

# SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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Fourth Sunday of Easter Year B 21st April 2024

Readings on Page 261 of the Parish Mass Book

Our gospel passage today reminds us that the image of God as a shepherd is a classic one in the bible. We only have to think of Psalm 23, The Lord is my Shepherd, which reminds us that God is always with us, accompanying us through the good as well as bad times. But God also tells us through the prophet Ezekiel that some 'Shepherds' are more interested in looking after their own interests than of those in their care. Many of us can think of people in real positions of authority, whether in the public or private sphere, who care primarily for themselves. Their staff, patients, customers – whatever they may be – are forgotten or even ignored, usually because its all about serving their own desires and wants.

God knows this and indeed he rallied against such people in the book of Ezekiel, stating that he would call such shepherds to account! But even more importantly He then states, "I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view". And God's promise comes to fruition in the person of Jesus, His son, over 600 years later. And should any of us be in any doubt of this, Jesus Himself confirms it today, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for His sheep... I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me".

The message today is that we need to be careful about what we allow to guide our lives. Sadly, we all too frequently act like sheep, being guided by our own desires, wants and indeed our stubbornness. The result is we get lost, just like real sheep without shepherds to guide and keep them safe. Happily, we have a tender and merciful God, who continues to search for us when we get lost or when we move away from him. In the week ahead, try and make more time for Jesus. If praying for you has been problematic, make a real effort to reconnect with God this week. You won't be sorry if you do!

**Deacon Garry**

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday 20th April

10.00am Deceased members of Mendoca Family

### 12 Noon Baptism: Cian Hand

6.00pm Tessa Branch RIP (Holloway)

### Sunday 21st April 4th Sunday of Easter

8.00am Peter Thurbin RIP (Browning)

9.15am People of the Parish

11.00am Michelle Caley RIP (Bonnici)

5.00pm Kevin O'Dea RIP (O'Sullivan)

### Monday 22nd April

10.00am Prayers for the special Intention to St. Jude

### Tuesday 23rd April St George

10.00am Prayers for peace in the World

### Wednesday 24th April

10.00am Prayers to St Joseph throughout the world

### Thursday 25th April St Mark

10.00am Int. Esther Odiase

### Friday 26th April

10.00am John Pritchard RIP (Bennett)

### Saturday 27th April

10.00am In Hon. of Our Lady

6.00pm Fr Peter & Our Parish Community (Gina)

### Sunday 28th April 5th Sunday of Easter

8.00am Helen Evans RIP

9.15am Princess Esther Edohen RIP  
*Year 2 School Mass*

11.00am People of the Parish

5.00pm Lucia Holder RIP

### **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.

### **Farewell to Fr Peter**

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. **Donations of cakes and biscuits would be most welcome.**

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.**

### **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.** Available on request.

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

**Children's Liturgy will be held during the 9.15am Mass on Sunday 21st April.** All children up to and including Year 2 are welcome to attend.

**Gift Aid Envelopes for 2024-2025 are now ready to collect from the foyer of St. Joseph's Church.**

### **St. Swithun's Mass Intentions**

**Saturday 20th April**

6.00pm Aluiza Menezes RIP

**Sunday 21st April**

10.00am Ada Boniface Thanksgiving

**Monday 22nd April**

9.00am Holy Souls

**Fr Peter's Farewell Party** will be held in the hall after the 10.00am Mass. All welcome.

### **Our Parish Faith Formation**

**The Journey in Faith Group** will meet on Monday 22nd April 8.00pm in Holy Trinity House. 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 Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Preparation for 2024-2025.** If your child will be in Year 3 or above in September and would like to prepare for First Holy Communion please complete our **Online Registration Form:**  
<https://stjosephsbromley.org/fr-fhc/>

**Confirmation Preparation Session 5** will be held on Saturday 20th April at 3.45pm to start at 4.00pm in Holy Trinity House. The Confirmation Group will be attending the 6.00pm Mass.

### **Funerals:**

**Fr Barry Hughes RIP.** Bishop Pat will preside over the funeral of Fr Barry Hughes on Monday 13th May at 12 noon at St. Michael & All Angels Church, Farnborough BR6 8NN.

**Mary MacNamara RIP** died peacefully on Tuesday 16th April 2024. Her funeral will be held in St Joseph's Church on Thursday 2nd May at 12.30pm

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

**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 Dad's Group will meet again on Monday 29th April, 19.30-21.00 in The Crown Pub on Plaistow Lane,** next to Sundridge Park station. 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.

**Seniors' Lunch.** The next **Seniors' Lunch** will be held on **Wednesday 24th April from 12 noon to 1.30pm** in Holy Trinity House. Please let the parish office know if you would like to attend.

**A Day with Mary to be held in St. Joseph's Church on Saturday 27th April.** The day will commence with an Entry Procession of Our Lady at 9.30am. During the day there will be Confession and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The day will conclude at 5.00pm. Please bring a packed lunch to eat in the hall. All welcome. See poster in foyer.

**Life in the Spirit Seminars.** Through the Seminars many have found their faith refreshed and renewed through talks, discussion and reflection on topic such as God's love and Salvation and what living the new life in the Holy Spirit is all about as we approach the feast of Pentecost.

Pope Frances has called for **Life in the Spirit Seminars** in all parishes and the Seminars are being run throughout the Archdiocese with the support and encouragement of Archbishop John Wilson.

**The Life in the Spirit Seminars will be held at St Edmunds Parish in Beckenham and begin on Wednesday 24th April at 8.00pm in the parish hall.** There will be Mass beforehand at 7.30pm in the church. All welcome to attend.

For more information including speakers or to register go to [bit.ly/LISS2024](http://bit.ly/LISS2024) or email [norwoodsouthple@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:norwoodsouthple@rcaos.org.uk). Or register in person on the night.

**Summer coach outings** will begin on Wednesday 29th May to St Leonard's on Sea. For further information please ring Gina Clark on 07780 468767.

### **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.

**MISSIO** wish to pass on their thanks for your continued support for their global work. In 2023 SS Joseph & Swithun's Parish raised £3051.57 through your red boxes, direct debits and online donations. Boxes are emptied during April or September. Please bring to church or parish office. Thank you.

**St Christopher's Fun Walk** is taking place on Sunday 12th May at Keston Common. For further details and to Sign Up, please see: [stchristophers.org.uk/funwalk](http://stchristophers.org.uk/funwalk)

**This weekend there will be a second collection for the Priest Training Fund (Ecclesiastical Education).** This collection helps to meet the cost of training students for the priesthood and the permanent diaconate and also supports ongoing formation of the clergy.

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

Average weekly standing order contributions: £1400.

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

St Joseph's: £892.48 St. Swithun's: £230.65

**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 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,*** Trish Howard, Tom McCarthy, Utz & Yoko Reiff, Mary Scanlon, Imelda Burns, Ava Pedder, Patricia Supple, Luke Kelly, Simon Franks, Bindu Cyriac, Paul Wyatt, Tony O'Reilly, Paul Emans, Agnes Achampong, Rupi McConnell, Brian Daley, Veronica Alanemo, Bernadette Murray, Maria Lopes, 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 MacNamara, Maximino Hidalgo Bárcena, Ascensión Arribas Gonzalez, Princess Esther Edohen (Joeseph Osunde's mother), Jane Emans, Maura Volpi, Fr Barry Hughes, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Tessa Branch, Peter Thurbin, Michelle Caley, Kevin O'Dea, John Pritchard and Helen Evans.

**May they rest in peace.**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation.** Fr Peter will be available to hear confession after the 10.00am Mass from Monday to Saturday or on request.

**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](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

**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)

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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.