

SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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Fifth Sunday of Lent

Year B

17th March 2024

Readings on Page 169 of the Parish Mass Book

When preparing my piece for the newsletter I always read and pray. Whilst doing this I came across this Angelus Address given by the Holy Father on the fifth *Sunday of Lent back in March 2021*. He puts it so well that I thought that I would share it with you.

“On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, the liturgy proclaims the Gospel in which Saint John refers to an episode that occurred in the final days of Christ’s life, shortly before the Passion (cf. Jn 12:20-33). While Jesus was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, several Greeks, curious because of what he had been doing, express the wish to see him. They approach the apostle Philip and say to him: *“We wish to see Jesus”* (v. 21). *“We wish to see Jesus”*. Let us remember this: *“We wish to see Jesus”*. Philip tells Andrew and then together they report it to the Teacher. In the request of those Greeks we can glimpse the request that many men and women, of every place and every time, pose to the Church and also to each one of us: *“We wish to see Jesus”*.

And how does Jesus respond to that request? In a way that makes us think. He says: *“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.... Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit”* (vv. 23-24). These words do not seem to respond to the request those Greeks made. In reality, they surpass it. In fact, Jesus reveals that for every man and woman who wants to find him, He is the hidden seed ready to die in order to bear much fruit. As if to say: if you wish to know me, if you wish to understand me, look at the grain of wheat that dies in soil, that is, look at the cross.

The sign of the Cross comes to mind, which over the centuries has become the symbol *par excellence* of Christians. Even today, those who wish to “see Jesus”, perhaps coming from countries and cultures where Christianity is not well-known, what do they see first? What is the most common sign they encounter? The Crucifix, the Cross. In churches, in the homes of Christians, even worn on their persons. The important thing is that the sign be consistent with the Gospel: the cross cannot but express love, service, unreserved self-giving: only in this way is it truly the “tree of life”, of overabundant life.” **Pope Francis 2021**

Mass Intentions

Psalter Week 1

Saturday 16th March

10.00am Teresa Newman RIP
(O’Sullivan)
1.00pm **Baptism:** Jayce Stevens
2.00pm **Baptism:** Marco Gregor
6.00pm Noreen Farrell RIP
(Taylor)

Sunday 17th March 5th Sunday of Lent

8.00am People of the Parish
9.15am Arokiasamy & Dhanamani
Velangkany RIP (Stoner)
Baptism Rite of Welcome
11.00am Stephen Kane RIP (Doran)
5.00pm Jim & Joyce Macey RIP

Monday 18th March

10.00am **Funeral:**
Antonio Cassese RIP

Tuesday 19th March St Joseph

10.00am Betty Murphy RIP
2.00pm School Mass

Wednesday 20th March

10.00am Carlo Gori RIP

Thursday 21st March

10.00am Jeyasilliya Adaikalamuthu RIP

Friday 22nd March

10.00am Filippo Spirito Senior RIP

Saturday 23rd March

10.00am Eric Sayer RIP
6.00pm John Brandi RIP (Foley)

Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday

8.00am Mary Heraty RIP (Davies)
9.15am John-Joe Foley RIP
(O’Grady)
11.00am Int. Nancy & Ethan
Bustamante (Bull)
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.

Fr Peter moving to another Parish

Fr Peter will be moving to Rainham Parkwood Parish at the end of April to replace a priest who is retiring. Fr Saju Pinakkattu will be starting in Bromley on Wednesday 1st May.

Fr Peter will celebrate the 10.00am Mass at St. Swithun's on Sunday 21st April followed by a 'Farewell Party' in the hall afterwards.

Fr Peter will celebrate the 11.00am Mass at St. Joseph's on Sunday 28th April followed by a 'Farewell Party' in the hall afterwards. All parishioners are invited to attend.

Fr Peter has served us as our parish priest for the past 4½ years. To show our appreciation to him we will be having a Leaving Collection. Donation envelopes are available in the foyer. We wish Fr Peter every blessing for his future Ministry.

Please sign Fr Peter's Leaving Card which is available in the foyer of both churches.

Lenten Course—The Lord's Prayer. Fr Peter will continue to lead a group on Monday evenings up until 25th March from 7.30-8.30pm in the Upper Room. The online link to the course is: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/prayer2024>

Stations of the Cross in St Joseph's Church during Lent will be prayed at the following times:

Friday evenings at 7.00pm

Wednesday mornings after the 10.00am Mass

Fr Ashley Beck will host the Deanery Lenten Reconciliation Service in St. Mark's Church, West Wickham on Friday 22nd March. It will follow Stations of the Cross which begins at 6.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

St. Swithun's Mass Intentions

Saturday 16th March

6.00pm Mary Dunne RIP

Sunday 17th March

10.00am Antonia Miranda RIP

Monday 18th March

9.00am Michael Scanlon

Our Parish Faith Formation

The Journey in Faith Group will meet on Monday 18th March at 8.00pm in Holy Trinity House. 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.

First Holy Communion Parents Practical Planning Meeting to be held on Wednesday 20th March at 7.30pm in the church hall. If you have any queries please contact Deacon Garry.

Confirmation Preparation Session 4 will be held on Saturday 16th March at 3.45pm to start at 4.00pm in Holy Trinity House. Fr Peter will be giving a talk at 5.00pm. All parents are invited to join the session at this time. The Confirmation Group will be attending the 6.00pm Mass.

Funerals:

The funeral of Antonio Cassese RIP will be held on Monday 18th March at 10.00am.

The funeral of Jean Egan RIP will be held on Tuesday 26th March at 11.30am.

As a parish community we offer our prayers with deepest sympathy to the families of the deceased.

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 during Lent. Fr Peter will be available to hear Confessions after all the Masses he celebrates during Lent.

The Rosary is prayed at 10.30am Monday-Saturday during Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 11.30am.

The Children's Liturgy Group will be leading Stations of the Cross for children on Good Friday 29th March at 9.30am in the church hall. All families are welcome to attend.

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. Mass will be celebrated 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.

Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage July 13th, at St George's Cathedral

If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please let the parish office know as soon as possible, **and no later than 31st May 2024.**

Dad's Group will meet on Monday 25th March at 7.30pm in the Skip Appleton Room. 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.

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

The next **Seniors' Lunch** will be held on **Wednesday 27th March from 12 noon to 1.30pm** in Holy Trinity House.

Legion of Mary. All praying members are invited to the annual Mass and Consecration to Our Blessed Lady on Saturday 23rd March at 2.30pm. Venue: Church of St Mary Magdalen, 73 Comerford Road, London SE4 2BA (Brockley Parish). Followed by refreshments.

Youth Adult Events. St. George's Cathedral hosts a monthly Young Adult Mass at 6.00pm on the first Sunday of every month followed by a social gathering (for those aged 18+). There are also weekly events and socials on Thursday evenings. For further information please see: <https://rcaos.org.uk/>, Facebook and Instagram@stgeorgesya

Diocesan Calendar of Youth Events for Young People: <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/southwark-catholic-youth-service/events-2024/>

Rosary in the Park. Peter Bull will be completing a recital of the Rosary whilst walking round Norman Park, Hayes Lane on **Saturday 16th March 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).

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

Additional collections:

Holy Thursday 28th March. There will be a collection for our St Vincent de Paul Group (SVP)

Good Friday 29th March. There will be a collection for Holy Places.

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

Average weekly standing order contributions: £1400.

Mass Offertory last weekend:

St Joseph's: £1152.00 St. Swithun's: £147.81

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 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, Fr Barry Hughes, Mary Scanlon, Imelda Burns, Ava Pedder, Luke Kelly, Grace Mjenga, Sue Fraser, Simon Franks, Bindu Cyriac, Sister Veronica, Paul Wyatt, Tony O'Reilly, Jane & Paul Emans, Agnes Achampong, Rupri McConnell, 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, Joy Bassett, Douglas Francis, Anthony Padden, Jean Egan, Robert Fitzpatrick, Connie Watson, Antonio Cassese, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Teresa Newman, Noreen Farrell, Arokiasamy Vallani, Stephen Kane, Jim & Joyce Macey, Betty Murphy, Carlo Gori, Jeyasilliya Adaikalamurthu, Filippo Spirito Senior, Eric Sayer, John Brandi, Marty Heraty and John-Joe Foley. **May they rest in peace.**

Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent. Fr Peter will be available to hear confession after all the Masses he celebrates during Lent.

Rosary: The Rosary is prayed at 10.30am Monday-Saturday in St. Joseph's Church during **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

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

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: Caroline O'Brien on 07961 413694.