

# SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

Telephone No. 020 8402 0459 | bromley@rcaos.org.uk | [www.stjosephsbromley.org](http://www.stjosephsbromley.org)

First Sunday of Lent Year A 22nd February 2026

Readings on Page 151 of the Parish Mass Book

## Reduced Summer Mass Schedule consideration for all parishes

You may be aware that it is the wish of the Archbishop and his council to introduce a Reduced Summer Mass Schedule in the Archdiocese. The parishes of our Deanery are advised to work together to produce the most effective and convenient Reduced Summer Mass Schedule (RSMS) for the clergy and parishioners of our Deanery. The Archbishop aims that parish life is kept smooth- especially as supply priests are becoming more expensive and more difficult to arrange - by introducing a Reduced Summer Mass Schedule throughout the Archdiocese. In the majority of our parishes, parishioners are away for some time in summer, and Mass attendance falls. The expected benefits of RSMS are these; it is a financial benefit to the Diocese in terms of supply, and also supports the well-being of the priest. It could be a strategy of having a general Archdiocesan Mass time review, which was long overdue. It could be a preparation for parish collaboration, in view of *Called to Bear Fruit* initiatives. Some parishes have had a RSMS for quite some time now, and it works well.

For uniformity throughout the Archdiocese, the Reduced Summer Mass Schedule will take effect each year on the third weekend in July, and continue to include the first weekend in September. So, for clarity, the last normal weekend before RSMS starts will be the second weekend in July, and the last weekend of the RSMS will be the first weekend in September.

In our Pastoral team meeting held on Monday 9th February 2026, we discussed this matter and came up with some practical proposals that may help the Parish to provide effective pastoral and spiritual care for the parishioners. The Pastoral team suggested to share the wish of the Archbishop with the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) and then duly with the wider parish community. The PPC will meet this weekend to study the matter to suggest plans to continue effective pastoral care in summer times. It is important that we as a parish discern collectively a possible approach for future, where one priest may be sufficient to look after a parish of 800 Mass attendance like ours at the weekend. Although this five weeks RSMS may cause inconvenience and challenges to most of us in the Parish it may also be a practical way of preparing us for the future.

**Fr Saju & Pastoral Team**

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday 21st February

10.00am Wellbeing of  
Vanessa Harrington  
6.00pm Gheorge 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 Int. Delia Connolly  
Terminally Ill

### Monday 23rd February

10.00am Int. Murt Connolly  
Turminally Ill

### Tuesday 24th February

10.00am James & Edna Stribbling RIP  
(Nelms)

### Wednesday 25th February

10.00am Charles JV Murphy RIP

### Thursday 26th February

10.00am Gerry Blythe RIP  
(Maguire)

### Friday 27th February Cafod Fast Day

10.00am John Bosco Kelly RIP  
(Maguire)

### Saturday 28th February

10.00am Frank Nugent RIP  
6.00pm People of the Parish

### Sunday 1st March St David

#### 2nd Sunday of Lent

8.00am Wellbeing of Charlotte  
Taylor (Maguire)  
9.15am First Holy Communion  
Families  
11.00am Bill McConnell RIP  
5.00pm Int. of Parishioners  
(Fernandes)

## 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 23rd February:** Fr Patrick will be available.

**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.

**Congratulations to our RCIA Catechumens and Candidates as they celebrate the Rite of Election at St. George's Cathedral on Saturday 21 February.** Please remember them in your prayers as they continue on their faith journey.

**We welcome Canon Victor Darlington** this Sunday who will be celebrating our 11.00am Mass.

## 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,** Connie Watson, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Gheorghe Chiriac, Kingsley & Prince Aponso, James & Edna Stribbling, Charles JV Murphy, Gerry Blythe, John Bosco Kelly and Frank Nugent.

**May they rest in peace.**

**Lent and Easter Liturgy Leaflet is now available in the foyer of both churches.** Please pick up a leaflet which contains information regarding our Lent and Holy Week Masses, Services, Talks and Confession times.

**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:**

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.

**Cafod Lent Fast Day** is on Friday 27th February. There will be a Cafod Appeal **this weekend** 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.

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart...and you shall love your neighbour as yourself"*.

**The World Day of Prayer Service** in Bromley will take place at Christ Church, Highland Road, BR1 4AA, on **Friday 6th March at 10.30 am**. The WDP is a global ecumenical Christian movement, with the same service being celebrated all over the world on one day. This year the service was written by the women of Nigeria. Refreshments afterwards. All are welcome.

**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: £394.00 Building Fund: £2.00

**Offertory Collection last week:**

St. Joseph's: £756.91 St. Swithun's: £185.41

**Clergy Support Fund:**

St. Joseph's: £421.32 St. Swithun's: £59.12

**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)**

**Next weekend** there will be a second collection for the Cafod Lent Fast Day.

**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 21st February**

6.00pm Bennett Marcellus Thanksgiving

**Sunday 22nd February**

10.00am Wellbeing of Alwin Noruega

**Monday 23rd February**

10.00am Aloisio Miranda RIP

**Saturday 28th February**

6.00pm Michael O'Hara RIP (O'Brien)

**Sunday 1st March**

10.00am Sebastian RIP

**Monday 2nd March**

10.00am Alan Boniface RIP (Ada)

**Stations of the Cross during Lent:**

Fridays at 7.00pm

*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 March 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 March** from 12 noon to 1.30pm in Holy Trinity House. Please let the parish know if you would like to attend.

**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.

**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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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 23rd February:** Fr Patrick will be available.

**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.