

SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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

Sixth Sunday Year A

15th February 2026

Readings on Page 136 of the Parish Mass Book

Lent

On Ash Wednesday, we will receive Ashes on our forehead to begin our journey through Lent towards Holy Week. Ashes remind us that we are created from the earth and it connects us with the rest of humanity and to all living things. Lent is a period of forty days of preparation with fasting, prayer and penance. 'Forty' is a number of completion in the Bible. God caused in Noah's time for it to rain for forty days and forty nights to cleanse the earth through flood (Gen 7:12). The Israelites were in the wilderness for forty years to reach the Promised Land. Moses spent forty days and forty nights on Mount Sinai to receive the Commandments (Ex 34:28) and Elijah journeyed forty days and forty nights to Mount Horeb to experience God (1Kgs 19:8). Jesus was in the wilderness for forty days to prepare himself for public ministry.

In the Year of St. Francis 2026, we aim to journey 40 days in Lent, through the life of St. Francis and prepare us for Holy Week. There will be evening Lenten talks on Tuesdays reflecting on the life of St. Francis of Assisi. Born in 1181 in the town of Assisi, Italy, Francis Bernadone led a carefree life of relative comfort and luxury until his conversion as a young man. One particular story in the life of Saint Francis captures our attention. As was common at that time, he was repulsed by lepers and shunned people suffering from such a disease. Yet, one day he kissed a leper, and in doing so realised the man was Jesus. From the moment of that encounter, what had disgusted him became a source of faith, Fear became love, and he began to view people differently, with attentiveness and compassion. Subsequently Francis felt a strong calling to serve the poor and reject all worldly possessions. Francis' example of selfless love inspired others to follow him and together they preached the love of God to all and sought 'to follow the teachings of Jesus and to walk in his footsteps'. In our time too, St Francis of Assisi is a model for culture of encounter to nurture peace and trust in society. Life in a community of any kind provides the challenge to make room for others and to bear with differences of background, personality and outlook. Indeed a culture of encounter and inclusion is a Franciscan vision which needs more visibility in our time. I wish you a Holy Lent.

Fr Saju

Mass Intentions

Saturday 14th February

St Cyril & St Valentine

10.00am Wellbeing of
Vanessa Harrington
6.00pm Deceased members of
Selvanathan Family

Sunday 15th February Sixth Sunday

8.00am Int. Susan & Dave Lowery
(Callan)

9.15am People of the Parish
11.00am Jim & Joyce Macey RIP
12.30pm

Baptism:

Kalen Selvarajah

5.00pm Thanksgiving (Lohan)

Monday 16th February

10.00am Edward Ernest &
Jane Macey RIP

Tuesday 17th February

10.00am Thanksgiving (Lohan)

Wednesday 18th February

Ash Wednesday

7.30am Sheila Egan & Joe Broderick
RIP (Cunniffe)
10.00am Lucia Holder RIP
7.30pm Int. Parish Priests
(Fernandes)

Thursday 19th February

10.00am Thanksgiving (Lohan)

Friday 20th February

10.00am Mary Thomas RIP

Saturday 21st February

10.00am Wellbeing of
Vanessa Harrington
6.00pm Gheorghe Chiriac RIP

Sunday 22nd February

1st Sunday of Lent

8.00am People of the Parish
9.15am Kingsley & Princy
Aponso RIP
11.00am Wellbeing of Anija Mathew
5.00pm Thanksgiving (Lohan)

Ash Wednesday: 18th February 2026

Masses will be celebrated at the following times:

St. Joseph' Church: 7.30am, 10.00am & 7.30pm

St. Swithun's Church: 10.00am.

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 Garry

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 4 will be held on Monday 23rd, Friday 27th and Saturday 28th February 2026.

FHC Parents Practical Planning Meeting will be held on Thursday 26th March at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity House.

Confirmation Session 3 will be held on Saturday 28th February 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.

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.

Living our Lent

Lent Talks: Life of St. Francis of Assisi. Will be held on Tuesday evenings during Lent in Holy Trinity House. Tea/coffee will be served from 7.00pm. Talk/reflection from 7.30-8.30pm.

3rd March: St Francis of Assisi—A Model of Prayer led by Deacon Garry.

10th March: Franciscan Brotherhood—A Culture of Encounter led by Deacon Barry.

17th March: Care for our Common Home: Franciscan Vision led by Fr Patrick.

24th March Lent Talk and Parish Lent Reconciliation Service at 7.30pm led by Canon Victor Darlington.

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.

Confessions in Lent

Tuesday 24th March 7.30-9.00pm

Saturday 28th March 10.30am-12 noon and 5.00-5.45pm

Monday 30th March 10.30-11.30am

Tuesday 31st March 10.30-11.30am

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, Maria Dillane, 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, Edgar Maswazi Ndlovu, Kathleen Ayre, Connie Watson, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Jim & Joyce Macey, Edward Ernest & Jane Macey, Sheila Egan, Joe Broderick, Mary Thomas, Gheorghe Chiriac, Kingsley & Prince Aponso.

May they rest in peace.

Walk with Me Lent 2026. Booklets are now available in the foyer of the church priced at £1.50.

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

9.15am Sunday Mass:

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.

Funeral: The funeral of **Maria Conroy RIP** will be held on Friday 13th March at 11.30am. May she rest in peace.

Praying the Rosery. Every Friday at 5.00pm during Lent the Romero Rosary at the National Shrine of St Oscar Romero in St George's Cathedral will be prayed. **Archbishop John** will personally lead the devotion on Ash Wednesday at 5.00pm, and again on Friday 6th March and Friday 27th March. All welcome.

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.

Cafod Lent Fast Day is on Friday 27th February. There will be a Cafod Appeal on 21/22 February and the Fast Day Collection will be taken on 28th February/1st March. Cafod donation envelopes are available in the foyer of both churches. Thank you for your continued support.

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 7th March 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: £1400.00.

Cashless contributions last week:

Mass offerings: £482.00 Building Fund: £33.00

Offertory Collection last week:

St. Joseph's: £878.55 St. Swithun's: £187.88

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)**

This weekend there will be a second collection for Clergy Support Fund. Donation envelopes are available in the foyer of the church.

St Swithun's Church
9 Fashoda Road, BR2 9RE

Mass Intentions

Saturday 14th February

6.00pm Elizabeth & Mary Herbert RIP
(Jenny Smith)

Sunday 15th February

10.00am Hazel Lopes Thanksgiving

Monday 16th February

10.00am Brendan McLaughlin RIP

Wednesday 18th February Ash Wednesday

10.00am Beatrice Okiwelu RIP (Ada)

Saturday 21st February

6.00pm Bennett Marcellus Thanksgiving

Sunday 22nd February

10.00am Wellbeing of Alwin Noruega

Monday 23rd February

10.00am Aloisio Miranda 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 Café Group will meet again on Tuesday 17th 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.

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.

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

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Deacon Barry

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Deacon Aidan

Tel: 07747 036253

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Deacon Garry

Tel: 07766 557213

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Parish Secretary: Susan Allatt

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Follow us on **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/ssjosephandswithun/ and **Twitter:** [@SSJosephSwithun](https://twitter.com/SSJosephSwithun)

Surgery Times: 4.30-6.30pm in Holy Trinity House

Monday: Fr Saju & Deacon Barry/Deacon Garry

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

Head Teacher: Mrs Cribben

St. Joseph's Playgroup Ltd: Monday-Friday. Term time only. For enquiries please ring: Caroline O'Brien on 07961 413694.