



## SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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3rd Sunday of Advent

Year A

14th December 2025

Readings on Page 88 of the Parish Mass Book

**The third Sunday of Advent** is called "*Gaudete Sunday*" because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon: "*Gaudete in Domino semper*" - "Rejoice in the Lord always." This is to remind ourselves that we are preparing for the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus, so we light the rose candle at the beginning of the Mass this weekend. The common theme of today's scripture readings is one of joy, the need for preparation and renewal. The prophet Isaiah in the first reading (Isa 35:1-6) gives the people who were far off in exile a promise of restoration and renewal. He reassures the people saying, "be strong, fear not God will come and save you", even though Judah had fallen short and broken the covenant, for God would remain faithful to his covenant promises. The sign of salvation is that people who are weak will experience comfort and healing, "the eyes of the blind shall be opened,... the tongue of the mute sing for joy". The expectation for the dawn of healing and salvation is visible in the Gospel today (Matt 11:2-11). Isaiah's vision of Israel's glorious future, messianic time is fulfilled unexpectedly by the coming of Jesus. This is present in Jesus' ministry, "the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them", as the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah. Advent is a period of restoration and renewal of our life to experience God's presence and healing, thus to embrace Jesus into our hearts and lives.

This weekend, there will be 12 people celebrating the Rite of Welcome at 5.00pm Mass as part of their preparation to be received into the Church on Easter Vigil next year in the parish. As they present themselves to God in the presence of the Parish community, they not only proclaim their willingness to continue their journey in faith, but they ask for God's grace for restoration and renewal for a new life in Christ. I request that you pray for these people who are in RCIA this year so that the Rite of Welcome during the Advent preparation will be a moment of their commitment and renewal to accept the joy and peace of Christmas. Christmas is a time of gifts both giving and receiving. Let us make sure that among the gifts we offer to others is some of the Christian joy which we ourselves have received.

**Fr Saju**

### Mass Intentions

#### **Saturday 13th December St Lucy**

6.00pm Lily Carvalho RIP (Audrey)

#### **Sunday 14th December**

##### **3rd Sunday of Advent**

8.00am Andrey Kovalichin Svetlana & Maria Zharchinskaja RIP  
9.15am Some Definite Service  
Volunteers (Ada)  
11.00am Nick Selva RIP  
(Selvanathan)  
5.00pm Valerie Zandre RIP (Golding)  
*JIF Rite of Welcome*

#### **Monday 15th December**

10.00am Mary Lamb RIP (Spink)

#### **Tuesday 16th December**

10.00am Holy Souls

12.15pm

##### **Funeral:**

**Emma Constantinides RIP**

#### **Wednesday 17th December**

10.00am William & Agnes Almond RIP

10.30am Reconciliation Service

#### **Thursday 18th December**

10.00am Anthony Flynn RIP  
(Cunniffe)

#### **Friday 19th December**

10.00am Michael McGee RIP  
(Lowery)  
7.30pm Reconciliation Service

#### **Saturday 20th December**

10.00am Dorothy Samuel RIP  
(Seidel)  
6.00pm Fintan Stewart RIP

#### **Sunday 21st December**

##### **4th Sunday of Advent**

8.00am People of the Parish  
9.15am Past & Present member of  
11th Bromley Scouts &  
Emma Constantinides RIP  
11.00am Anthony Lenihan Senior RIP  
5.00pm Franco Casari RIP  
(Valentina)

## 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 are held from 4.30-6.30pm in Holy Trinity House. **Please note:** Surgeries will be suspended from 22nd December 2025 to 19th January 2026. Please contact the parish office if you require the services of a priest or deacon.

**Baptism Preparation.** Please see below how to enrol on our next Baptism Preparation Course starting on 10th January 2026.

**RCIA: Our Journey in Faith Group meet on Mondays at 8.00pm in Holy Trinity House.** Please email Matt Gibbs at mattgibbsjif@gmail.com. The Journey in Faith Rite of Welcome will be celebrated on Sunday 14th December during the 5.00pm Mass.

**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.

**The last Christian Meditation session of the year will be Thursday 18th December.** We will resume our activities on Thursday 8th January 2026 at 7.00pm in the Upper Room.

**Christmas Offerings.** Christmas Offerings are traditionally your personal gift to your priests in the Parish. The collection taken on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, together with anything placed in the Christmas Offering envelopes constitutes your personal gift to Fr Saju & Fr Patrick as they do not receive a salary. These envelopes are now available at the entrance and exit to the church. The envelopes may be handed into the parish office before Christmas or placed in a collection bag at any of our Christmas Masses. If you are a tax payer, please remember to gift aid your donation. If you wish to make a Christmas Offering via bank transfer to the parish bank account, please use the Account Number 42298709 and Sort Code 60-04-02 with the reference 'Christmas', or give by selecting 'Christmas Donation' on the Dona machines at the entrances of St. Joseph's Church. **Thank you.**

## Christmas Masses

### Christmas Eve – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2025

St. Joseph's Church:

Holy Mass -5.00pm

Holy Mass 7.30pm

Midnight Mass (*Carol Service from 11.30pm*)

St. Swithun's Church: Holy Mass -6.00pm

### Christmas Day – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December 2025

St. Joseph's Church:

Holy Mass - 8.00am, 9.15am and 11.00am

St. Swithun's Church: 10.00am

There is no evening Mass on Christmas Day.

### St Stephen's Day (Boxing Day) – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December 2025

St. Joseph's Church: 10.00am

St Swiithun's Church: 10.00am

**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,** Helen French, Emma Constantinides, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Lily Carvalho, Andrey Kovalichin Svetlana, Maria Zharchinskaja, Nick Selva, Valerie Zandre, Mary Lamb, William & Agnes Almond, Anthony Flynn, Michael McGee, Dorothy Samuel, Fintan Stewart, Anthony Lenihan Senior & Franco Casari.

**May they rest in peace.**

## Funerals:

**The funeral of Emma Constantinides RIP** will be held on Tuesday 16th December at 12.15pm.

**Helen French RIP** died on 9th December 2025. Details of her funeral will be announced in due course.

*We offer our prayers and deepest sympathy to the family and friends of all the deceased.*

**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](mailto:charlesrudge@aol.com).

**Poinsettias.** You are invited to donate a poinsettia in memory of a loved one. The poinsettias will be used to decorate the church for Christmas. **NEXT WEEKEND** please leave the poinsettias in the foyer or near one of the exits of St Joseph's Church.

## Family Mass on Sundays at 9.15am.

21st December      Children's Liturgy &  
Uniform Groups

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

**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.

**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 or see poster in foyer of the church.

## 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: £474.00    Building Fund: £55.00

### Offertory Collection last week:

St. Joseph's: £888.68    St. Swithun's: £173.27

### Gift Aid and Standing Order Enquiries:

Please email the Gift Aid Co-Ordinator at: [bromleygac@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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)**

**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.

**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](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 start on 10th 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 13th December**

6.00pm People of the Parish

**Sunday 14th December**

10.00am Wellbeing of Ionela Noruega (Jenny)

**Monday 15th December**

10.00am Holy Souls

**Saturday 20th December**

6.00pm For all the families in the Parish  
(Ada)

**Sunday 21st December**

10.00am For deceased members of Lopes &  
Menezes families (Lucy)

**Monday 22nd December**

10.00am Int. Fr Saju—Birthday

*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.

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**St Swithun's Hall Bookings:** 020 8402-0459

**Parish Social**

**Cancer Cafe** will meet from 1.30-3.00pm on  
Tuesday 16th Dec in the Upper room. For  
further information contact the Parish Office.

**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.

**The Christmas Card box is now on display in**  
**the foyer of St. Joseph's Church.** Please  
leave your cards for other parishioners to  
collect.

**Repository:** We still have a few packs of  
Christmas Cards available in the Repository  
cupboard.

**Christmas Carols in The Glades.** The choir  
from St. Joseph's Primary School will be singing  
Christmas Carols in The Glades on Tuesday  
16th December at 2.00pm. All proceeds will go  
to Cafod. Please come along and support the  
primary school.

**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**

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**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](http://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.