

SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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

Palm Sunday Year A 29th March 2026

Readings on Page 176 of the Parish Mass Book

Depth of Divine Love

A warm welcome to all who join the Parish during **Holy Week**, especially our young people and those who are visiting their loved ones in the area. These sacred days invite us to walk closely with Christ and to experience renewal, and deep joy in his love. Holy Week is far more than a remembrance of ancient events; it is a living encounter with Jesus who continues to accompany us and leads us forward in hope.

On **Palm Sunday**, we raise our palms in gratitude, recognising Jesus as the humble and peaceful King who enters Jerusalem not with force but with the quiet authority of divine compassion. His gentleness calls us to become builders of peace within our families and society. On **Maudy Thursday**, we witness the profound mystery of Christ's self-giving love revealed in the Institution of the Eucharist and in his commandment to love one another. At Last Supper Jesus offers himself as the new and enduring covenant of divine love. He kneels before his disciples to wash their feet, a model of service, love that serves, love that sanctifies the ordinary. Each time we gather at Holy Mass, we are strengthened to live this same selfless and life-giving love in our homes and communities. On **Good Friday**, we stand at the foot of the Cross, contemplating Christ, the Lamb of God, who embraces suffering as the supreme revelation of the Father's mercy. In his sacred wounds, we see the depth of divine compassion that bears the full weight of human brokenness. As we venerate the Holy Cross, may its saving mystery soften our hearts, heal our wounds, and draw us into the transforming grace that flows from Christ's sacrifice. But on **Easter Sunday**, we rejoice in the dawn that breaks upon the empty tomb, proclaiming the triumph of life over death. The Risen Christ reveals that hope conquers despair and his resurrection conquers death to lead us into new life. At the Easter vigil Mass nine people will be received into the Church. While we congratulate and pray for them, as an Easter people, we are called to share this joy of new life in faith into our daily lives, our relationships, and our parish life.

I pray that these holy days fill you with peace, hope, and renewed faith. I am grateful for your participation this week to celebrate this mystery of Faith; and pray that you continue to experience God's love deeply in life. **Fr Saju**

Mass Intentions

Saturday 28th March

10.00am Anthony Canavan RIP
6.00pm Peter Ward RIP (Adams)

Clocks move forward an hour at 1.00am

Sunday 29th March Palm Sunday

8.00am Chris Kelly RIP (Sayer)
9.15am Francis Anthony Pillai RIP
11.00am Int. Benny Joseph (Bindu)
5.00pm Emily Sacmar RIP
(Kovalichin)

Monday 30th March

10.00am Mary Pinakkattu Thomas RIP

Tuesday 31st March

10.00am Mike Heys RIP

Wednesday 1st April

10.00am Dominic Bennett &
Andy Whitelaw RIP

Thursday 2nd April Maudy Thursday

8.00pm Holy Souls

Friday 3rd April Good Friday

3.00pm Solemn Liturgy

Saturday 4th April Easter Saturday

10.00am Blessing of Easter Food
8.00pm Frank Lohan RIP

Sunday 5th April Easter Sunday

8.00am Paul Kandrup RIP (Warren)
9.15am Douglas & Richard Francis
RIP
11.00am Lucia Holder RIP
5.00pm Bogna Krzewka RIP
(Lohan)

Our Parish Faith Formation

All those registering to attend one of our Sacramental Preparation Courses are requested to meet with Fr. Saju or a member of the clergy team during surgery hours with the form duly filled.

Surgeries will be held from 4.30-6.30pm in Holy Trinity House:

Monday: Fr Saju & Deacon Barry/Aidan

No surgery on Easter Monday.

Wednesday by Appointment only:

Fr Patrick & Deacon Garry

RCIA: Kindly pray for our RCIA candidates as they prepare to be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

Easter Offerings. Easter offerings are traditionally your personal gift to your priests in the Parish. The collection taken at our Easter Masses, together with anything placed in the White Easter Offering envelopes constitute your personal gift to Fr Saju and Fr Patrick. White envelopes are now available at the entrance and exit of our two churches. If you are in the Gift Aid Scheme please put your name and postcode on the envelope so that we can claim the tax refund. Envelopes can also be handed in at the Parish Office at any other time. If you wish to make your Easter offering via bank transfer to the parish bank account, please use the following Account:

Name: RCAS St. Swithun Gift Aid

Account Number: 27868508

Sort Code: 60 04 02 **Reference:** Easter or pay by selecting 'Easter Offerings' on the cashless terminals at the entrances of St. Joseph's Church.

Cafod Lent Prayer: Loving God, create in us a desire to live simply, so that our lives may reflect your generosity.

Bishop Gerard Bradley, new Auxiliary Bishop of the Southwark Diocese will be celebrating the 11.00am Mass on Palm Sunday 29th March.

Confessions in Lent

Monday 30th March 10.30-11.30am

Tuesday 31st March 10.30-11.30am

Easter Liturgy

Maundy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper

2nd April:

St Joseph's: Mass at 8.00pm

St. Swithun's Mass at 6.00pm

Good Friday 3rd April:

Children's Stations of the Cross at 9.30am in St. Joseph's Church Hall.

Walk of Witness begins at 11.00am from Bromley Parish Church (behind Primark). 11.15am in the High Street near Halifax. Everyone is welcome.

Solemn Liturgy at 3.00pm

Praying around the empty Cross: 7.30-8.30pm

Holy Saturday 4th April

10.00am Blessing of Easter Food in St. Joseph's Church.

8.00pm Easter Vigil in St. Joseph's Church

6.00pm Easter Vigil in St. Swithun's Church

Easter Sunday 5th April: Masses at usual times.

Individual candles are a key part of our Easter Vigil Celebrations at St Joseph's and St Swithun's. Volunteers will be positioned at the end of each pew to light your candles as you take your place.

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 Gibbs, Mike Heneghan, Maria Dillane, Paul Lowing, Maureen Webster, Alan O'Donnell, Teresa Cadogan, Gina Clark, Catherine Rideout, Betty Byrne, Mary Edwards, Utz & Yoko Reiff, Veronica Alaneme, Bernadette Murray, Maria Lopes, Billie McPartlan, Fr Bob Mercer, Ann Hoolihan, Patricia Lefkaridi, Fr. David Peck and Gail Mortimer.

Please pray for our deceased relatives and friends, remembering, Adam Newman, John Dias, Josephine Farrugia, Robert Fitzpatrick, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Anthony Canavan, Peter Ward, Chris Kelly, Francis Anthony Pillai, Emily Sacmar, Mary Pinakkattu Thomas, Mike Heys, Dominic Bennett, Andy Whitelaw, Frank Lohan, Paul Kandrup, Douglas & Richard Francis and Bogna Krzewka.

May they rest in peace.

Jubilee Year of St. Francis.

As part of celebrating the Jubilee Year of St. Francis a Night Vigil will be held on 16th/17th October commencing with Mass at 7.00pm and concluding with Mass at 6.30am.

St Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of the animals and ecology. In the Jubilee Year, Blessing of Pets will be held on Sunday 4th October 2026 after 11.00am Mass in the Holy Trinity garden. Further details to follow.

Altar Server Sign-Up Sheet for the Easter Triduum is now available in the Altar Servers Sacristy.

Funeral: The funeral of Josephine Farrugia RIP will be held on Tuesday 14th April at 12 noon in St. Joseph's Church. May she rest in peace.

Parish Meditation Group. You are warmly invited to "A Journey of Remembrance" **Spiritual Retreat** led by Mariana Mazzaferri (07428212864) from the Parish Christian Meditation group. A day of guided meditation, stillness and prayer through the **ancient Aramaic teachings of Jesus**, will be held in the quiet beauty of The Friars, Aylesford on Saturday 20th June, from 10am to 4pm (lunch and drinks included). The Holy Mass will be celebrated by Fr Saju at 12 noon. If you wish to attend, please reserve your space through the Parish office as limited spaces are available. For further info www.breathofspirit.co.uk

St Joseph's Youth Group for ages 11-18 years of age to be held monthly in the church hall starting on Saturday 25th April from 7.00-9.00pm. Volunteers required to help out with this group. See posters and sign-up sheets in the foyer. For further information please contact the parish office.

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 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 Saturday 6th June 2026.

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

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: £719.00 Building Fund: £57.00

Offertory Collection last week:

St. Joseph's: £952.97 St. Swithun's: £169.70

Poor Parishes:

St. Joseph's: £706.48 St. Swithun's: £88.65

Gift Aid and Standing Order Enquiries:

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

Cashless giving QR Code:



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)**

The Orpington Band Concert raised funds for the Bromley Foodbank: Thank you very much.

Cashless donations: £150.00

Cash: £400.00

Second Collections:

Maundy Thursday for St. Vincent de Paul (SVP)

Good Friday for Holy Places

St Swithun's Church
9 Fashoda Road, BR2 9RE

Mass Intentions

Saturday 28th March

6.00pm Francisco Rodrigues &
Juliet Pereira RIP

Sunday 29th March

10.00am People of the Parish

Monday 30th March

10.00am Mark Donlan RIP (Murray)

Thursday 2nd April Maundy Thursday

6.00pm Thanksgiving Patsy Brenson

Friday 3rd April Good Friday

3.00pm Solemn Liturgy

Saturday 4th April Holy Saturday

6.00pm Michael & Souad Hanaie RIP

Sunday 5th April Easter Sunday

10.00am People of the Parish

Monday 6th April Easter Monday

10.00am Paddy Bates RIP

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.

Parish Social

Cancer Café Group will meet again on
Tuesday 7th April from 1.30pm in the Upper
Room next door to the church.

The Dad's Group will meet for a board game
night on Wednesday 29th April at 7.30pm in the
Upper Room. Please contact: Richard Barrett
on 07729 392936

The next Seniors Lunch will be held on
Tuesday 14th April from 12 noon to 1.30pm in
Holy Trinity House.

Couples Teams. Please join us for an inspiring
information meeting on **Wednesday 1 April at
7:00 pm** in the **Upper Room**. We are delighted
to welcome an experienced couple from **Teams
of Our Lady**, who will share the joys of being
part of a married couples community and
explain how they can guide us in starting our
very own Team. This is a wonderful opportunity
to grow together in faith and friendship, because
following this session, we will decide if we have
enough interest to officially launch this new
ministry. We can't wait to see you there!

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

Fr Patrick Essien (Asst. Priest)

Tel: 020 8402 0459

e: patrickessien@rcaos.org.uk

Deacon Barry

Tel: 07445 417335

e: barymellish@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: 4.30-6.30pm in Holy Trinity House

Mondays: Fr Saju and Deacon Barry/Deacon Aidan—**No surgery on Easter Monday**

Wednesday: Fr Patrick & Deacon Garry by appointment only

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

Head Teacher: Mrs Cribben

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