

# SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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Fourth Sunday

Year B

28th January 2024

Readings on Page 132 of the Parish Mass Book

What do you think about the Devil or Satan as he is often called? Do you think about him at all? Usually the Devil is either naively ignored as some dark superstition from the past, or is some underworld force that can throw little girls into mustard-spitting convulsions, as in the infamous movie, *The Exorcist*. Most people today do not even believe in the Devil, either as a person or a force. What is to be said about the Devil?

The gospels name the forces of hell in two ways: sometimes they speak of the Devil and at other times of Satan. Satan, the Devil, works in two ways: sometimes by dividing us from each other, from what is best within us and more importantly from God. Sometimes he works in just the opposite way. He unites us to each other but through the grip of mob-hysteria, envy-induced hype, and the kind of sick unity that makes for gang-rapes and mob hatred.

At the root of both lies the same thing, envy. It is no accident that, among the ten commandments, only the tenth; "Thou shall not covet" is followed by a detailed list. Jealousy is the Devil's tool, Satan's weapon. The Devil uses envy to divide us from each other. From envy we get the kind of paranoia, jealousy, sense of being wronged, and bitterness that dissipates families, communities, churches, and whole nations. The Devil tears us apart. Using the same weapon, envy, he can work differently. Satan uses envy to unite us so as to put us into a frenzy, the madness of the lynch mob, the crowd hell-bent on crucifixion. Satan uses envy to pit the crowd against an outsider.

The Devil, Satan, is real. We should not be naive on this score. But the true danger is not little girls writhing on a bed and throwing up mustard. Rather it is our hearts writhing in a paranoia and a jealousy that tears us apart from each other, and crowds writhing in a sick energy that wants, in God's name, to spill some blood.

In Jesus we see the opposite. Everything that Jesus says and does is intended to lead us beyond division, dissipation and being apart from each other. The kingdom He preaches about is of coming together, being united in love for God and for our neighbour.

Deacon Barry

## Mass Intentions

Psalter Week 4

### Saturday 27th January

10.00am Thanksgiving for Maarius  
Mariyathan and Family  
6.00pm People of the Parish

### Sunday 28th January Fourth Sunday

8.00am Van Wah Chan RIP  
9.15am Int First Holy Communion  
Families  
*Baptism Rite of Welcome*  
11.00am Harry McAleer RIP (Adams)  
5.00pm James McNamara RIP

### Monday 29th January

10.00am Anton Voorpostel RIP  
(Maguire)

### Tuesday 30th January

10.00am Danny Condon RIP (Flynn)

### Wednesday 31st January

#### St John Bosco

10.00am Terrance Flynn RIP

### Thursday 1st February

10.00am Dominic Joseph Pereira RIP

### Friday 2nd February

#### The Presentation of the Lord

10.00am Hugh Nolan RIP (Maguire)

### Saturday 3rd February St Laurence

10.00am Bill McConnell RIP  
6.00pm Thanksgiving Mass for the  
Parish

### Sunday 4th February Fifth Sunday

8.00am Int. Mary Birkett (Geelan)  
9.15am Deceased Parents &  
Relatives of Blythe &  
Maguire Families  
11.00am Bridget McDonagh RIP  
1st Anniversary (Lohan)  
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.** 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.

### St. Swithun's Mass Intentions

#### Saturday 27th January

6.00pm Mary Hopkins RIP

#### Sunday 28th January

10.00am Souls in Purgatory & Abandoned

Souls & Peace in the World

11.30am **Baptism: Aiden Neil Harper**

#### Monday 29th January

9.00am Holy Souls

**Lenten Course—The Lord's Prayer.** The Bishops' Conference have produced a 5-session resource for small groups and individuals on The Lord's Prayer. **During Lent Fr Peter will lead a group on Monday evenings from 26th February to 25th March from 7.30-8.30pm in the Upper Room.** An 5 booklet will be available to assist with this course. Priced £2. Please let the parish office know if you would like to join Fr Peter's course or if you would like a copy of the booklet to use on your own during Lent.

### Deanery Catechists Day Saturday 10th February at St. James the Great, Petts Wood.

All Catechists are invited to attend this event from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Coffee/tea will be served from 9.30am.

### Our Parish Faith Formation

**The Journey in Faith Group** will meet on Monday 29th January at 8.00pm in Holy Trinity House and will discuss 'Marriage & Holy Orders'. New Enquirers only. For further information please contact Matt Gibbs 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 Preparation.** Session 2 will be held on Monday 29th January, Friday 2nd February and Saturday 3rd February

**Mass for First Holy Communion Families** on Sunday 28th January at 9.15am.

**Confirmation Preparation Session 2** will be held on Saturday 27th January 2024 3.45pm to start at 4.00pm in Holy Trinity House.

### Thanksgiving Mass and Parish Social Event.

Fr Peter will be celebrating a Thanksgiving Mass at 6.00pm on Saturday 3rd February followed by a parish social in the Club Room and Hall. Fr Peter would like to thank everyone who helps out in the parish in any way at all. All parishioners are invited to attend. **Please let the parish office know if you would like to attend or sign the Sign-Up Sheet in the foyer of the church.**

### Dates for your Diary:

**Saturday 18th May.** Walking Pilgrimage to St. Mary's Parish in Chislehurst. Please meet in St. Joseph's car park at 11.45am to leave at 12 noon. Aiming to arrive at St. Mary's at 1.00pm. Rosary and picnic lunch (please bring your own lunch). Leaving at 2.00pm to walk back to St. Joseph's.

**Saturday 29th June.** Parish outing to Aylesford Priory. Fr Peter will celebrate Mass in the Relic Chapel at 12.30pm followed by a picnic lunch. A coach will be available for those who do not wish to drive. Please let the parish office know if you would like to attend and if you would like a seat on the coach. £20 return.

**Seniors' Sandwich Lunch.** Thank you to all those who attended the recent Seniors Lunch and thank you to all those who kindly donated the delicious sandwiches and cakes. **The next Seniors' Sandwich Lunch will be held on Wednesday 28th February from 12 noon to 1.30pm in Holy Trinity House.** Please inform the parish office if you would like to attend.

**The Dad's Group will meet on Monday 29th January 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. Refreshments will be provided.

**St Vincent de Paul (SVP) Collection for Charity Shop.** Our Parish SVP Group will be collecting items to be sold in the SVP Charity Shop in Sidcup. Items should be **saleable and in good condition** and can include: clothing, shoes, accessories, bedding, kitchen items, toys, ornaments, games, books and DVDs. Please bring items to the Skip Appleton Room on **Sunday 11th February after the 8.00am, 9.15am and 11.00am Masses ONLY.** The items will then be taken to the charity shop in Sidcup.

**Pilgrimage to Medjugorje from 6th to 13th September 2024. Cost £730.** To include: Return flights from Gatwick. 7 nights accommodation with breakfast and dinner. Coach transfer. Full religious programme with local guide. Early booking discount of £30 when deposit paid before 1st February. Single room supplement £150. For more information please contact Susan Lowery on 07973 296607 or email [sclowery@hotmail.com](mailto:sclowery@hotmail.com). Please see poster in foyer and outside cabinet.

**Bromley Borough Foodbank.** Thank you to all those who donate to the Foodbank. A list of the current most wanted items is on display in the foyer and outside cabinet. Please put items in the donation boxes in the local supermarkets. For further information please see: <http://bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk/>

**Racial Justice Sunday 28th January 2024.** Archbishop John Wilson will be celebrating a Mass at 10.00am at St. George's Cathedral, London SE1 7HY. All Welcome.

**World Day of Prayer** (formerly the Women's World Day of Prayer) will take place this year on **Friday 1st March.** In Bromley the service will be at St Mary's Church, College Road BR13QG at 10.30 am. This year the service has been prepared by the Christian women of Palestine but as this was decided several years ago it is purely by coincidence that we are able to pray with them in their hour of need. Please take this opportunity to pray for peace in the Holy Land at this distressing time. All are welcome.

**Vacancy:** The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) wishes to recruit a full-time Administration Assistant. The position will be based at the SPUC's Kennington office (SE11). For a full job description and additional information please contact Lucille McQuade at: [lucillemcquade@spuc.org.uk](mailto:lucillemcquade@spuc.org.uk) or ring 020 7091 7091.

**Rosary in the Park.** Peter Bull will be completing a recital of the Rosary whilst walking round Norman Park, Hayes Lane on **Saturday 10th February at 11.00am.** The distanced walked will be 3 circuits totally 3.3 miles. 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: £1094.19 St. Swithun's: £216.41

**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@caos.org.uk](mailto:bromleygac@caos.org.uk)

***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,*** Grace Mjenga, Sue Fraser, Simon Franks, Bindu Cyriac, Sister Veronica, Paul Wyatt, Tony O'Reilly, Jane & Paul Emans, Agnes Achampong, Rupri 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 and June Wilson.

***Please pray for our deceased relatives and friends, remembering,*** Mary McLean, Graham Morton, Lucia Holder, Van Wah Chan, Harry McAleer, James McNamara, Anton Voorpostel, Danny Condon, Terrance Flynn, Dominic Joseph Pereira, Hugh Nolan, Bill McConnell and Bridget McDonagh.  
**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.

**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](mailto:bromley@rcaos.org.uk)

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**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](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.