



SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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

The Baptism of the Lord Year A 11th January 2026

Readings on Page 118 of the Parish Mass Book

The Baptism of the Lord

The liturgical season of Christmas comes to a conclusion this Sunday with the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord. We often think of why Jesus received baptism from John the Baptist. The baptism from John was a very important event in the life of Jesus. First, it was a moment of decision. It marked the end of Jesus' private life, which prepared him for his public ministry. The public celebration of Baptism was a visible sign of a new chapter in his life. Second, it was a moment of identification with his people in their renewed journey initiated by John the Baptist as the Lord says, "let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Third, this was a moment of heavenly approval. Jesus might have been waiting for a signal of approval from his heavenly Father, and during his baptism Jesus got this approval of himself as the Father's "beloved Son". As the Fathers of the Church point out that the words the voice from the heavenly Father speaks are similar to Psalm 2:17, revealing Jesus' identity ("This is my beloved Son") and of Isaiah 42:1 referring to the "suffering servant": "with whom I am well pleased," revealing Jesus' mission of saving mankind by his suffering and death.

Let us reflect again on the significance of our baptism. On the day of our baptism, as Pope John Paul II explains, 'We were anointed with the oil of catechumens, the sign of Christ's gentle strength to fight against evil. Holy water was poured over us, an effective sign of interior purification through the gift of the Holy Spirit. We were then anointed with Chrism to show that we were thus consecrated in the image of Jesus, the Father's Anointed One. The candle lighted from the paschal candle was a symbol of the light of faith which our parents and godparents must have continually safeguarded and nourished with the life-giving grace of the Spirit.' The white garment given to the child represents birth into a new creation. This week you may consider reflecting on your Baptism or a baptism you have attended, the privilege to be incorporated into the body of Christ, the Church. Similarly, this day let us find a few minutes to chat with our family/friends who share our faith on our baptismal promises in order to live and witness our faith amidst the challenges and struggles of our time.

Fr. Saju

Mass Intentions

Saturday 10th January

10.00am Kathleen & Jim Cunniffe RIP
6.00pm Anne Christie RIP
(Selvanathan)

Sunday 11th January

The Baptism of the Lord

8.00am Gerry & Joan Leonard RIP
(O'Donovan)
9.15am Olaf & Pat Christiansen RIP
11.00am Int. Pilgrims to Rome
(McConnell)
5.00pm Peter Bennett RIP

Monday 12th January

10.00am Bernie Sheahan RIP
(Lowery)

Tuesday 13th January

10.00am Lucia Holder RIP

Wednesday 14th January

10.00am Annie McGregor RIP (Spink)

Thursday 15th January

10.00am Ronald & Emily Margaret Smith RIP (Spink)

Friday 16th January

10.00am Rita Cooke RIP (Duncan)

Saturday 17th January St Anthony

10.00am Bernie Sheahan RIP
(Celine)
6.00pm John O'Sullivan RIP

Sunday 18th January Second Sunday

8.00am Irene Simenons
(O'Donovan)
9.15am First Holy Communion
Families
11.00am People of the Parish
5.00pm Bobby & Anastasia
Doyle RIP (Atkinson)

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: Fr Saju's next surgery will be held on Monday 26th 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.

First Holy Communion Preparation:

Parents Meeting on Thursday 15th January 2026 at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity House.

9.15am Mass on Sunday 18th January 2026 will be celebrated for the intention of the First Holy Communion Families.

FHC Session 1 will be held on Monday 19th January, Friday 23rd January and Saturday 24th January 2026.

Confirmation Session 1 will be held on Saturday 10th January at 3.45pm in Holy Trinity House. Following the session the Confirmation Candidates will attend the 6.00pm Mass.

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

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.

Crib Offerings. Every penny donated at the Crib will be given to **The Catholic Children's Society**. For further information please see: www.cathchild.org.uk
The Christmas Tree and Crib will be removed from the church this week.

Christian Meditation will be held on Thursdays at 7.00pm in the Upper Room. For further information please contact the parish office.

Visits to the Housebound. If you are housebound and unable to attend Mass please inform the parish office. A member of our Pastoral Team will be happy to visit you and bring Holy Communion.

Parish Database. If you are new to the Parish or you have not yet registered, we ask all parishioners to register with the Parish Database, 'ChurchSuite'. To do this please open 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.

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.

Tea and Coffee will be served in the Club Room after the 9.15am Mass. **The Scouts are holding a cake sale** after the 9.15am Mass on Sunday 18th January to raise money for Doctors without Frontiers. Please support this cause.

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, Paul Lowing, 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, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Francesco Marchi, Kathleen & Jim Cunniffe, Anne Christie, Gerry & Joan Leonard, Olaf & Pat Christiansen, Peter Bennett, Michael Foley, Adella Knights, Bernie Sheahan, Annie McGregor, Ronald & Emily Margaret Spink, Rita Cooke, John O'Sullivan, Irene Simenons and Bobby & Anastasia Doyle.

May they rest in peace.

Churches Together in Central Bromley Pulpit Swap on Sunday 18th January 2026. This is where clergy members from different churches within the Churches Together in Central Bromley (CTCB) Group exchange pulpits for a service. This practice is intended to promote Christian unity and fellowship among different congregations and denomination. **Rev. Jonathan McGill, Pastor from Bromley Town Church will be visiting our parish and will give the sermon at the 11.00am Mass.** Deacon Barry will be visiting Bromley Methodist Church and will give a sermon there.

White Flower Appeal will take place at the end of all Masses on 17th/18th January 2026 for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC). There will be a second collection. For further information on the work of SPUC please see: www.spuc.org.uk

Racial Justice Sunday 1st February 2026. Archbishop John Wilson will celebrate Mass at 10.00am in St. George's Cathedral, Southwark. Refreshments will be served in Amigo Hall after the Mass. All welcome.

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.

Bromley Homeless need additional volunteers for their winter shelter for the homeless in Bromley. If you can help, please contact John Warren on 020 8467 7926 urgently. Thank you.

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.**

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: £483.50 Building Fund: £0.00

Offertory Collection last week:

St. Joseph's: £723.58 St. Swithun's: £241.14

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)**

Next weekend there will be a second collection for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.

The family of Helen French RIP would like to thank all the parish for their kind words of comfort, prayers and sympathy cards at this sad time. We are very grateful. Thank you.

**St Swithun's Church
9 Fashoda Road, BR2 9RE
Mass Intentions**

Saturday 10th January

6.00pm Michael Foley RIP

Sunday 11th January

10.00am Adella Knights RIP

Monday 12th January

10.00am Holy Souls

Saturday 17th January

6.00pm People of the Parish

Sunday 18th January

10.00am Int. All volunteers in the Parish & their families (Ada)

Monday 19th January

10.00am Int. Annie Fernandes

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

Please check the Christmas Card box in the foyer of St. Joseph's Church. The box will be removed on Monday 12th January.

Cancer Café Group will meet again on Tuesday 20th January from 1.30pm in the Upper Room next door to the church. Please feel free to join us.

The Dad's Group will meet on Wednesday 28th January at 19.30 in The Crown for a board game evening. Please contact: Richard Barrett on 07729 392936 or email: rgtbarrett@gmail.com.

Seniors Lunch. The next Seniors Lunch will be held on **Tuesday 20th January** from 12 noon to 1.30pm in Holy Trinity House. Please let the parish know if you would like to attend.

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 resumes on Monday 26th 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.