



SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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

1st Sunday of Lent Year C

9th March 2025

Readings on Page 153 of the Parish Mass Book

Pilgrim People

On Ash Wednesday, we received Ashes on our forehead to begin our journey through Lent towards Holy Week. Ashes remind us that we are created from the earth and it connects us with the rest of humanity and to all living things. Lent is a period of forty days of preparation with fasting, prayer and penance. 'Forty' is a number of completion in the Bible. God caused in Noah's time for it to rain for forty days and forty nights to cleanse the earth through flood (Gen. 7:12). The Israelites were in the wilderness for forty years to reach the Promised Land. Moses spent forty days and forty nights on Mount Sinai to receive the Commandments (Ex. 34:28) and Elijah journeyed forty days and forty nights to Mount Horeb to experience God (1Kgs 19:8). Jesus was in the wilderness for forty days to prepare himself for public ministry.

The wilderness is the place where people felt close to God and away from distractions of the world. It is in the desert that the people of Israel received God's Law. It is in the desert God made his covenant with his people. It is there in the desert that God took care of Israel giving them food and water. It seems necessary then that those whom God calls, including God's own Son, must be purified by spending time in the desert, so Lent is calling us today to enter into a wilderness experience, that stays close to God. The wilderness experience in Lent is a call to repentance. 'Repentance' (Greek, *metanoia*), implies not just regret for the past but a radical conversion and a complete change in our way of life as we respond and open ourselves to the love of God. Repentance demands that we become honest with ourselves and recognise our unfruitfulness. Thomas Merton wrote, "We are not converted only once in our lives, but many times; and this endless series of large and small conversions, inner revolutions, leads to our transformation in Christ."

Let us use the season of Lent as pilgrim people to experience wilderness in us to meet Christ, to live a renewed life without hurting anyone or damaging anyone's dignity. Let whatever we engage with in Lent be helpful for our spiritual life and a blessing not pain to others. I wish you all a Holy Lent.

Fr Saju

Mass Intentions

Saturday 8th March

10.00am Int. Angela Callan (Leary)
6.00pm Kathleen Flaherty RIP
(Margiotta)

Sunday 9th March 1st Sunday of Lent

8.00am People of the Parish
9.15am Saverio Giannini RIP
11.00am Special Intention
Moble Cyriac
5.00pm Bernie Sheahan RIP (Crosby)

Monday 10th March

10.00am Thanksgiving of Esther, Mary
& Aliane

Tuesday 11th March

10.00am Michael Heaphy RIP (Sayer)
11.30am **Funeral: Brian Murphy RIP**

Wednesday 12th March

10.00am Francesco Marchi RIP
10.30am Stations of the Cross

Thursday 13th March

10.00am Mrs Rajakariar RIP

Friday 14th March Cafod Fast Day

10.00am Mary Neelamkavil RIP
7.30pm Stations of the Cross

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 Aroklasamy &
Dhanamari RIP (Stoner)
Baptism Rite of Welcome
11.00am Int Achampong Family
5.00pm Jim & Joyce Macey RIP

St. Swithun's Church

9 Fashoda Road, BR2 9RE

Mass Intentions

Saturday 8th March

6.00pm Francis Javier Triay & Family

Sunday 9th March

10.00am Somto Boniface Thanksgiving
Birthday

Monday 10th March

10.00am Annie Smith RIP (Mary)

Thursday 13th March

12.30pm **Funeral: Kathleen Beven RIP**

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

For Mass intentions please see Nelson.

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 Barry/ 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 5 will be held on Monday 10th, Friday 14th and Saturday 15th 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 10th March at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity House. New enquirers only. Please contact Matt Gibbs on 07955 084287 or email: bromleyrcia@rcoas.org.uk

Congratulations to all our Journey in Faith candidates who were enrolled at the Rite of Election in St. George's Cathedral on Saturday 8th March.

Funerals:

The funeral of Brian Murphy RIP will be held on Tuesday 11th March at 11.30am in St. Joseph's Church.

The Funeral of Kathleen Beaven RIP will be held on Thursday 13th March at 12.30pm in St. Swithun's Church.

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

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

2nd, 9th & 30th March Children's Liturgy

16th March Uniform Groups

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:

10th March Pilgrims of Hope

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. The day-to-day running of our parish is made possible through all who offer their ministry with dedication and love in the Parish. We are very grateful for their valuable assistance in taking care of the various affairs of our parish. The Parish Skill Survey offers an opportunity to renew the commitment of all those who are already involved; and to extent an invitation to all those who would kindly consider to be involved with the parish by sharing their skills and talents. In view of this, we will be holding a Skills Survey on the weekend of **15th/16th March** during all Masses at the time of the Homily to let Fr. Saju know your generosity in supporting the parish life with your skills. We prayerfully ask the Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts for a fruitful outcome helping us to move forward into the future.

Archdiocesan Jubilee Celebration Day at The Friars, Aylesford 7th June 2025. Led by Archbishop John Wilson, we will gather as an Archdiocese at The Friars, Aylesford for a day of prayer, reflection, celebration, and fun. There will be lots of activities, for children as well as for adults. This will be the centre-piece event of the 2025 Jubilee in the Archdiocese of Southwark. There will also be a walking pilgrimage from St George's Cathedral in Southwark to The Friars (2-6 June 2025). The event itself is free. Please see: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/pilgrimage2025>

Supporting the Parish

Parish Finances for last week

Average weekly standing order contributions: £1400.

Mass Offertory last weekend:

St Joseph's: £1047.42 St. Swithun's: £143.52

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 next weekend.

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

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 is on Friday 14th March. Members of our CAFOD Group will be giving an Appeal at the end of all Masses this weekend. There will be a second collection next weekend. Donation envelopes are available in the church.

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, Mary Edwards, Cathy Mair, Sandra Shaw, Eileen O'Reilly, 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, Kathleen Beaven, Christopher Bevan, Clare Pascoe, Robert Fitzpatrick, Brian Murphy, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Kathleen Flaherty, Saverio Giannini, Bernie Sheahan, Michael Heaphy, Francesco Marchi, Mrs Rajakariar,
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.