



SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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Fourth Sunday of Easter Year C

11th May 2025

Readings on Page 262 of the Parish Mass Book

First Holy Communion

This weekend and the next, forty one children in our parish will receive Holy Communion for the first time in their life. This is a time of great rejoicing for our parish. Each one of us along with Deacon Garry and the Catechists has in various ways assisted these children to celebrate this special day in their life. Let us hold these boys and girls in our prayers over the weekend and congratulate them and their parents for celebrating First Holy Communion in the parish.

The First Holy Communion is the divine reward and blessing to these children and their families to receive Jesus joyfully in the Holy Communion. While I am grateful to the Catechists, I thank in a special way the parents of these children who made great efforts to attend regularly the preparation sessions with their children and to accompany them in their faith journey. A few parents when I visited their homes, shared with me that the preparation sessions with their child were beautiful opportunities to revisit what they had learned long ago in catechesis and to discuss the faith of the Church with their child as a parent. Parents, for you this is a special day, and a happy day. Today you see your children taking a new step in their faith journey as you present them in the church to share the Eucharist as the fullness of the Holy Mass in their life for the first time. It is fitting that you lead them forward in this way because you were reminded when you had them baptized that you are their first teachers in the ways of faith. It is through you more than anyone else they have come to know about God. And it is on you they continue to depend for many years yet, to help them grow in their response to God in their lives. Unless the children sense their parents' faith, they will not absorb faith. The faith you hand on, will be their strength throughout their life. The choice you have is to hand on the faith badly or well. Catechists and priests cannot implant faith in the heart of your children if you do not. I was privileged to see that there are parents who take this responsibility as a priority in their life. Sunday Mass becomes an inevitable part of family practice. I wish and pray that the celebration of First Holy Communion will lead to a personal encounter with Jesus and always to see Jesus in the Eucharist.

Fr Saju

Mass Intentions

Saturday 10th May

10.00am Emmanuel Anthony Pillai RIP
11.00am First Holy Communion Mass
1.00pm **Baptism:** C  ra Eason
6.00pm Noah Mark Rothon RIP

Sunday 11th May 4th Sunday of Easter

8.00am Bernie Sheahan RIP
(Sayer)
9.15am Pope Francis RIP
People of the Parish
11.00am William Cullen RIP
First Holy Communion Mass
5.00pm James O'Connell RIP
(Bristow)

Monday 12th May

10.00am Salvatore Liotta RIP (Jones)

Tuesday 13th May

10.00am Camilla Pettit RIP

Wednesday 14th May St Matthias

10.00am Augustine Thomas RIP

Thursday 15th May St John Stone

10.00am Edward & Olive Kathleen
Ashton RIP (Spink)

Friday 16th May St Simon Stock

10.00am Jeff Dein RIP (Spink)

Saturday 17th May

10.00am Reconciliation of Mr
Kouabou & Children
11.00am First Holy Communion Mass
6.00pm Frank Hurren RIP
(Sherman)

Sunday 18th May 5th Sunday of Easter

8.00am Anthony & Mike McGee RIP
(Lowery)
9.15am First Holy Communion Mass
11.00am Int. Bindu Benny
12.30pm **Baptism:**
Chibueze Okechukwu
5.00pm Int Mary Edwards (Leary)

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday 10th May

6.00pm Mary Murphy RIP

Sunday 11th May

10.00am Rio Menezes - Thanksgiving
Birthday

Monday 12th May

10.00am Wellbeing of Boniface Akalugwu

Friday 16th May

10.00am **Funeral:** Mary Scanlon RIP

Saturday 17th May

6.00pm People of the Parish

Sunday 18th May

10.00am Wellbeing of Lucy & Nelson Lopes

Monday 19th May

10.00am Tereza Leahy RIP

For Mass Intentions please see Nelson

St Swithun's Hall Bookings: 020 8402-0459

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

Safety Notice: Please can parents prevent their children from climbing the stairs to the organ loft.

Pope Francis RIP. A Mass will be celebrated at 9.15am on Sunday 11th May for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis. Eternal rest, grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

Prayer for the Successor of Pope Francis. A Prayer Card is available in the foyer in the church. Between 3rd and 11th May we will pray together the prayer for the Successor of Pope Francis.

Congratulations to all the children who will be receiving their First Holy Communion this weekend. Please remember to keep all the First Holy Communion families in your prayers.

First Holy Communion Masses will be celebrated on Saturdays 10th and 17th May at 11.00am. Our Confirmation Mass will be celebrated on Saturday 21st June at 12 noon. Please note there will be no Adoration and Confession after the 10.00am Mass on these dates.

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 from 4.30-6.30pm in Holy Trinity House:

Monday: Fr Saju & Deacon Barry/Deacon Aidan

Wednesday by Appointment only:

Fr Patrick & Deacon Garry

There will be no Surgery on Bank Holidays.

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 will meet again on Monday 12th May at 8.00pm in Holy Trinity House. Please contact Matt Gibbs on 07955 084287 or email: bromleyrcia@rcoas.org.uk

Family Mass on Sundays at 9.15 am

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.

Tea and Coffee will be served in the Church Hall after the 9.15am Mass. All welcome.

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.

Thank you 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.

Jubilee Year 2025

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.

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.**

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.

Funerals:

The funeral of Mary Scanlon RIP will be held on Friday 16th May at 10.00am in St. Swithun's Church. May she Rest in Peace.

The funeral of Patrick O'Grady RIP will be held on Thursday 22nd May at 1.00pm in St. Patrick's RC Church, Chislehurst.

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

The next Seniors' Lunch will be held on Tuesday 13th May 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 4th June from 7.30-9.00pm in the Upper Room. This is open to all dads who still have a child at school. Contact: Richard Barrett on 07729 392936.

Tomato Plant Sale in aid of CAFOD will take place outside St. Joseph's Church this weekend after the 6.00pm Mass on Saturday and Sunday morning Masses. Please ring Gina for further information on 07780 468767.

A new Playgroup has opened in St. Swithun's Church Hall. For further information please contact Caroline O'Brien on 07525 651031.

Supporting the Parish

Parish Finances for last week

Average weekly standing order contributions: £1400.

Mass Offerings last week:

St. Joseph's: £1050.25 St. Swithun's: £188.38

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.

This Sunday there will be a second collection for the Priest Training Fund (Ecclesiastical Education).

From our Diocese:

Safeguarding Sunday 2025. Sunday 18 May is Safeguarding Sunday and Archbishop John has issued a pastoral letter. In his letter, Archbishop John said "Safeguarding is not the work of a few; it is a shared responsibility. Each of us — clergy, volunteers, parents, parishioners — is called to remain vigilant, informed, and committed to the well-being of every member of our community". You can find out more about Safeguarding Sunday, including accessing the full pastoral letter, at rcaos.org.uk/safeguardingsunday25 or via the QR code on the posters in the foyer.

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.

Cancer Café. A few weeks ago parishioners were asked to study and share our Archbishop's booklet "Called to Bear Fruit". From this study we believe God has led us to offer a place for cancer and post cancer patients to meet and share their experiences, fears and challenges. The Upper Room will be available on Tuesday afternoons from 1.30-3.00pm for this purpose. Refreshments will be provided and we look forward to welcoming you, beginning on Tuesday 20th May. For further information please ring Gina on 07780 468767.

Summer Days Out. Gina is organising the following coach outing: Thursday 22 May to Folkestone and **Friday 20 June to Broadstairs.** Please call Gina to book a seat on 07780 468767.

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, Betty Byrne, Mary Edwards, Cathy Mair, 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, Patricai Lefkaridi, Fr. David Peck and Gail Mortimer.

Please pray for our deceased relatives and friends, remembering, Pope Francis, Patrick O'Grady, Mary Scanlon, Mary Murphy, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Emmanuel Anthony Pillai, Noah Mark Rothon, William Cullen, James O'Connell, Salvatore Liotta, Camilla Pettit, Augustine Thomas, Edward & Olive Kathleen Ashton, Jeff Dein, Frank Hurren and Anthony & Mike McGee.

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

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.