

# 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)

Twenty-Fifth Sunday

Year A

24th September 2023

Readings on Page 131 of the Parish Mass Book

In Matthew's Gospel today Jesus turns our human thinking on its head with the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard. He strips away the notions that we must earn our way into heaven; that our heavenly rewards will be proportionate to our Christian service; that we are competing with other Christian saints for heavenly rewards.

This parable is used by Jesus to spell out how the heavenly reward system might look. We should remember that Jesus gave this in answer to Peter's question, "What then will we have?" (19:27). Peter having left everything to follow Jesus, must have heard this parable with some frustration, because it implies that the rewards that the apostles will receive will be the same as the rewards that lesser disciples will receive.

We feel for the all-day workers, who received the same pay as the one-hour workers. Is that fair? Don't they deserve more? Shouldn't the master treat them better? We are used to working in a world where one's rewards are proportionate to one's service. (Although you have to wonder if a professional football player is really worth as much as a thousand teachers.)

This parable is similar to the Parable of the Prodigal Son/ Elder Brother (Luke 15). In both parables, the grace shown to the undeserving person offends those who think of themselves as deserving. When we read that parable, we are glad for the mercy shown to the returned prodigal and are offended at the elder brother's outrage and yet ironically we share the offense of the all-day workers. They have worked long and hard, but the master put them on a par with all the rest. In like manner, God has put us on a par with latecomers to the faith—and others who have done less or given less.

But we do not want to be on a par! We want to be on top! We don't want mercy (what God gives freely) but justice (what we have earned). If God distributes rewards fairly, we who worked all day will get more than those who arrived at the last hour. We will receive what we have earned plus a generous bonus. The irony, of course, is that the little bit that we have earned is of no consequence when compared to God's grace-bonus.

Deacon Aidan

## Mass Intentions

### Psalter Week 1

#### Saturday 23rd September St Pius

10.00am

Jack Egan RIP

12 Noon

Int. UCM & CWL

6.00pm

Int. Max Thompson (Bull)

#### Sunday 24th September 25th Sunday

8.00am

Gerald & Margaret Cronin RIP

9.15am

People of the Parish

*FHC Rite of Enrolment*

11.00am

Maria Yacoub RIP

12.30pm

**Baptism: Jimmy Taylor**

5.00pm

Anita Bowden RIP

(Aitkinson)

#### Monday 25th September

10.00am

Augustine Matthew RIP

#### Tuesday 26th September

10.00am

Thanksgiving to the  
Sacred Heart (Stella)

#### Wednesday 27th September

##### St Vincent de Paul

10.00am

Cecil Mariyathasan RIP

#### Thursday 28th September

10.00am

Peter Solkhon RIP

#### Friday 29th September St Michael

10.00am

Santhiya Adaikalamuthu RIP

2.00pm

Class Mass—Year 5

#### Saturday 30th September St Jerome

10.00am

Saraswathy Stanislaus RIP

6.00pm

Albert Norman &

Emily Ida May Spink RIP

#### Sunday 1st October 26th Sunday

8.00am

Thanksgiving for Matthew

Odiase—GCSE Results

9.15am

Anthony Giroux RIP

(Armstrong-Denby)

11.00am

Int. Robert & Jodie Adams

1.00pm

**Baptism: Nancy Soper**

5.00pm

People of the 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 is available to hear confessions 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.

**Fr Peter would like to thank everyone for their continued prayers and good wishes. He will resume his duties as soon as he feels better.**

**New Assistant Priest.** We look forward to welcoming Fr Damian Ilogigwe from Nigeria who will be joining our parish as the new Assistant Priest. Fr Damian is arriving on Wednesday 27th September.

## St. Swithun's Mass Intentions

### Saturday 23rd September

6.00pm Mary Dunne RIP

### Sunday 24th September

10.00am Wellbeing of Savio & Jenny Noruega

### Monday 25th September

9.00am Debbie & John Doherty RIP

**Tea and coffee** will be served after the 10.00am Mass on the second Sunday of each month in the church hall.

**The First National Mass Count** will be taken at all Masses this weekend.

## Parish News & Events

### Our Parish Faith Formation

**The Journey in Faith Group** will meet on Monday 25th September at 8.00pm in Holy Trinity House and will discuss 'Salvation History'. New Enquirers only. If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming a Catholic or finding out more about what we believe and why, or if you are a baptised Catholic but have not received all the Sacraments and would like to do so, please contact Matt Gibbs for more details on 07955 084287 or [mattgibbsjif@gmail.com](mailto:mattgibbsjif@gmail.com)

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

**First Holy Communion Rite of Enrolment will take place during the 9.15am Mass on Sunday 24th September.** All families with children preparing for FHC are invited to attend.

**FHC Session 1 will be held on Monday 25th, Friday 29th and Saturday 30th September.** All families have been informed of the date and time of their session. For any queries, please contact Deacon Garry.

**Confirmation Preparation for 2023-2024.** If your child will be in Year 8 or above in September you are welcome to apply. Please click on the following link: <https://www.stjosephsbromley.org/confirmation-registration/> **The Confirmation Diary for 2023-2024** is available to view on the parish website. This contains the dates and times of all the sessions. For further information please email the parish office.

**Reminder: Catholic Women's League are celebrating 95 years in Southwark Diocese on 23rd September in St Joseph Hall.** Bishop Philip Moger will celebrate Mass at 12 noon. The day starts at 11.00am. **Bring own packed lunch - tea, coffee & cake provided.** This is a joint event with Union of Catholic Mothers who were part of us 95 years ago. Contact Diocesan President Marie Potter 07506216427 for more details

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** will be held during the 9.15am Mass on Sunday 24th September.

**Signing of School Supplementary Forms.** Please contact the parish office.

**Diocesan Day for Catechists to be held on 30th September 2023 led by members of the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis**

The Diocesan Day for Catechists will take place at the Amigo Hall and St George's Cathedral on 30th September 2023.

**Places must be booked online.** Please see: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/latest/cat23>

**UPDATE: The Re-Development work is continuing in the new kitchen and Club Room.**

The roof over the Club Room has been replaced and includes a roof-light which dramatically improves the natural light. The steps have been replaced with a new concrete ramp to allow wheelchair access from the hall into the Club Room. The new doors, radiators and fire shutters have all been ordered. We are in the process of selecting the new furniture for the Club Room.

**Please see photos of work on display in the foyer of the church.** We hope to have the new kitchen and Club Room open as soon as possible but will confirm the date nearer the time.

**The Mum's Group** are welcome to meet on Friday mornings during term time at 8.30am in Holy Trinity House. Tea, Coffee and biscuits are provided.

**Seniors' Lunch.** The next Senior's Lunch will be held on **Wednesday 25th October from 12 noon to 1.30pm in Holy Trinity House.** Please let the parish office know if you would like to attend.

**THE SACRAMENTS: A series of short films by Bishop Robert Barron.** The films last approx. 30 minutes. Discussion time with refreshments, 30 minutes. **Fourth Session: Sunday 15th October from 12.30pm to 1.30pm in the Skip Appleton Room.** All welcome.

**Tea & Coffee** will be served in Holy Trinity House on Tuesday mornings after the 10.00am Mass. All welcome.

**The Dad' Group will meet on Monday 25th September 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. Please inform the parish office if you would like to attend. Refreshments will be provided.

**CAFOD Harvest Fast Day.** Members of our CAFOD Group will give a short Appeal after all Masses next weekend. The Harvest Fast Day is on Friday 6th October. The Harvest Fast Day collection will be taken on 7th/8th October.

**Missio Red Boxes.** All Missio Red Box holders are invited to bring their box to either church or the parish office for emptying. The parish total will be submitted at the end of October. Your emptied box will be left in the foyer of either church for you to collect. Thanking each of our red box holders for your continued generosity in supporting Missio's worldwide work.

**Representatives from Bromley Homeless** will give a short appeal at the end of the 8.00am Mass and the 10.00am Mass at St. Swithun's this Sunday.

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

Average weekly standing order contributions: £1400.

#### **Mass Offertory last weekend:**

St Joseph's: £1016.10 St. Swithun's: £150.26

#### **Catholic Agency for Evangelisation:**

St. Joseph's: £298.66 St. Swithun's: £71.65

**Text Receipts:** TBC **Dona** (Cashless): TBC

**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@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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,*** Fr Peter Murphy, Elisabeth Gimblett, Mary Wakenshaw, Simon Franks, 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, Mary McLean and June Wilson.

***Please pray for our deceased relatives and friends, remembering,*** Tony Mascarenhas, Jack Egan, Gerald & Margaret Cronin, Maria Yacoub, Anita Bowden, Augustine Matthew, Cecil Mariyathan, Peter Solkhon, Santhiya Adaikalamuthu, Saraswathy Stanislaus, Albert Norman & Emily Ida May Spink, Anthony Giroux, Graham Morton and Lucia Holder.

**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](http://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.

### **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: 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](mailto:bromley@rcaos.org.uk) Monday-Friday**

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**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](http://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.