



SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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

1st Sunday of Advent

Year C

30th November 2025

Readings on Page 82 of the Parish Mass Book

Advent Journey with Hope

The Church gives us the season of Advent, a four-week preparation period with a spirit of expectation, of preparation and of longing to see the solemnities of Christmas. This weekend we enter into this season of Advent, opening the Church's liturgical year (A) with focus on the Gospel of Matthew on Advent Sundays to reflect deeply on the beauty and richness of incarnation, God in Jesus Christ as the fulfilment of the Promises given in the Old Testament. Moreover, in the Jubilee year as the pilgrims of hope, we approach Advent as a season of hope, a time to nurture peace and experience joy in anticipation of the love that is made incarnate with the birth of Jesus. During this Advent, the homilies preached on Advent Sundays will focus on 'Hope and Faith as Pilgrims of Hope' in order to experience Christmas as the celebration of hope unveiled. The Parish Advent reconciliation led by Bishop (Rtd) Pat Lynch will guide us to reflect on the theme 'Mary as our Model as we prepare for Christmas', and to enter into a renewed relationship with Christ, the Church, others and ourselves to celebrate the peace and joy of the baby born in the manger. I invite you to consider having Christmas symbols at home to remind us that we are on a journey as pilgrims of hope to celebrate 'God with us'.

Keep an advent Wreath and Advent Candles at home:

An Advent wreath is typically made of evergreen branches and holds four candles, each representing one of the four weeks of Advent. The evergreen signify life everlasting. The circular wreath has no beginning or end, symbolizing God's eternal nature. The four candles on the Advent wreath represent the light of Christ entering the world. The candles represent Jesus coming as a light in the darkness. Each candle brings a little more light into the darkness. Sometimes a white candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to symbolize that Jesus is with us.

Read the Gospel of Matthew: In advent you may make a personal journey by prayerfully reading the Gospel of Matthew to revisit the stories of Christmas.

The booklet '**Walk with Me**', available at the back of the church, will be a great resource for our day to day advent journey. Finally, you may attend a **Holy Mass in the week** apart from your regular Sunday Mass to deepen our love for the Eucharist; wishing you a Holy Advent Season. **Fr Saju**

Mass Intentions

Saturday 29th November

10.00am Eileen Kearns RIP (Gebbie)
6.00pm Anne & James O'Mahony
40th Wedding Anniversary
(Golding)

Sunday 30th November

1st Sunday of Advent

8.00am Molly Lau RIP
9.15am People of the Parish
Baptism Rite of Welcome
11.00am Robert & Eileen Macey RIP
5.00pm Some Definite Service
Volunteers (Ada)

Monday 1st December

10.00am Olive Walsh RIP (Celine)

Tuesday 2nd December

10.00am Patrick & Kate Quin RIP

Wednesday 3rd December

St Francis Xavier

10.00am Ann Numan RIP

Thursday 4th December

10.00am Jack & Joyce Peat RIP
(Spink)
6.00pm Parish/School Carol Concert

Friday 5th December

10.00am Devassy Neelamkavil RIP

Memorial Mass

Alison Verkade RIP
3.15-4.15pm Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament

Saturday 6th December

10.00am Deceased members of the
Bromley UCM
6.00pm Thomas Flaherty RIP
(Margiotta)

Sunday 7th December

2nd Sunday of Advent

8.00am People of the Parish
9.15am Therese Anthony Pillai RIP
11.00am Mary Margaret &
Michael Joseph Grady RIP
5.00pm Norman William &
Vera Kathleen Spink RIP

Thank you: While acknowledging God's benevolence shown to me to share the priesthood of Christ, I would like to **THANK YOU**, the Pastoral Team and the entire Parish for your love and appreciation, which was marked through the celebration of my Silver Jubilee of Ordination to Priesthood in the Parish. It was a delightful experience to see a full church at the Thanksgiving Mass on Sunday 23 November at 11 am in St Joseph's Church. The gathering in the hall after this Mass, sharing the joy over God's gift of Priesthood to the Church, was a beautiful sign of a celebrating Parish (*now a few pictures are on parish website*). I sincerely thank all of you who attended this celebration. I am very grateful to the Clergy, the Primary School, the hospitality team led by Susan Allatt, the Choir, the Sanctuary team, florists and others who made huge efforts to make this day special in my life. I am indebted to each one of you for your words of encouragement and prayers bestowed on me. I thank you so much for your gifts and cards with good wishes, a valuable sign of appreciation and thoughtfulness. I pray for you and may God bless you for your goodwill and generosity.

Fr Saju

Our Parish Faith Formation

All those registering to attend one of our Sacramental Preparation Courses are requested to meet with Fr. Saju/ a member of the clergy team during surgery hours. You will not be able to submit your Registration Form online.

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

RCIA: Our Journey in Faith Group meet on Mondays at 8.00pm in Holy Trinity House. Please email Matt Gibbs at mattgibbsjif@gmail.com.

Advent Talks and Reconciliation. The Advent Talks will be given by Bishop Pat Lynch. Theme: Mary as our Model as we prepare for Christmas.

Wednesday 17th December. The talk will follow the 10.00am Mass. Confessions until 11.30am. **Friday 19th December** from 7.30-9.00pm. All welcome.

Advent & Christmas Services 2025. Please collect a red leaflet in the foyer of the church detailing all our Advent and Christmas Services for 2025.

Advent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in St. Joseph's Church on Friday 5th & 12th December between 3.15-4.15pm. All welcome.

Christmas Choirs. If you would like to join one of our choirs to sing at our Masses on Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day please contact Charles Rudge for further information: charlesrudge@aol.com.

Congratulations to the New Dean. After due consultation with the Deanery Clergy, Archbishop John has now appointed Fr Saju as the new Dean of Bromley Deanery, with effect from 1st January 2026 to 31st December 2028. We congratulate him and pray for his new role and ministry. *"To foster pastoral care by means of common action, a Bishop may join together in special groups, several neighbouring parishes known as Vicariates Forane and appoint worthy Priests to the office of Vicar Forane, known as the Dean."*

Post RCIA Session led by Fr Saju will be held on Monday 2nd February 2026 at 8.00pm in Holy Trinity House. All those who have journeyed through RCIA are invited to attend.

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, Maureen Webster, Alan O'Donnell, Teresa Cadogan, Joseph Dyson, John Dias, Gina Clark, John Ammundsen, Stella Ludlum, Catherine Rideout, Betty Byrne, Mary Edwards, Faith Millar, Utz & Yoko Reiff, 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, Emma Constantinides, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Eileen Kearns, Molly Lau, Robert & Eileen Macey, Emilo Demetz, Olive Walsh, Patrick & Kate Quin, Ann Numan, Jack & Joyce Peat, Devassy Neelamkavil, Alison Verkade, Thomas Flaherty, Therese Anthony Pillai, Mary Margaret & Michael Joseph Grady & Normal William & Vera Kathleen Spink.

May they rest in peace.

Funeral: Emma Constantinides RIP died on Tuesday 25th November. May she rest in peace. Please remember Mark, Emma's husband and her children Chelsea and Mark in your prayers. Details of Emma's funeral will be announced in due course.

Christian Meditation will be held on Thursdays at 7.00pm in the Upper Room. Meditation is guided by a skilled and experienced parishioner.

Parish & Primary School Christmas Celebration will be held on Thursday 4th December. Carol Concert in the church at 6.00pm followed by celebrations in the hall: a raffle, a DJ, and food will be available to purchase. *All are invited to wear a Christmas Jumper to these celebrations.* **Volunteers are required to assist with the set up, serving of food and drink and clearing up at the end.** If you are able to help please email Henry Essilife at: hessilife@yahoo.co.uk or contact the parish office. **Raffle tickets** will be available to purchase at the end of the 9.15am and 11.00am Masses this weekend.

Family Mass on Sundays at 9.15am.

30th November	Children's Liturgy
7th December	Children's Liturgy
21st December	Children's Liturgy & Uniform Groups

Tea and Coffee will be served in the church hall after the 9.15am Mass.

Valentine' Retreat: Generally couples seek quality time and meaningful connection. This is for couples of any age, on Sat 14 Feb from 11.30 am to 4.30 pm, the session is led by Annette and Paul O'Beirne, who have 40 years experience in marriage preparation and marriage enrichment to grow in happiness in couple's life. For queries or to book your place contact /email the parish office.

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: £488.00 Building Fund: £52.00

Offertory Collection last week:

St. Joseph's: £160.96 St. Swithun's: £29.62

Catholic Education Services:

St. Joseph's: £136.98 St. Swithun's: £30.24

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)**

Baptism Family Gathering and Thanksgiving Service to be held on Saturday 24th January 2026 at 11.30am in St. Joseph's Primary School. All families who have celebrated their child's baptism in the past two years are invited to attend.

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: 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 be held in January 2026.

Marriage: Please contact a priest or deacon. **Six Months notice is required.**

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday 29th November

6.00pm Nelson Lopes Thanksgiving

Sunday 30th November 1st Sunday of Advent

10.00am Wellbeing of Jenny Noruega

Monday 1st December

10.00am Parish Community (Norah)

Saturday 6th December

6.00pm Arthur Hopkins & Lillian Edwards RIP
(Paul)

Sunday 7th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

10.00am Aloisio & Antonia Miranda RIP
(Jenny)

Monday 8th December

10.00am Holy Souls

For Mass Intentions please see Nelson

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

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

St Swithun's Hall Bookings: 020 8402-0459

Parish Social

Cancer Prayer Support on Tuesday 2nd Dec Upper Room from 1.30pm Please come and join us. For further information contact Parish Office.

The Dad's Group will meet at The Crown on Wednesday 3 December at 19.30. Please contact: Richard Barrett on 07729 392936 or email: rgbarrett@gmail.com.

Seniors Lunch. The next Seniors Lunch will be held on **Tuesday 9th December** from 12 noon to 1.30pm in Holy Trinity House. Please let the parish know if you would like to attend.

Ss Joseph & Swithun Christmas Day Lunch in St. Joseph's Church Hall. The lunch will be held after the 11.00am Mass. For more information and to register your attendance, please ring 07932 674557 or 020 8402 0459.

Bromley Homeless Starter Packs: The next collection is on Saturday 6th December. Please take donated items to SS Peter & Paul church, 10am-12 noon. See notice in foyer for further details and items needed. Please take donated items **to the Youth Centre** at SS Peter and Paul Church. Thank you.

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.