



SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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2nd Sunday of Lent Year C

16th March 2025

Readings on Page 156 of the Parish Mass Book

Pilgrims Towards Transfiguration

As pilgrim people last week our focus was to create 'wildernesses' in us to meet Christ. The second Week of Lent invites us to prepare for Sacraments for transformation. The first reading presents the transformation of the patriarch Abram both in name (into 'Abraham'), and faith (into a man of faith in one God and the father of the chosen people, Israel).

While praying, Jesus was transfigured into a shining figure, full of heavenly glory (Luke 9:28-36). The disciples received a preview of the glorious figure Jesus would soon become at Easter and beyond. At the time of transfiguration as we read the disciples saw Moses and Elijah. Moses had met the Lord in the burning bush at Mount Horeb (Exodus 3:1-4). After his later encounter with God, Moses' face shone so brightly that it frightened the people, and Moses had to wear a veil over his face (Exodus 34:29-35). The Jews believed that Moses was taken up in a cloud at the end of his earthly life (Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews* 4. 326). Elijah had travelled for forty days to Mt. Horeb on the strength of the food brought by an angel. At Mt. Horeb, Elijah sought refuge in a cave as the glory of the Lord passed over him (1 Kings 19:8-18). Finally, Elijah was taken directly to heaven in a chariot of fire without experiencing death (2 Kings 2:11-15). The presence of Moses and Elijah in the transfiguration account emphasizes Jesus' continuity with the Law (Moses) and the prophets (Elijah) in the salvation plan.

We are privileged in the Church to experience transfiguration through Sacraments. Baptism transforms us into sons and daughters of God. Confirmation makes us the temples of the Holy Spirit. By the sacrament of reconciliation, God brings back the sinner to the path of holiness. By receiving the sacrament of the anointing of the sick in faith we receive healing and forgiveness. We become aware that in each Holy Mass bread and wine becomes transformed into the body and blood of Jesus. Hence, just as the transfiguration strengthened the apostles in their time of trial, each Holy Mass should be our source of heavenly strength against our own struggles and a source of renewal for us in Lent. Why don't then we attend an extra Mass during the coming weeks or celebrate the Sacrament of Confession in Lent?

Fr Saju

Mass Intentions

Saturday 15th March

10.00am Hannah Coughlin RIP
6.00pm Cecil Mariyathan RIP

Sunday 16th March 2nd Sunday of Lent

8.00am People of the Parish
9.15am Arokiasamy &
Dhanamani RIP (Stoner)
Baptism Rite of Welcome
11.00am Int Achampong Family
5.00pm Jim & Joyce Macey RIP

Monday 17th March St Patrick

10.00am Michael Perkins RIP
(Murray)

Tuesday 18th March

10.00am Int Sarah Bradshaw
95th Birthday (Stella)

Wednesday 19th March St Joseph

10.00am Betty Murphy RIP
10.30am Stations of the Cross
(No Adoration)
2.00pm School Mass

Thursday 20th March

10.00am Joy Bassett RIP

Friday 21st March

10.00am Jeyasilliya Adaikalamuthu
RIP
7.30pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday 22nd March

10.00am Ivanka & Family (Slawek)
12 Noon **Baptism: Mirabel &
Michelle Nwabumma**
6.00pm People of the Parish

Sunday 23rd March 3rd Sunday of Lent

8.00am Eric Sayer RIP
9.15am Int Barry & Margaret Mizen
(Mellish)
11.00am Filippo Spirito Senior RIP
5.00pm Lily Carvelho RIP

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday 15th March

6.00pm Edith Lou Foussia RIP

Sunday 16th March

10.00am Antonia Miranda RIP

Monday 17th March

10.00am Paddy Bates RIP

Saturday 22nd March

6.00pm Margaret & Benjamin Aloysius RIP

Sunday 23rd March

10.00am Paulina Noruega RIP

Monday 24th March

10.00am Zam Boniface Birthday Thanksgiving

For Mass intentions please see Nelson.

St. Swithun Parish Hall bookings: 020 8402 0459

Stations of the Cross in Lent: Fridays at 7.00pm

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

Tea & Coffee will be served in the church hall after the 10.00am Mass on Sundays. All welcome.

Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of Hope

Jubilee Prayer Cards are available in the church pews. We will say this prayer together at the end of all Masses.

A Night Vigil for the Jubilee Year will be held in St. Joseph's Church on Friday 28th March from 6.00pm to 6.00am the following morning. Further details to follow. Sign-Up sheets are available in the foyer.

Parish Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi in the Jubilee Year

Dates: 6th – 10th October 2025

Travelling from Gatwick Airport

Cost: £1175 (per person sharing/ Single room supplement – £295.00 (LIMITED AVAILABILITY)

A few highlights: Entering through the Holy Doors of Basilicas in Rome to obtain plenary indulgence Papal Audience

Visiting the tombs of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Claire and Carlo Acutis.

For more details and booking your seat immediately please email Susan Lowery at: slowery@hotmail.co.uk or contact the parish office.

Our Parish Faith Formation

All those registering to attend one of our **Sacramental Preparation Courses** are requested to meet with one of our priests during surgery hours. Surgeries will be held 4.30-6.30pm in Holy Trinity House:

Monday: Fr Saju & Deacon Aidan

Wednesday by Appointment only:

Fr Patrick & Deacon Garry

Baptism Preparation. Please see reverse of Newsletter to enrol on our next Baptism Preparation Course.

First Holy Communion Preparation.

FHC Session 6 will be held on Monday 17th, Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd March.

FHC Parents Practical Planning Meeting to be held on Wednesday 26th March at 7.30pm in St. Joseph's Hall.

Confirmation Session 4 will be held in Holy Trinity House on Saturday 15th March at 3.45pm for 4.00pm start.

The Journey in Faith Group will join the Lent Talk on Monday 17th March at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity House. Please contact Matt Gibbs on 07955 084287 or email: bromleyrcia@rcoas.org.uk

Funerals:

The funeral of Clare Pascoe RIP will be held on Friday 4th April at 11.30am in St. Joseph's Church.

Mrs Eileen O'Reilly RIP died on Tuesday 11th March. Details of her funeral will be announced in due course.

As a parish community we offer our prayers with deepest sympathy to the family and friends of all the deceased. May they Rest in Peace.

Family Mass on Sundays at 9.15 am

30th March Children's Liturgy

16th March Uniform Groups

For Children's Liturgy parents are welcome to meet in the hall at 9.10am. **Please note:** Children attending Children's Liturgy must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Tea and Coffee will be served in the Club Room after the 9.15am Mass on Sundays.

Lent in our Parish

Stations of the Cross in Lent in St. Joseph's Church:

Wednesdays at 10.30am following the 10.00am Mass
Fridays at 7.30pm

Parish Lent Talks will be held from 7.30-8.30pm in Holy Trinity House on the following Monday evenings during Lent:

17th March Pilgrims of Mercy
24th March Pilgrims of Holy Eucharist
31st March Pilgrims of Word of God

Tea and coffee will be served from 7.00pm.

Canon Gerard Bradley (Episcopal Vicar, Southwest) will give two talks in St. Joseph's Church on Wednesday 9th April:

10.30-11.00am and **7.30-8.30pm** followed by Parish Lent Confession. There will be 3 priests available to hear Confession.

Confessions will also be available on 14th & 15th April from 10.30-11.30am

Parish Skills Survey.

This weekend we will be having the Parish Skill survey in order to offer opportunity to renew the commitment of all those who are already involved in the Parish; and to extend an invitation to all those who would kindly consider to be involved by sharing their skills and talents. Survey sheets are available on the pews; as and when instructed please fill the form and return to the volunteer who will duly collect from you. We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to be open to the invitation of the Lord to his mission in our parish.

Archdiocesan Jubilee Celebration Day at The Friars, Aylesford 7th June 2025. Led by Archbishop John Wilson, a day of prayer, reflection, celebration, and fun. Mass will be celebrated at 3.00pm. There will also be a walking pilgrimage from St George's Cathedral in Southwark to The Friars (2-6 June 2025). Please see: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/pilgrimage2025> and posters in the foyer of the church.

Open Day for new Playgroup in St. Swithun's Church Hall, 9 Fashoda Road, BR2 9RE will be held on Saturday 22nd March from 11.30am-2.00pm. For further information please ring Caroline O'Brien on 07525 651032 or email: stjosephsplaygroupuk@gmail.com

Supporting the Parish

Parish Finances for last week

Average weekly standing order contributions: £1400.

Mass Offertory last weekend:

St Joseph's: £ 1080.89 St. Swithun's: £217.38

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.

Cafod Lent Fast Day. There will be a second collection this weekend.

Next weekend there will be a second collection for Poor Parishes.

The next Seniors' Lunch will be held on Tuesday 18th March 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 Wednesday 26th March at 7.30pm in the Upper Room. This is open to all dads who still have a child at school. Contact: Richard Barrett on 07729 392936 or email: rgtbarrett@gmail.com.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day was on Friday 14th March. There will be a second collection this weekend. Donation envelopes are available in the church.
One of our parishioners, Tommy Lane, will be running the London Marathon to raise money for Cafod. If you would like to sponsor him please see: https://www.justgiving.com/page/thomas-lane-1727617274635?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Legion of Mary. All praying members are invited to the annual Mass and Consecration to Our Blessed Lady on Saturday 22nd March at 2.00pm at St Saviour's Church, Lewisham High Street, SE13 6AA, followed by refreshments.

Bromley Borough Foodbank Thank you to all who have continued to donate to the foodbank. This week we really need tinned vegetables, cold meats, sugar, washing tablets and surface sprays. Please place in the box in the church foyer, collections are made regularly. The Foodbank have also produced a **Give in Lent Calendar**. Please see details in the foyer. Thank you very much for your donations.

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, Sr Jeanne Madeleine, Betty Byrne, Mary Edwards, Cathy Mair, Sandra Shaw, Carol Cambridge, Faith Millar, Stella Ludlam, Robert Straker, Bennett Marcellus, Paul Gibbs, Gina Clark, Mary Scanlon, Utz & Yoko Reiff, Luke Kelly, Simon Franks, Paul Emans, Brian Daley, Veronica Alanemo, Bernadette Murray, Maria Lopes, Billie McPartlan, Fr Bob Mercer, Ann Hoolihan, Patricai Lefkaridi, Fr. David Peck and Gail Mortimer.

Please pray for our deceased relatives and friends, remembering, Eileen O'Reilly, Trevor Geopfert, Christopher Bevan, Clare Pascoe, Robert Fitzpatrick, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Francesco Marchi, Hannah Coughlin, Cecil Mariyathan, Arokiasamy & Dhanamani, Jim & Joyce Macey, Michael Perkins, Betty Murphy, Joy Bassett, Jeyasilliya Adaikalamuthu, Eric Sayer, Filippo Spirito Senior and Lily Carvalho.
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: Fr Saju & Deacon Barry/Deacon Aidan

Wednesday: Fr Patrick & Deacon Garry by appointment only

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.