

SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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

The Baptism of the Lord Year C

12th January 2025

Readings on Page 118 of the Parish Mass Book

The Baptism of Jesus, which we celebrate this weekend, is the third of three great events which characterise the Christmas season. Today marks a transition. We have come to the end of the Christmas season. Today is also the First Sunday in Ordinary Time, although it is never celebrated as such. However, the prayers of its Mass will be said during our weekday Masses.

The three great events we have been celebrating are:

Christmas: when God comes among us with the Good News for the poor, the outcast and the sinner. This is Luke's version, where Jesus is born in poverty and the first to come to pay him homage are poor and marginalised shepherds.

Epiphany: when God comes among us with a message of salvation for everyone, for all the people of the world, and not just for one select group. This is Matthew's version and the description of the strange visitors from the East.

Baptism of Jesus: God is seen as especially present in Jesus and working in him and through him.

Why baptise Jesus? We might ask ourselves: Why did Jesus need to be baptised? Most of those coming to John the Baptist were repentant sinners. Our baptism, too, is partly to rescue us from the power of sin by being bathed in the redemptive love of Christ.

There are two answers we can give to this question:

1. By being baptised in the River Jordan with all those self-proclaimed sinners, Jesus shows his solidarity with us.
2. There is something different happening here beyond that of an ordinary baptism. Significantly, Luke says that Jesus was at prayer when his baptism took place. At all the most important moments in his public life, Luke represents Jesus as praying. Here, it was at this moment that the Spirit of God, in the visible form of a dove, comes down on Jesus. A voice, clearly that of the Father, says: "*You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased*". It is clearly a form of "missioning" for Jesus. We could call it his 'Pentecost' experience. It is a clear endorsement from his Father for the work that Jesus is about to begin. So, through his baptism, Jesus is being officially commissioned to begin his public work of teaching, healing and liberating enslaved souls up to the climactic moment of his passion, death and resurrection which we celebrate at Easter.

Deacon Barry

Mass Intentions

Saturday 11th January

10.00am Paulouse Melitta RIP
6.00pm Int. Amelia Leary

Sunday 12th January

The Baptism of the Lord

8.00am People of the Parish
9.15am Protection & Deliverance for
Konineba Florence & Thomas
11.00am Knights of St. Columba
Thanksgiving to the Brothers
5.00pm Bobby & Anastasia Doyle RIP

Monday 13th January

10.00am Holy Souls (Seidel)

Tuesday 14th January

10.00am Geraldine Colleary RIP
(Gina)

Wednesday 15th January

10.00am Ronald & Emily Margaret
Smith RIP (Spink)

Thursday 16th January

10.00am Agnes Achampong RIP
(Crosby)

12.30pm Funeral: Lily Carvalho RIP

Friday 17th January St Anthony

10.00am Thambimuttu Aloysius
Masilamani RIP

Saturday 18th January

10.00am John & Mary Vickers RIP
6.00pm John O'Sullivan RIP

Sunday 19th January Second Sunday

8.00am People of the Parish
9.15am Int. FHC Families
11.00am Thanksgiving of
N'Zi Oriane Hadia
5.00pm Celine Crock RIP(Leary)

St. Swithun's Church
9 Fashoda Road, BR2 9RE

Mass Intentions

Saturday 11th January

6.00pm Marcellus Family Thanksgiving
(Maria)

Sunday 12th January The Baptism of the Lord

10.00am For all families in the Bromley
Deanery (Ada)

Monday 13th January

10.00am Wellbeing of Bennett Marcellus

Saturday 18th January

6.00pm Mary Dunne RIP

Sunday 19th January

10.00am People of the Parish

Monday 20th January

10.00am Peace in the World

For Mass intentions please see Nelson.

Confession will be available in St. Swithun's Church on Saturdays between 5.20-5.45pm.

St. Swithun Parish Hall bookings: 020 8402 0459

Surgeries: Deacon Barry and Deacon Aidan will hold a Surgery on Monday 13th January and Fr Patrick and Deacon Garry will hold their Surgery on Wednesday 15th January. Fr Saju will not be available. Surgeries are held from 4.30-6.30pm in Holy Trinity House. **No appointment necessary.**

Crib Offerings. This Christmas season please give the gift of hope to children and families in crisis. Every penny donated at the Crib will be given to **The Catholic Children's Society.** For further information please see: www.cathchild.org.uk
The Christmas Tree and Crib will be removed from the church this week.

Pilgrimage to Rome

As part of celebrating Jubilee Year with Pope Francis, the Parish has designed a parish pilgrimage to Rome for five days in October 2025. More details will be available in the coming weeks.

Our Parish Faith Formation

All those registering to attend one of our **Sacramental Preparation Courses** are invited to meet with one of our priests during surgery hours.

Baptism Preparation. Please see reverse of Newsletter to enrol on our next Baptism Preparation Course. The next Baptism Retreat will be held on Saturday 11th January 2025.

First Holy Communion Preparation.

A Parents' Meeting will be held on Wednesday 15th January from 7.30-8.30pm in St. Joseph's Hall.

FHC Session 1 will be held on Monday 20th January, Friday 24th January and Saturday 25th January. All families have been given the date and time of their sessions.

Confirmation Preparation for 2025. 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/>.

Confirmation Session 1 will be held in Holy Trinity House on Saturday 11th January 2025 at 3.45 for 4.00pm start.

The Journey in Faith Group will meet on Wednesday 15th January at 8.00pm in the Upper Room. New enquirers only. Please contact Matt Gibbs on 07955 084287 or email: bromleyrcia@rcoas.org.uk

Pastoral Placement: We continue to welcome Theodore De Menezes to our parish. Theodore is a Seminarian of our Archdiocese and currently studying at the English College, Valladolid. Theodore, as part of his pastoral placement, will be staying in the Parish until 29th January 2025. He is from Surbiton Parish.

Funeral:

The funeral of Lily Carvalho RIP will be held on Thursday 16th January at 12.30pm.

As a parish community we offer our prayers with deepest sympathy to Lily's daughter Audrey Radhakrishnan and all her family and friends.

Family Mass on Sundays at 9.15 am

12 January	Children's Liturgy
19 January	Uniform Groups
26 January	School Class led Mass
2 February	Children's Liturgy
9 February	Children's Liturgy
16 February	Uniform Groups
23 February	Children's Liturgy
2 March	Children's Liturgy

For Children's Liturgy, parents are welcome to meet in the hall at 9.10am on Sundays.

Baptism Family Gathering and Thanksgiving Service to be held on Saturday 18th January 2025 from 11.30am-12.30pm in Holy Trinity House. All families in the parish who have celebrated their child's baptism in the last two years are invited to attend.

The next Senior's Lunch will be held on Tuesday 21st January 2025 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 meet again on Friday 24th January at 7.30pm in The Crown Pub, Plaistow Lane. The theme will be a film discussion. Film TBC. All dads with a child at school are welcome to attend.

A White Flower Appeal will be held in our parish on 18th/19th January 2025 for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC). There will be a second collection. For further information on the work of SPUC please see: www.spuc.org.uk

Peace Sunday—19th January 2025. The second Sunday of the year is designated as Peace Sunday. Pax Christi is the International Catholic Movement for Peace. The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith with a vision of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. To know more about the work of Pax Christi please see: paxchristi.org.uk

St Vincent de Paul (SVP) Collection for warm Winter clothes and footwear after the 6.00pm Mass on Saturday 18th and all Masses on Sunday 19th January **ONLY**. Please bring items to the Skip Appleton Room. Members of our SVP Group will deliver the items to the SVP Charity shop in Sidcup. Thank you.

Supporting the Parish Parish Finances for last week

Average weekly standing order contributions: £1400.

Mass Offertory last weekend:

St Joseph's: £815.10 St. Swithun's: £117.11

Weekly Offertory. Thank you for your continued generosity to your Parish. We are grateful 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.

FLAME 2025 Saturday 15th March 2025. As we enter the Jubilee Year as Pilgrims of Hope, the FLAME 2025 theme **UNSTOPPABLE: Fan the Flame of Hope** invites young people to join the Catholic Youth Ministry Team of Bromley Deanery for this Big Youth Day Out. Don't miss the opportunity to join 10,000 other like-minded Catholics at an inspirational one-day event. Tickets are still £20 each, including the return journey to and from OVO Wembley Arena. For more information and payment details scan the QR code below. Please get your tickets now.



Car Park Management. Due to excessive congestion in St. Joseph's Car Park at school drop-off and pick-up times it has been unanimously agreed with the PPC, the Pastoral Team and the Premises Committee to work with Creative Car Park to introduce a Vehicle Registration System. We are still working with Creative Car Park to finalise the Agreement. We hope to introduce this system in due course. Further details to follow.

Rosary in the Park. Enjoy the fresh air of Norman Park whilst walking and praying the Rosary with friends. Join us on Saturday 18th January at 11.30am, followed by coffee in the Trackside Café. Please call Peter Bull on 07596 684926 for further information or just turn up at 11.30 am (Hayes Lane entrance).

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, Mary Edwards, Bennett Marcellus, Daniel Y, Paul Gibbs, Robert Straker, Gina Clark, Mary Scanlon, Bernie Sheahan, Utz & Yoko Reiff, Patricia Supple, Luke Kelly, Simon Franks, Paul Emans, Brian Daley, Veronica Alanemo, Bernadette Murray, Maria Lopes, Billie McPartlan, Fr Bob Mercer, Ann Hoolihan, Patricia Lefkaridi, Fr. David Peck and Gail Mortimer.

Please pray for our deceased relatives and friends, remembering, Francesco Marchi, Beryl Kirk, Lily Carvalho, Mike Crombie, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Paulouse Melitta, Bobby & Anastasia Doyle, Geraldine Colleary, Ronald & Emily Margaret Smith, Agnes Achampong, Thambimuttu Aloysius Masilamani, John & Mary Vickers, Celine Crock and John O'Sullivan.

May they rest in peace.

Sacrament of Reconciliation. Saturdays from 10.30-11.30am and 5.00-5.45pm and on request.

Rosary: The Rosary and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be prayed in Holy Trinity Chapel between 10.30-11.30am from Monday to Friday. On Saturday it will be in the Church and Confession will be available.

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 then come to one of the surgeries (Monday or Wednesday) in the Parish to meet a deacon/priest in the Holy Trinity House for the completion of the application.

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. Saju Thomas (Parish Priest)	Tel: 020 8402 0459	e: sajuthomas@rcaos.org.uk
Fr Patrick Essien (Asst. Priest)	Tel: 020 8402 0459	e: patrickessien@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: 4.30-6.30pm in Holy Trinity House

Monday: Deacon Barry & Deacon Aidan Wednesday: Fr Patrick & Deacon Garry

St Joseph's and St. Swithun's Hall Bookings: 020 8402 0459

St. Joseph's School: Tel: 020 8460 1976 | Website: www.st-josephs.bromley.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Cribben

St. Joseph's Playgroup Ltd: Monday-Friday. Term time only. For enquiries please ring: Caroline O'Brien on 07961 413694.