



SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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

Palm Sunday Year C

13th April 2025

Readings on Page 184 of the Parish Mass Book.

Holy Week

Holy Week begins on **Palm Sunday** and ends on Easter Sunday. Through Holy Week as Pilgrims of Hope we journey with Jesus, seeking to grow in our understanding of all that he went through. Participating in all the Holy Week liturgies is a spiritual and life affirming experience to nourish our faith.

On Palm Sunday, the first part of the Gospel describes the royal reception which Jesus received from his admirers, who paraded with him from the Mount of Olives to the city of Jerusalem. In those days, kings used to travel in such processions on horseback during wartime, but preferred to ride a donkey in times of peace. Prince Solomon used his father David's royal donkey for the ceremonial procession on the day of his coronation (1Kings 1: 38-41). Jesus entered the Holy City as a king of peace. The Gospel specifically mentions that the colt Jesus selected for the procession was one that had not been ridden before, reminding us of a stipulation given in 1 Samuel 6:7 concerning the animal that was to carry the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark had in it Manna, Tablets of Ten Commandments and the crosier of Aaron. Jesus who is the eternal Manna, the Eucharist, the new Moses who gave the commandment of love and the eternal priest replaces the Ark of the Covenant. Jesus brings forth salvation to all and people then acclaimed *Hosana*, "save us now".

Four days before the feast of Passover, the lamb which is to be sacrificed by the High Priest as remission of the sins of Jews is taken to the Temple in a procession. On Palm Sunday, Jesus, the true Paschal Lamb, similarly was taken to the Temple in a large procession and then Jesus after the Passover meal, embraces death as a sacrifice for the sins of all. Today, we receive palm branches at the Mass. Let us take them to our homes and put them some place where we can always see them. The palms remind us that Christ is the king of our families and our life. He is the Paschal Lamb whose life is the only true answer to our quest for hope and meaning in our lives in the middle of uncertainties, sickness, suffering and failures. They inspire us to join Jesus' Passover meal on **Holy Thursday**; and his sacrifice on the Cross on **Good Friday** to receive Christ's life and salvation on **Easter Sunday**. I invite you to be a pilgrim in **Holy Week**.

Fr. Saju

Mass Intentions

Saturday 12th April

10.00am Dominica Lombardi RIP
6.00pm Brid Coffey RIP (McCarthy)

Sunday 13th April Palm Sunday

8.00am Abraham KO & Annamma
Abraham Kuzhiyattil RIP
9.15am People of the Parish
11.00am Palmina Cummins RIP
(Russo)
5.00pm Lily Carvalho RIP

Monday 14th April

10.00am Deliverance of Yao Jean
Martial

Tuesday 15th April

10.00am Holy Souls (Seidel)

Wednesday 16th April

10.00am Winifred Carty RIP
(Kilkenny)
10.30am Stations of the Cross

Thursday 17th April Maundy Thursday

8.00pm Mary Murphy RIP

Friday 18th April Good Friday

9.30am Children's Stations of the
Cross—Church Hall
11.00am March of Witness in
Bromley High Street
3.00pm Solemn Liturgy
7.30pm Praying around the
empty Cross

Saturday 19th April Holy Saturday

10.00am Polish Blessing of
Easter Food
8.00pm Easter Vigil—Sr Agnes RIP

Sunday 20th April Easter Sunday

8.00am Agnes Achampong RIP
9.15am People of the Parish
11.00am Lucia Holder RIP
5.00pm Thanksgiving for
Carriman Family

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday 12th April

6.00pm Paulina Noruega RIP

Sunday 13th April Palm Sunday

10.00am Wellbeing of Oswaldo Miranda & Family

Monday 14th April

10.00am June Wilson RIP

Thursday 17th April Maundy Thursday

6.00pm James & Pearl Coles RIP

Good Friday 18th April Good Friday

3.00pm Solemn Liturgy

Saturday 19th April Holy Saturday

6.00pm Thanksgiving Ada Boniface Birthday

Sunday 20th April Easter Sunday

10.00am Aluiza & Lactancio Menezes RIP

Monday 21st April Easter Monday

10.00am Josie Dunne RIP

For Mass Intentions please see Nelson

St Swithun's 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.

Easter Offerings. Easter offerings are traditionally your personal gift to your priests in the Parish. The collection taken at our Easter Masses, together with anything placed in the White Easter Offering envelopes constitute your personal gift to Fr Saju and Fr Patrick. White envelopes are now available at the entrance and exit of our two churches. If you are in the Gift Aid Scheme please put your name and postcode on the envelope so that we can claim the tax refund. Envelopes can also be handed in at the Parish Office at any other time. If you wish to make your Easter offering via bank transfer to the parish bank account, please use the following Account:

Name: RCAS St. Swithun Gift Aid

Account Number: 27868508

Sort Code: 60 04 02 **Reference:** Easter

or pay by selecting 'Easter Offerings' on the cashless terminals at the entrances of St. Joseph's Church.

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

Please note: Surgery will resume on Monday 5th May.

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

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Preparation for 2025-2026. 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 Session 6 will be held in Holy Trinity House on Saturday 17th May at 3.45pm for 4.00pm start.

Journey in Faith Group. Please keep our Journey in Faith candidates in your prayers as they prepare to be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

Holy Week placement. Makir Ahmed, a 3rd Year Seminarian at Allen Hall from our Archdiocese, will be in the parish for his Holy Week placement.

Jubilee Year: Parish Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi in the Jubilee Year: Dates: 7th – 11th October 2025. For further information please email Susan Lowery at: sclowery@hotmail.co.uk or contact the parish office.

Family Mass on Sundays at 9.15 am

18th April Good Friday —9.30am Children's Stations of the Cross in the Church Hall.

20th April Children's Liturgy

4th, 11th & 25th May Children's Liturgy

18th May Uniform Groups

1st & 29th June Children's Liturgy

15th June Uniform Groups

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

Funeral: Mary Scanlon RIP passed away on 10th April 2025. Details of her funeral will be announced in due course. May she Rest in Peace.

The Polish Blessing of Easter Food will take place on Saturday 19th April at 10.00am in St. Joseph's Church.

Churches Together in Central Bromley invites you to join the March of Witness on Good Friday 18th April at 11.00am. From Bromley Parish Church (behind Primark) to the High Street outside the Churchill Theatre for a service beginning at 11.15am. All welcome.

Dates for your Diary:

All Readers and Special Ministers are invited to an information session led by Fr Saju on Saturday 14th June from 10.30am-12 noon in Holy Trinity House. To include updated guidelines and a practical session.

Festival of Hope and Flame on Sunday 22nd June 2025. St. Joseph's Parish and Primary School are joining together to celebrate Jubilee 2025 in St. Joseph's Church. The children of the Primary School will present a drama of Pentecost in the Church Hall followed by a bring and share picnic and fun and games in the parish garden. All are welcome to attend this great community event. Please feel free to dress in your cultural dress. **More details to follow.**

Thank you Day for Parish Volunteers. A Cheese and Wine evening will be held on Saturday 12th July after the 6.00pm Mass in the Church Hall. Fr Saju would like to request all volunteers to attend it.

Night Vigils will be held in St Joseph's Church on Fridays 27th June and 21st November from 6.00pm to 6.00am the following morning.

The next Seniors' Lunch will be held on Tuesday 15th April 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 30th April, 19.30-21.00, at The Crown, Plaistow Lane. We will have another board game evening. This is open to all dads who still have a child at school. Contact: Richard Barrett on 07729 392936 or email: rgtbarrett@gmail.com.

Supporting the Parish

Parish Finances for last week

Average weekly standing order contributions: £1400.

Mass Offertory last weekend:

St Joseph's: £816.96 St. Swithun's: £247.78

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.

Additional collections:

Maundy Thursday 17th April. There will be a collection for our St Vincent de Paul Group (SVP)

Good Friday 18th April. There will be a collection for Holy Places.

From our Diocese:

Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, July 12th, at St George's Cathedral. If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know as soon as possible, **and no later than the middle of May**, providing the following details: your names in the format John and Mary Smith, your home address, your parish, and the anniversary you are celebrating. Contact us at mfise@rcaos.org.uk As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Clapham, Beckenham.

Archdiocesan Jubilee Celebration Day at The Friars, Aylesford 7th June 2025. , a day of prayer, reflection, celebration, and fun. Mass will be celebrated at 3.00pm by Archbishop John Wilson.

Diocesan Walking Pilgrimage from St George's Cathedral in Southwark to The Friars from 2nd-6th June 2025. Deacon Barry will be taking part in this Walking Pilgrimage. Please contact Barry if you would like to join up for all or part of the journey. For further information please see: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/pilgrimage2025>.

Bromley Foodbank. Donations are still required. Please leave your donations in the box in the foyer of the church. Thank you very much.

Summer Days Out. The coach is booked for 22 May going to Folkestone. Call Gina to book on 07780468767.

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, Robert Tring, Patrick O'Grady, Betty Byrne, Mary Edwards, Cathy Mair, Sandra Shaw, Carol Cambridge, Faith Millar, Stella Ludlam, Robert Straker, Bennett Marcellus, Paul Gibbs, Utz & Yoko Reiff, 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, Mary Scanlon, Mary Murphy, Fr. Sunith Nonis, Sr Jeanne Madeleine, Canon John O'Toole, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Dominica Lombardi, Brid Coffey, Abraham KO, Annamma Abraham Kuzhiyattil, Palmina Cummins, Lily Carvalho, Winifred Carty, Sr Agnes and Agnes Achampong. **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 on Monday evening 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

Surgery will resume on Monday 5th May 2025.

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.