



SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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

Second Sunday after Nativity Year A 4th January 2026
Readings on Page 111 of the Parish Mass Book

As we enter a New Year, many people will have a New Year's resolution, to make a new start or new beginning. It might be to lose weight, or stop smoking or drinking, or perhaps to get fit! The list can be endless. And generally, we all start with a firm resolve, but as time goes by, all too often we lose the will to continue.

The Christmas story is breathtaking, because God gave His son, born of the virgin Mary, to be our saviour. It was indeed a new beginning. And John reminds us in our gospel reading this weekend that Jesus was around even before God created the world, because "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us". Jesus knew the reception he would get, but His promise or His resolve to carry out the will of His Father never diminished, even when suffering the cruellest trials, up to and including His crucifixion.

The bible frequently uses the terms night and day to identify good and evil. John similarly draws this distinction, stating "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it". We can therefore say with certainty that Jesus is for us a beacon, the true light given to us, to help us navigate through a world that is frequently hostile to God and His people.

As we start 2026, let us look inwardly to see how well we welcome that light into our lives. Do we let it penetrate deep within us? What areas does it not penetrate? Think about these and rather than try to tackle all of them at once, make a New Year's resolution, in a prayer to Jesus, to tackle just one of those areas. Almost certainly it will not be easy. And you can guarantee the evil one will encourage you to give up! But if you draw closer to Jesus in 2026, through prayer and good works, you will win the battle!

Deacon Garry

Mass Intentions

Saturday 3rd January

1.00pm **Baptism:** Emma De Melo
6.00pm John & Mary O'Donnell RIP
 (Foley)

Sunday 4th January

Second Sunday after the Nativity

8.00am People of the Parish
9.15am Int. Spencer & Ekaterina
11.00am Thanksgiving (Lohan)
12.30pm **Baptisms:**
 Logan & Jason Koper
5.00pm John Kelly RIP (Celine)

Monday 5th January

10.00am Philomena Flynn RIP
 (Cunniffe)

Tuesday 6th January Epiphany

7.30am Gale Roy RIP (Cunniffe)
10.00am Camilla Pettit RIP
7.30pm Int. Tim & Vanessa
 Welsh (Lenihan)

Wednesday 7th January

10.00am Int. Norah Agiru—Birthday

Thursday 8th January

10.00am Enzo Di Martino RIP
 (Valentina)

Friday 9th January

10.00am Thanksgiving for
 Agiru Family
11.30am **Funeral:** Mark Donlan RIP

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

Dear all, thank you very much.

I was so delighted to see the large attendance over all Christmas Masses in the Parish. First of all I thank you for joining to celebrate the joy of Christmas together. While acknowledging your quality presence and participation over Christmas time, I would like to thank you sincerely for your generous Christmas offerings and gifts for Fr. Patrick and myself which demonstrate your appreciation and love for your priests in the Parish. We value so much your support and very grateful for your thoughtfulness, continued support and love. **THANK YOU -Fr Saju**

Wishing you a joyful Christmas and Happy New Year

Crib Offerings. This Christmas please give the gift of hope to children and families in crisis. 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 Epiphany of the Lord is on Tuesday 6th January 2026. Masses will be celebrated at the following times:

St. Joseph's: 7.30am (in Holy Trinity Chapel), 10.00am and 7.30pm.

St. Swithun's: 10.00am

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.

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 until 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.

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 mattgibbsjif@gmail.com.

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.

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, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, John & Mary O'Donnell, John Kelly, Mark Clapson, Philomena Kelly, Sr Agnes, Camilla Pettit, Enzo Di Martino, Kathleen & Jim Cunniffe, Anne Christie, Gerry & Joan Leonard, Olaf & Pat Christiansen, Peter Bennett, Michael Foley & Adella Knights.

May they rest in peace.

Funeral:

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

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

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.

St Joseph's Primary School Autumn Newsletter

2025. Please click on the following link to read the Newsletter:

[Https://heyzine.com/flip-book/329bdcc9db.html](https://heyzine.com/flip-book/329bdcc9db.html)

White Flower Appeal will be held in our parish 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.

**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: £372.00 Building Fund: £188.00

Offertory Collection last week:

St. Joseph's: £771.34 St. Swithun's: £168.12

Gift Aid and Standing Order Enquiries:

Please email the Gift Aid Co-Ordinator at: bromleygacc@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 3rd January 2026

6.00pm Wus Family Thanksgiving

Sunday 4th January

10.00am Jorge Noruega
Birthday Thanksgiving

Monday 5th January

10.00am Mark Clapson RIP

Tuesday 6th January Epiphany

10.00am Sebastian RIP

Saturday 10th January

6.00pm Michael Foley RIP

Sunday 11th January

10.00am Adella Knights RIP

Monday 12th January

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

Please check the Christmas Card box in the foyer of St. Joseph's Church. There may be a card for you!

Cancer Support. We will meet next Tuesday 6th 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 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.