

SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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

Second Sunday of Advent

Year B

10th December 2023

Readings on Page 85 of the Parish Mass Book

This week's gospel sees a voice crying out in the wilderness, exhorting the people to prepare a way for the Lord. This is, of course, the voice of John the Baptist, who came as a witness to the light – Our Lord Jesus Christ. But why cry out in the wilderness and not in a busy town or city, such as Jerusalem, where there are throngs of people? Perhaps the wilderness is, in a sense, calling us 'back to basics'. To escape the attractions and desires that this world bombards us with, which so frequently pollutes our minds and relegates Jesus to an insignificant figure or even try's to eradicate Him entirely.

And yet, we hear that all the people of Judea and Jerusalem made their way to John in the wilderness. What was it about John that drew crowds towards him, even the Pharisees and Sadducees? It was a deep desire to encounter God, and the people would, no doubt, have considered John as the Prophet foretold by Isaiah in our first reading today, where we hear about a voice that will cry out in the wilderness, pointing towards the coming of the promised Messiah.

So, at this busiest time of the year, where so many shops and advertisers are targeting us incessantly, we are encouraged, indeed called to make time for Jesus. To get 'back to the basics' of what really is important. A message reiterated by Peter in our second reading, reminding us to be mindful of Jesus' second coming - to try and live our lives without spot or stain.

Wherever you find yourselves this Advent, identify those areas in your lives that need to be changed in order to draw closer to Jesus. Take positive action to respond to John the Baptist's call, even if your first steps are small! And remember, there is no better time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as we look forward to the celebration of Jesus' birth on Christmas Day.

Deacon Garry

Mass Intentions

Psalter Week 2

Saturday 9th December

10.00am Theresa Anthony Pillai RIP
6.00pm Norman William & Vera
Kathleen Spink RIP

Sunday 10th December

2nd Sunday of Advent

8.00am Int. Bindu Cyriac (Crosby)
9.15am People of the Parish
11.00am Maureen & Eamonn Dillane
RIP
5.00pm Paul Robin Ross RIP &
Jenny Girolami RIP

Monday 11th December

10.00am Wellbeing of Luke Kelly
(Bennett)

Tuesday 12th December

10.00am Anastasia Warren RIP

Wednesday 13th December St Lucy

10.00am John Reader RIP (Doran)

Thursday 14th December

St John of the Cross

10.00am Nita Perera RIP (McConnell)

Friday 15th December

10.00am Mary Lamb RIP (Spink)

Saturday 16th December

10.00am The Sanctification & God's
Guidance (Gawlik)
6.00pm Mary & John O'Donnell RIP
(Foley)

Sunday 17th December

3rd Sunday of Advent

8.00am People of the Parish
9.15am Past & Present members of
the 11th Bromley Scouts
11.00am Mary Margaret & Michael
Joseph Grady RIP
5.00pm Lucia Holder RIP

Parish News & Events

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.

Times of Christmas Masses:

St. Joseph's

Sunday 24th December: 4th Sunday of Advent

8.00am, 9.15am and 11.00am

Sunday 24th December: Christmas Eve:

5.00pm, 7.00pm and Midnight Mass. There will be a Carol Service starting at 11.30pm which will lead into Midnight Mass.

Monday 25th December: Christmas Day:

8.00am, 9.15am & 11.00am

There will be no evening Mass.

Tuesday 26th December:

Feast of St. Stephen (Boxing Day)

10.00am

St. Swithun's

Sunday 24th December : 10.00am

Sunday 24th December: Christmas Eve

6.00pm

Monday 25th December: Christmas Day

10.00am

Children' Liturgy will be held in the church hall during the 9.15am Mass on 10th December.

St. Swithun's Mass Intentions

Saturday 11th December

6.00pm For all the families on Fashoda Road

Sunday 12th December

10.00am Wellbeing of Ionela Noruega

Monday 13th December

9.00am For all the families on Southlands Road

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

Our Parish Faith Formation

The Journey in Faith Group will meet on Monday 11th December at 8.00pm in Holy Trinity House and will discuss 'The Church'. 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. The next Baptism Preparation Course will start on Saturday 6th January 2024.

First Holy Communion preparation will resume in the New Year.

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. For further information please email the parish office.

Bromley Deanery Reconciliation Service.

You are invited to an Advent Celebration of Reconciliation to be held from 4pm on Saturday 16th December 2023 at St Edmunds in Beckenham. Visiting priests will be available to hear individual confessions and to give absolution. All are welcome. Jesus said: When two or three meet in my name I shall be there with them.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in St. Joseph's Church on Friday 8th and 15th December from 3.10-4.10pm. We welcome all the families from St. Joseph's Primary School.

Signing of School Supplementary Forms. Please contact the parish office to book an appointment with Fr Peter. When considering a Primary School for your child please note the school also welcomes applications from those of other denominations and faiths and from those who have no faith, who support the religious ethos of the school. An Open Event will be held on Monday 8th January at 9.30am. For further information please see:
www.st-josephs.bromley.sch.uk

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 17th December at 9.15am to say thank you for all Terry has done for us over more than 20 years.

The re-development work in the new kitchen and Club Room is finished. The essential fire safety curtains are due to be fitted on Friday 8th December. A final safety inspection will then to be carried out. We hope to have the new kitchen and Club Room open before Christmas.

Official Opening and Blessing of new Kitchen and Club Room to be held on Sunday 14th January from 10.30-11.30am. Fr Peter will bless the new kitchen and Club Room. Refreshments will be served.

Seniors' Lunches. The next lunch will be held on Wednesday 20th December from 12 noon to 1.30pm in Holy Trinity House. Please let the parish office know if you would like to attend.

The Dad's Group will be meeting for a Christmas Drink on Monday 18th December from 7.30-9.30pm in The Crown, Plaistow Lane. All dads who still have a child at school are welcome to attend. This is an opportunity for dads in the parish to get to know one another.

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

Ss Joseph & Swithun Christmas Day International Lunch in St. Joseph's Church Hall. The lunch will be held after the 11.00am Mass. For more information and to register your attendance, please ring 07932 674557 or 020 8402 0459.

Christmas Carol Service. Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar for the South East warmly invites you to a Christmas Carol Service for all the Parishes in the deaneries of Bexley, Bromley, Camberwell, Greenwich, Lambeth and Lewisham. To be held on Sunday 17th December at 7.30pm in Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Brixton Hill, 11 Trent Road, SW2 5BJ. Principle Celebrant will be The Right Reverend Philip Moger, Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Southwark. See poster in foyer.

Rosary in the Park. Peter Bull will be completing a recital of the Rosary whilst walking round Norman Park, Hayes Lane. The distanced walked will be 3 circuits totally 3.3 miles. The first meeting will be on **Saturday 6th January at 11.00am** followed by coffee in the new Trackside Café. For further information please ring Peter on 07596 684926 or just turn up at 11.00am (Hayes Lane entrance).

Supporting the Parish. Parish Finances for last week.

Average weekly standing order contributions: £1400.

Mass Offertory last weekend:

St Joseph's: £1119.80 St. Swithun's: £117.01

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

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, 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, Mary McLean and June Wilson.

Please pray for our deceased relatives and friends, remembering, Graham Morton, Lucia Holder, Theresa Anthony Pillai, Norman William & Vera Kathleen Spink, Maureen & Eamonn Dillane, Paul Robin Ross, Jenny Girolama, Anastasia Warren, John Reader, Nita Perera, Mary Lamb, Ann Watts, Mary & John O'Donnell and Mary & Michael Grady.

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 Monday-Friday

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: