

SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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Fourth Sunday in Lent Year A 19th March 2023

Readings on Page 164 the Parish Mass Book

How is your Lent going? Maybe the things we took up for Lent have fallen by the wayside. A lot of us find ourselves in that situation – suddenly doing or not doing something, out of habit. It's part of what makes us human and makes our Lenten journey so challenging. Lent is a journey. We are pilgrims travelling on an unfamiliar road, seeking to draw nearer to God.

Most people will see the healing of the blind man as a miracle. Jesus enabled the man to see, an event which confirmed that Jesus was in fact the son of God. Thank God for miracles, life changing events that restore lives to wholeness.

There is more going on here than just a miracle. This is a story of faith. What John wants for us today is to have our own vision restored. He does that by presenting this story with other characters, all of whom suffers from spiritual blindness.

First, there were the disciples who suffered from the blindness of theological ineptness. Then, there were the neighbours blinded by denial. Next the Pharisees who suffered from the blindness of righteous indignation. How dare Jesus break the rules and heal someone on the Sabbath! The blind man's parents suffered from the blindness of selfishness. Finally, there is the crowd who suffered from the blindness of rejection. It is unclear just who was challenging the man on his new sight but the implication is that all of society wanted him to reject what Jesus had done for him and yet all the man knew was that he was blind but now he could see.

When we have faith, we see. We see that God works in our midst in spite of ourselves. We can't see because we are afraid to change. We don't want to open our eyes for fear of losing our security. We cling to old rules and traditions because that is what we are used to. It is easier to remain blind instead of allowing God to correct our vision.

Jesus is all about opening our eyes to see. To see is to understand that God does not inflict us with health problems because of our sins. To see is to cease using denial as a way of ignoring what is real. To see means to live in grace instead of rules. To see is to experience the acceptance of God.

Deacon Aidan

Mass Intentions

Psalter Week 4

Saturday 18th March

10.00 am Michael Hanaie RIP (Stoner)
6.00 pm Helen McDonnell RIP
(Margiotta)

Sunday 19th March Fourth Sunday of Lent

8.00 am Kevin McNamara RIP (Lowery)
9.15 am Sr. Agnes RIP
11.00 am Douglas Wakenshaw RIP
5.00 pm Betty Murphy RIP

Monday 20th March St Joseph

10.00 am Carlo Gori RIP
11.00 am School Mass

Tuesday 21st March

10.00 am Jeyasilliya Adaikalamuthu RIP

Wednesday 22nd March

10.00 am Graham Morton RIP

Thursday 23rd March

10.00 am Eric Sayer RIP

Friday 24th March

10.00 am Bridget McDonagh RIP
(McConnell)

Saturday 25th March

The Annunciation of the Lord

10.00 am Rita McCarthy RIP (McCarthy)
6.00 pm Int. Bridie & Tony Doherty &
Family (Lohan)

Sunday 26th March Fifth Sunday of Lent

8.00 am Mr & Mrs Wong RIP
9.15 am People of the Parish
Y1 Class Mass
11.00 am Carlo Dovico RIP
12.45 pm **Baptism: Clemence Daniel**
5.00 pm Edward & Olive Kathleen
Ashton RIP (Spink)

Parish News & Events

Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers and grandmothers in our parish.

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. Fr Peter will be available to hear confession after the 10.00am Mass Monday to Saturday.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed on Wednesday mornings following the 10.00am Mass during Lent.

St. Swithun's Mass Intentions

Saturday 18th March

6.00pm People of the Parish

Sunday 19th March

10.00am James Cook RIP

Monday 20th March

10.00am

Coffee and Tea will be served in St. Swithun's Hall after the 10.00am Mass on 2nd April.

Funerals:

The funeral of Camilla Pettit RIP will be held on Thursday 13th April at 1.30pm.

The funeral of Mary McCoy RIP will be held on Monday 27th March at 12 noon.

The funeral of Geoffrey Knight RIP will be held on Thursday 30th March at 12 noon.

Douglas Francis RIP died on 13th March. Funeral date to be announced.

The funeral of Lucina Eldridge RIP will be held on Wednesday 5th April at 12 noon in St. Swithun's Church.

Our Parish Faith Formation

The Journey in Faith Group will meet on Monday 20th March at 8.00pm in the Upper Room. They will be discussing 'The Lord's Prayer'. New Enquirers only please. Contact Matt Gibbs for more details on 07955 084287 or bromleyjif@rcaos.org.uk

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

First Holy Communion Parents Practical Planning Meeting on Wednesday 29th March at 7.30pm in the church hall. If you have any queries please email Deacon Garry at: garrycullen@rcaos.org.uk

Confirmation Session 4 will be held on Saturday 25th March 2023 at 4.00pm in Holy Trinity House.

New Statue of St. Joseph. A statue of St Joseph has stood above the entrance to the Church since it was built over 100 year ago. The statue has suffered over the years with pollution and weather. The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) have decided to replace the original statue with an exact copy made out of natural portland stone. The cost of this and the associated works is £12,000. Some parishioners have approached Fr Peter to say they would like to give a donation towards the cost of the statue. If you wish to make a contribution please contact the parish office or see information sheet in the foyer. Thank you for any donations you give. We hope to have the new statue in place by Easter.

Children's Liturgy of the Word will be held during the 9.15am Mass on 26th March.

Thursday Evening Quiet Prayer. St. Joseph's Church will be open for quiet prayer on Thursday evenings from 7-8pm. This will be for a trial period during Lent and give parishioners an opportunity for personal prayer and reflection.

Young Dads' Group. On Monday 27th March, from 7.30 - 9.00pm, we will be having the first meeting of our Young Dads' Group, in the Skip Appleton Room. This is open to any dad who still has a child at school. The evening will begin with a short reflection on The Role of a Christian Father and end with a short period of prayer. The time in between is simply for dads in the Parish to get to know one another. To prepare light refreshments, it would be good to know numbers. So, if you would like to come, please email Susan in the Parish Office.

Mum's Group. A 'Mum's Group' will be held every Friday morning from 8.30am in Holy Trinity House. All mum's are welcome to come and enjoy a cup of coffee/tea and biscuits once they have dropped their children off at school. You are welcome to stay until 12 noon. This will be held every Friday morning in term time.

Parish One Mass at Aylesford Priory on Saturday 1st July 2023. Mass will be celebrated in the Relic Chapel at 11.30am. This will be followed by a picnic lunch (please bring your own picnic). The Rosary Way will be open for those who would like to visit and pray. We have hired a 29-seater coach for those who do not have their own transport. Spaces are limited so please contact the parish office to book your seat on the coach. £20.00 return.

Legion of Mary. Auxiliary members are warmly invited to renew their annual Consecration to Our Blessed Lady. This year the Ceremony will take place on Saturday 25th March at 2.45pm at St. Mary Magdalen's Church, 73 Comerford Road, Brockley, SE4 2BA. The Rosary and Legion Prayers will precede Holy Mass to include the Consecration. Refreshments will follow. For further details please contact Marita at: mrhammond@talktalk.net.

Coach Outings. Gina Clark has organised various coach trips this year. For more information please ring Gina on 0208 464 3742.

SVP Enquirers. All those who signed up to indicate interest in joining the SVP are invited to an Introductory Meeting on Saturday 25th March at 10.30am in the Upper Room. Further information will be given out at this meeting.

The next Seniors' Lunch will be held on Wednesday 22nd March from 12 noon to 1.30pm in Holy Trinity House. Please complete the sign-up sheet in the foyer or inform the parish office if you would like to attend.

Uniform Group Cake Sale will be held this Sunday in aid of Comic Relief. In the church hall after the 9.15am Mass.

Tea & Coffee will be served in Holy Trinity House after the 10.00am Mass on Tuesdays. All welcome to attend.

Medjugorje Pilgrimage from 15th-22nd September 2023. Cost is £665 half board. Single room supplement £140. Please contact Susan Lowery on 07973 296607 or sclowery@hotmail.co.uk to book your place.

The Big Lent Walk for CAFOD. I'm taking on the Big Lent Walk! 200km in 40 days throughout Lent. Please sponsor me as I raise money to help fight global poverty. Please click on the following link:

<https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/rosemary-donlan>

Thank you. Rosemary Donlan

This Sunday there will be a second collection for Poor Parishes. This enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the poorer parishes in the diocese.

Parish Finances: Weekly Offertory. Thank you to all those who have set up standing orders for their weekly offering. We are very grateful to you all. If other parishioners would like the parish bank details to set up a standing order please email either the parish office or: bromleygac@rcaos.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, Jane & Paul Emans, Paul Hopkins, Agnes Achampong, Rupi McConnell, Martin Garrity, Brian Daley, Veronica Alanemo, Imelda Burns, Helen Mudge, Bernadette Murray, Maria Lopes, David Silk, Billie McPartlan, Mrs Fernande Hanson, Geraldine Colleary, Fr Bob Mercer, Lucina Eldridge, Ann Hoolihan, Patricai Lefkaridi, Fr. David Peck, Gail Mortimer, Mary McLean and June Wilson.

Please pray for our deceased relatives and friends, remembering, Camilla Pettit, Mark Clapson, Graham Morton, Lucia Holder, Dr Robert Fitzpatrick, Connie Watson, Helen McDonnell, Kevin McNamara, Sr. Agnes, Douglas Wakenshaw, Betty Murphy, Carlo Gori, Jeyasilliya Adikalimuthu, Eric Sayer, Bridgit McDonagh, Rita McCarthy, Mr & Mrs Wong, Carlo Dovico, Edward & Olive Ashton, Mary McCoy, Geoffrey Knight, Douglas Francis and Lucina Eldridge.

May they rest in peace.

Names will stay on the Sick List for 3 months. If you would like someone to stay on the Sick List for longer please inform the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation. Fr Peter is available to hear confession after all Masses.

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 Monday-Friday

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

Fr Peter will be holding his surgery by appointment only.

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.