to the Foodbank. Bromley Foodbank have written to thank all our parishioners for their kind donations and their continued support. .

**Presbytery & Parish Office**

**Presbytery:** 15 Marian Gardens, Bromley BR1 3FH Tel: 020 8402 0459

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

**Parish Pastoral Team**

Fr. Saju Thomas (Parish Priest)

Tel: 020 8402 0459

e: [sajuthomas@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sajuthomas@rcaos.org.uk)

Fr Patrick Essien (Asst. Priest)

Tel: 020 8402 0459

e: [patrickessien@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:patrickessien@rcaos.org.uk)

Deacon Barry

Tel: 07445 417335

e: [barrymellish@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:barrymellish@rcaos.org.uk)

Deacon Aidan

Tel: 07747 036253

e: [aidanmcpartlan@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:aidanmcpartlan@rcaos.org.uk)

Deacon Garry

Tel: 07766 557213

e: [garrycullen@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:garrycullen@rcaos.org.uk)

**Parish Secretary: Susan Allatt Email: [bromley@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:bromley@rcaos.org.uk)**

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**Surgery resumes on Monday 26th January 2026**

**If you need the services of a priest or deacon please contact the parish office.**

**St Joseph's and St. Swithun's Hall Bookings: 020 8402 0459**

**St. Joseph's School:** Tel: 020 8460 1976 | Website: [www.st-josephs.bromley.sch.uk](http://www.st-josephs.bromley.sch.uk)

**Head Teacher: Mrs Cribben**

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