

# SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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Fourth Sunday Year A

1st February 2026

Readings on Page 130 of the Parish Mass Book

You will see that we are celebrating three different Rites of Welcome this weekend. We start with the 35 young adults as they journey towards taking responsibility, as adults, for their faith through the Sacrament of Confirmation. Then we have the families presenting their children for the Sacrament of Baptism. The third group is made up of people who want to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church. All of these are good signs for our parish community.

It is fitting that a mountain would be the place where Jesus would share with his disciples a sermon that can be described in two ways: a character sketch of Jesus and a map to show us how to reach the heights of spiritual life and if we follow the map faithfully, we can expect to find true happiness.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is telling us what it means to flourish as a human being made in the image of God. As we ponder the Beatitudes we need to understand that they are not just a list of virtues; they are indicators of a Christ-like life. St Bernard saw them as a sort of roadmap to holiness, a step-by-step guide, leading us from where we are now to where God calls us to be. They show us the type of people we can become if we allow God's grace to shape us—to soften our hearts, smooth our rough edges, and make us into a generous, loving, and compassionate people.

The Beatitudes need to be read dynamically as each Beatitude builds one upon another, and once we begin to take the first few steps, we soon realize that each successive step empowers those that follow. Each step we take is internally transformative. Like any notion of personal or communal growth, we really are not able to see where our journey is taking us until we begin it.

Like any good map the Beatitudes show us the shortest and easiest route. They are but signposts along the way to guide us. There are of course alternative routes which will appear along the way, and we are free to choose them but as we journey on we know what St Thomas Aquinas meant when he said, "God alone satisfies."

Let us keep in our prayers all those who are on a sacramental journey within Jesus especially within our parish community.

**Deacon Aidan**

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday 31st January

#### St John Bosco

10.00am Alice Shaw RIP (Cooper)  
6.00pm James & Mary McNamara RIP  
*Confirmation Rite of Enrolment*

### Sunday 1st February Fourth Sunday

8.00am Van Chan RIP  
9.15am People of the Parish  
*Baptism Rite of Welcome*  
11.00am Cecilia RIP (Santhy)  
5.00pm Thanksgiving (Lohan)  
*JIF Rite of Welcome*

### Monday 2nd February

#### The Presentation of the Lord

10.00am Int. of Isaac

### Tuesday 3rd February

#### St Laurence of Canterbury

10.00am Giovanna Benitz RIP (Spink)

### Wednesday 4th February

10.00am Camilla Pettit RIP

### Thursday 5th February St Agatha

10.00am Bridget McDonagh RIP (Lohan)

### Friday 6th February

#### Saints Paul Miki & Companions

10.00am Int. Benny & Bindu

### Saturday 7th February

10.00am Wellbeing Maire Rainey (Lohan)  
6.00pm Dr Arnott Perera RIP (Selvanathan)

### Sunday 8th February Fifth Sunday

8.00am Henrietta Duncan RIP  
9.15am People of the Parish  
11.00am Dominic Bennett RIP  
12.30pm **Baptism:**  
**Deborah Aibangbee**  
5.00pm Thanksgiving (Lohan)

## 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 with the form duly filled. 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

**Baptism Preparation.** Please see below how to enrol on our next Baptism Preparation Course starting on Saturday 7th March 2026.

**First Holy Communion Preparation:**

**FHC Session 3** will be held on Monday 2nd, Friday 6th and Saturday 7th February 2026

**Confirmation Session 2** will be held on Saturday 31st January at 3.45pm in Holy Trinity House. Following the session the Confirmation Candidates will attend the 6.00pm Mass for the **Rite of Enrolment**.

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

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

## Jubilee Year of St. Francis.

As part of celebrating the Jubilee Year of St. Francis Night Vigils will be held on 13th/14th March and 16th/17th October. The Night Vigils will commence with Mass at 7.00pm and conclude with Mass at 6.30am.

**St Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of the animals and ecology. In the Jubilee Year, Blessing of Pets** will be held on Sunday 4th October 2026 after 11.00am Mass in the Holy Trinity garden. Further details to follow.

**Re-Lamping of the high-level lights in St. Joseph's Church.** This work will take place on **Tuesday 3rd February**. There will be no access to the church on this date. The 10.00am Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held in Holy Trinity Chapel.

### 9.15am Sunday Mass:

1st February Children's Liturgy

15th February Uniform Groups

1st March Children's Liturgy

8th March Children's Liturgy

15th March Uniform Groups

**Tea and Coffee** will be served in the Club Room after the 9.15am Mass.

**During Lent, Stations of the Cross will be prayed in St. Joseph's Church at the following times:**

Wednesdays after the 10.00am Mass

Fridays at 7.30pm.

**Churches Together in Central Bromley Lent Course** is titled 'God is Love: Exploring the First Letter of St. John'. Start time is 7.45pm for 8.00pm until 9.30pm at St Peter & St Paul's Parish Church (behind Primark) on Tuesdays for five sessions from 24th February to 24th March. All welcome.

**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 Alaneme, 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** Noreen Farrell, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Alice Shaw, James & Mary McNamara, Van Chan, Cecilia, Giovanna Benitz, Camilla Pettit, Bridget McDonagh, Dr Arnott Perera, Henrietta Duncan and Dominic Bennett

**May they rest in peace.**

**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.

**Racial Justice Sunday 1st February 2026.** Archbishop John Wilson will celebrate Mass at 10.00am in St. George's Cathedral, Southwark. Those who wish may wear national or cultural dress as a sign of unity and pride. Please gather outside the cathedral at 9.45am to join the procession of national flags. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served after the Mass.

**Cafod Big Lent Walk.** Are you ready for a challenge this Lent? Walk 200km in 40 days to raise funds for live-saving water. Step up this Lent to help our neighbours. For further information search for "The Big Lent Walk". See poster in foyer.

**World Day of Prayer** on Friday 6th March at 10.30am in Christ Church, Highland Road, BR1 4AA. All welcome. For further information see poster in foyer and [wwdp.org.uk](http://wwdp.org.uk).

**The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network presents the twelve prayer intentions that the Holy Father entrusts to the Church for the year 2026.** These monthly intentions serve as a compass to guide a mission of compassion in the world. For further information see: <https://www.popesprayer.va/the-popes-prayer-intentions-for-2026/>  
*Pray together, change the World.*

## Supporting the Parish Parish Finances for last week

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

### Standing Orders:

Average weekly contributions: £1400.00.

### Cashless contributions last week:

Mass offerings: £468.00 Building Fund: £30.00

### Offertory Collection last week:

St. Joseph's: £942.59 St. Swithun's: £167.74

### St George's Cathedral:

St Joseph's: £404.27 St Swithun's: £75.10

### 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)**

**This weekend** there will be a second collection for Racial Justice Sunday.

**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 7th March 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 31st January**

6.00pm Lucia Menezes  
Birthday Thanksgiving

**Sunday 1st February**

10.00am Mary Hopkins RIP

**Monday 2nd February**

10.00am Mathew Doherty RIP

**Saturday 7th February**

6.00pm Lois Mary Aono RIP (Norah)

**Sunday 8th February**

10.00am Wellbeing of Savio Noruega

**Monday 9th February**

10.00am Liz Pay ( Liz Simmons) 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.

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

**Parish Social**

**Cancer Café Group** will meet again on Tuesday 3rd February from 1.30pm in the Upper Room next door to the church. Please feel free to join us.

**The Dad's Group** will meet for a board game night on Wednesday 25th February at The Crown, Plaistow Lane at 7.30pm. Please contact: Richard Barrett on 07729 392936 or email: rgtbarrett@gmail.com.

**Seniors Lunch.** The next Seniors Lunch will be held on **Tuesday 17th February** from 12 noon to 1.30pm in Holy Trinity House. Please let the parish know if you would like to attend.

**Bromley Borough Foodbank.** Donations are still urgently required. Please leave long-life fruit juice, milk, desserts, shaving foam, ladies deodorant, nappies size 6 in the box in the foyer of the church. The items will be delivered to the Foodbank. Bromley Foodbank have written to thank all our parishioners for their kind donations and their continued support. .

**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)

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Deacon Aidan

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Deacon Garry

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**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.