



SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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

4th Sunday of Advent

Year A

21st December 2025

Readings on Page 90 of the Parish Mass Book

Dreams of Joseph

The Gospel reading for this weekend from Matthew (Matt 1:18-24) presents Joseph, the husband of Mary as a just and honourable man. The role and significance of St. Joseph is brought to our attention this week in view of preparing us for Christmas.

Joseph in a dream (deep prayer) listens to the voice of an Angel and does what is right. A little later on in Matthew's Infancy Narrative we hear how Joseph, again responsive to a dream, takes the necessary precautions and flees away with Jesus and Mary to safety in Egypt. Joseph in the narrative stands as a protector, provider and educator for the holy family. As the head of the family, Joseph protected Mary and baby Jesus from all possible threat, taking prudent steps to shield his family from the wrath of Herod. Later on we find him in Nazareth working as a carpenter to provide a living for the three of them and thus he looked after the needs of the family. He is also an educator, teaching Jesus his trade and bringing up Jesus with human qualities of compassion and kindness. Our parental responsibilities are similar, to be protector, provider and educator in our community. Secondly Joseph was a man who responded humbly to the Spirit of God. The dreams of Joseph are symbolic of his attention to the things of the Spirit, of his wish to discern the will of God. Like Joseph, we need to recognise the presence of the Holy Spirit in and around us.

Today's Gospel passage introduces God as Emmanuel, one living with us. We need to recognise him in our ordinary life situations. The coming of the long awaited *Messiah*, was not through clouds and lightning but through the nine-months of pregnancy of a country girl, through thirty years of the normal human process of infancy, adolescence and adulthood. These events remind us that God comes in ordinary, daily circumstances of life. God comes to us in the people we see around us being born, growing up, ageing and dying. This Christmas is therefore an invitation to see the bridge between heaven and earth, the divine and the human, the order of grace and the order of nature, the sacred and the profane, and thus to discern the presence and action of God more and more in our daily lives. I invite you to join our Christmas Mass this week to celebrate the joy of having God with us, *Emmanuel* in our Christmas celebrations in the Parish. **Fr Saju**

Mass Intentions

Saturday 20th December

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)

Monday 22nd December

10.00am Terence Noel Flynn RIP

2.00pm **Funeral: Helen French RIP**

Tuesday 23rd December

10.00am Deceased Relatives &
Friends of McKenna &
Curran Families

Wednesday 24th December

Christmas Eve

5.00pm William Cullen RIP

7.30pm Agnes Achampong RIP

Midnight Frank Lohan RIP

Carols from 11.30pm

Thursday 25th December

Christmas Day

8.00am Linda McGee RIP (Lowery)

9.15am Bridget & Patrick McDonagh RIP

11.00am Valerie, Luigi & Giulia
Natalia Zanne RIP

Friday 26th December St Stephen

10.00am Padraic & Maureen
McDonagh RIP

Saturday 27th December St John

10.00am Int. Parkinson Family

6.00pm Ivan Kightley RIP (Spink)

Sunday 28th December The Holy

Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8.00am People of the Parish

9.15am Agnes Achampong RIP
(Childs)

11.00am Lily Carvalho RIP

5.00pm Int. Turner Family (Edwards)

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.

Closing of Jubilee Year 2025. A Closing Prayer and the Jubilee Prayer will be prayed at the end of all Masses on 27th & 28th December to mark the end of the Jubilee Year. The Jubilee Candle will be blown out.

In his annual Christmas message, Archbishop John Wilson says: "The beautiful truth of Christmas is that because of God in Christ we are never lost. God chose to be near us, to stay close to us always, to draw us to himself, always. In his endless mercy, the Lord Jesus chose to love us, so we could know and believe that "God is love" (1 John 4:16). In turn, all the Lord Jesus asks of us is to not be afraid and to say yes to him, to draw close to him, to love him". You can watch and read the full message at rcaos.org.uk/christmasmessage2025.

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 24th 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 25th 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 26th 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, Mark Donlan, Helen French, Emma Constantinides, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Dorothy Samuel, Fintan Stewart, Anthony Lenihan Senior, Franco Casari, Terence Noel Flynn, William Cullen, Agnes Achampong, Frank Lohan, Linda McGee, Bridget & Patrick McDonagh, Valerie, Luigi & Guilia Natalia Zanne, Pdraic & Maureen McDonagh, Ivan Kightley and Lily Carvalho.

May they rest in peace.

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

Christian Meditation session will resume on Thursday 8th January 2026 at 7.00pm in the Upper Room.

Funerals:

The funeral of Helen French RIP will be held on Monday 22nd December at 2.00pm.

The funeral of Mark Donlan RIP will be held on Friday 9th January 2026 at 11.30am.

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. **THIS 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's 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: £379.00 Building Fund: £15.00

Offertory Collection last week:

St. Joseph's: £887.04 St. Swithun's: £221.20

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)**

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 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 20th December

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

Sunday 21st December

10.00am Deceased members of Lopes & Menezes Families (Lucy)

Monday 22nd December

10.00am Fr Saju—Thanksgiving Birthday

Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve

6.00pm People of the Parish

Thursday 25th December Christmas Day

10.00am Helen French RIP

Friday 26th December St Stephen

10.00am Mark Donlan RIP

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 Support. we have a small group meeting on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays from 1.30pm in the Upper Room next door to the church. Please feel free to join us. Pick up a flyer from the foyer of the church.

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 sang Christmas Carols in The Glades last week. A wonderful £177.45 was raised for Cafod. Thank you to all those who supported the school choir.

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)

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e: sajuthomas@rcaos.org.uk

Fr Patrick Essien (Asst. Priest)

Tel: 020 8402 0459

e: patrickessien@rcaos.org.uk

Deacon Barry

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e: barrymellish@rcaos.org.uk

Deacon Aidan

Tel: 07747 036253

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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 resumes on Monday 19th January 2026

If you need the services of a priest or deacon please contact the parish office.

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.