



SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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

Sixteenth Sunday

Year C

20th July 2025

Readings on Page: 111 of the Parish Mass Book

Choosing the Good portion in life

The key to the Christian life as per the readings on this Sunday is setting priorities. Today's Gospel (Luke 10:38-42) presents Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus who were good friends of Jesus. Their little village of Bethany was located two miles from Jerusalem, and Jesus, the most popular rabbi of the time, often visited the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus as their closest family friend. In today's Gospel, we see that during Jesus' final visit, Martha is busy with the work of the Lord, and Mary is more interested in knowing the Lord of the work.

The Gospel passage tells us that Mary was sitting at the foot of Jesus which normally a man may do, not a woman. There were certain customs regulating the activities of men and women in Judaism while showing hospitality to guests. Generally, it was not permitted for a woman of the household to sit with the male visitor or engage him in conversation. They would just extend a greeting and stay discretely away. Martha is upset that her sister has broken the boundary by sitting at the feet of Jesus, listening to his words. This was equivalent to Mary assuming the role of the man in the house. Martha does her best by requesting Jesus to send her away to lend her support. Luke in fact shows women at the place of honour. Jesus praised her for choosing the better part. For Martha service comes first, for Mary relationship comes first.

The Gospel passage does not necessarily invite us to choose between being a Martha or a Mary. The true disciple needs to be both Martha and Mary. We need to set our priorities so that we come to see that fellowship with the Lord, being with the Lord and hearing his word should always precede the work we do for the Lord. The Gospel of Mark tells us that when Jesus called the Apostles to follow him, he called them for a dual purpose: "to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message" (Mark 3:14-15). Thomas Merton said, "it is becoming increasingly evident that the only people in the world who are happy are the ones who know how to pray." Mary is presented as sitting at Jesus' feet to receive his teaching, the posture of a disciple. We need to embrace a posture of Mary to stay at the Lord's feet in meditation.

Fr Saju

Mass Intentions

Saturday 19th July

10.00am T Cullinan RIP (O'Sullivan)
6.00pm Travis & Edna Ellison RIP (Spink)

Sunday 20th July Sixteenth Sunday

8.00am Recovery of Agnes Tiernan (Sayer)
9.15am Int. Barry & Julia Mellish
54th Wedding Anniversary
11.00am Special Intention (Lohan)
5.00pm People of the Parish

Monday 21st July

10.00am Int. Deacon Duncan Aitkins

Tuesday 22nd July St. Mary Magdalene

10.00am Lucia Holder RIP
11.00am Y6 Leavers Mass

Wednesday 23rd July St Bridget

10.00am Special Int. (Lohan)

Thursday 24th July

10.00am Mike Lowe RIP (Cleary)

Friday 25th July St James

10.00am Marcello Milazzo RIP (Cleary)

Saturday 26th July

Saints Joachim & Anne

10.00am Marie McMorrough RIP (O'Grady)
12 Noon **Baptism:** Orphelia Fernandes
1.00pm **Baptism:** Jeremy Oppong
6.00pm Pamela Rhodes-Duncan RIP & Henrietta Duncan RIP

Sunday 27th July Seventeenth Sunday

8.00am Mary McGee RIP (Lowery)
9.15am Margaret O'Neill RIP (Cleary)
11.00am Marianna Vardinoyannis
12.30pm **Baptism:** Alessia Quatela
1.30pm **Baptism:** Anya Watmore
5.00pm People of the Parish

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday 19th July

6.00pm Drishik Nathaniel Siva
Birthday Thanksgiving

Sunday 20th July

10.00am Antonia Miranda RIP

Monday 21st July

10.00am Imelda Mortimer RIP

Saturday 26th July

6.00pm Wellbeing of Patricia Wocial

Sunday 27th July

10.00am Paulina Noruega RIP

Monday 28th July

10.00am Virgin Dailiya Pushpan
Thanksgiving

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.

Funerals:

Richard Francis RIP died on 9th July 2025. Details of his funeral will be announced in due course.

Roy Parker RIP died on 17th July 2025. Details of his funeral will be announced in due course. May they rest in peace.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School – Spaces Available!

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School currently has spaces available. We offer a warm, welcoming community where every child is encouraged to grow academically, spiritually, and socially. For more information or to arrange a visit, please contact: admin@st-josephs.bromley.sch.uk

Christian Meditation This is an opportunity in the parish for all those who wish to spend time in silence and prayer with the help of Christian Meditation. Open to everyone, no experience needed. To experience peace within with guided meditation. Starting on Thursday 4th September, Meditation will be guided by a skilled and experienced person and the duration is half an hour in the Upper Room from 7.00pm. Refreshments available.

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

During August Surgery will be held by appointment only.

Baptism Preparation. Please see reverse of Newsletter to enrol on our next Baptism Preparation Course starting on Saturday 6th September 2025.

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 and print out our **FHC Registration Form:**

<https://www.stjosephsbromley.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/First-Holy-Communion-Registration-Form-July-2025.pdf> Please bring the form to meet with one of our priests/deacons during surgery hours to complete your child's registration. **You will not be able to submit your form online.**

Journey in Faith Group will meet again in September. Please contact Matt Gibbs on 07955 084287 or email: bromleyrcia@rcoas.org.uk

Family Mass on Sundays at 9.15 am

20th July Uniform Groups

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

Summer Holidays: Readers and Eucharistic Ministers. As we are entering the main holiday period, if you are unable to cover one of your scheduled slots on the rota, please swap with someone else on the rota. If there is no one available, please inform a priest, deacon or sacristan.

The Dad's Group will meet again on Wednesday 17th September from 19.30-21.00 at The Crown, Plaistow Lane. This is open to all dads who still have a child at school. Contact: Richard Barrett on 07729 392936 or email: rgtbarrett@gmail.com

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

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: slowery@hotmail.co.uk

As part of celebrating the Jubilee Year, the third Night Vigil will be held on 21st/22nd November 2025. The Night Vigil will commence with Mass at 7.00pm and conclude with Mass at 6.30am.

Parish Pilgrimage to Medjugorje from 8th-15th September 2025. Cost £766 per person. To include return flights from Gatwick, 7 nights accommodation with breakfast and dinner, luxury coach transfers with local guide and a full religious programme. For further information please contact: Susan Lowery at: 07973 296607 or email slowery@hotmail.com
See poster in foyer of church.

Parish Database. If you are new to the Parish or you have not already registered, we ask all parishioners to register with the Parish Database, 'ChurchSuite'. To do this please click on the following link:

<https://www.stjosephsbromley.org/parish-database/>

Once registered you will be able to receive the weekly Newsletter and important communications sent out from the Parish Office. You may opt out of communications or ask to be deleted at any time.

From our Diocese:

Southwark Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. There are still a few places available on the pilgrimage, which Southwark makes to Lourdes from 22 to 29 August this year. For information and booking, please see <https://www.tangney-tours.com/diocese-pilgrimages/diocese-ca/>

Further information is available from Bishop Paul paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk

Do you desire to know Jesus more intimately?

The Archbishop's Certificate (ArchCert) is a two-year online course for all in Southwark and beyond who wish to understand their faith in a more profound way and be able to share it with both confidence and joy. The course will commence on 18 October 2025 and the cost will be £400 per year. In addition, registration must be completed in advance and there is a non-refundable registration fee of £50. Further details can be found here: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/archcert>

Supporting the Parish

Parish Finances for last week

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Standing Orders:

Average weekly contributions: £1400.

Cashless contributions last week:

Mass offerings: £484.00

Building Fund: £35.00

Offertory Collection last week:

St. Joseph's: £930.64 St. Swithun's: £190.12

Stella Maris (Sea Sunday):

St. Joseph's: £517.38 St. Swithun's: £54.21

Cashless Contribution: £47.00

This weekend there will be a Retiring Collection for Leprosy, the Charity supporting Leprosy.

Gift Aid and Standing Order Enquiries:

Please email the Gift Aid Co-Ordinator at: bromleygac@rcaos.org.uk or call the Parish Office on 020 8402 0459.

Please see below the **Cashless Giving QR code**. Please scan the code with your smart phones to make cashless contributions.



Bank transfers for Offertory contributions can be made to the account below:

Short bank account name: **St Josephs Parish**

Bank sort code: **60-04-02**

Account number: **84093595**

Reference: **Please show your surname and initials (eg. Bond J)**

Summer Days Out. The following coach outings have been arranged: **Eastbourne** on 14th August and **Brighton** on 3rd September. Book direct with Gina on 07780 468767.

Bromley Borough Foodbank Thank you to all who have continued to donate to the foodbank. Sadly stocks are running low and there is still a great need. This week we really need cereals, sugar, coffee, multi surface sprays and hand wash soap. Please place in the box in the church foyer, collections are made regularly. Thank you

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, John Aummundsen, Catherine Rideout, Emma Constantinides, Joan Leonard, Betty Byrne, Mary Edwards, Cathy Mair, Faith Millar, Stella Ludlam, Robert Straker, 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, Roy Parker, Monica Andrews, Richard Francis, Peter Gudge, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, T Cullinan, Travis & Edna Ellison, Mike Lowe, Marcello Milazzo, Marie McMorro, Pamela Rhodes-Duncan, Henrietta Duncan, Mary McGee and Margaret O'Neill
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: https://www.stjosephsbromley.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Baptism-Registration-Form_July-2025.pdf Please complete and print the form and bring 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. The next Baptism Preparation Course will begin on Saturday 6th September 2025.

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 - **Not Bank Holidays**

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.