

SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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

Fifth Sunday Year A

8th February 2026

Readings on Page 133 of the Parish Mass Book

Becoming Light and Salt

In today's gospel Jesus says to his disciples, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). But elsewhere in John 8:12 Jesus says of himself, "I am the light of the world." Who then is the light of the world, Jesus or his followers? This apparent contradiction is resolved by another passage in John 9:5 where Jesus modifies the statement about himself: "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." This shows that Jesus is talking about the flesh and blood embodiment of the light. When he is physically present in the world he is the light of the world, but when he is no longer physically present his followers now assume the role of being the light of the world.

In the ancient world salt was highly valued. In the time of Jesus the concept of salt connected in people's minds with OT implications like *sacrifices* (Lev 2:13), *loyalty and fidelity to God* (Ezra 4:14) *sharing salt implies binding relationship, purification* (2 Kgs 2:19-20) and the day to day experience tells us that *salt lends flavour to things*. The Romans said that salt was the purest of all things, because it came from the purest of all things, the sun and the sea. The houses in Palestine were dark with only one little circular window. The oil lamp was not easy to rekindle in the days before matches existed. Normally the lamp stood on the lamp-stand. But when people went out, for safety they took the lamp from its stand, and put it under an earthen bushel, so that it might burn without risk until they returned. The primary duty of the light is to show clearly the path to journey onwards.

If a Christian is to be the salt of the earth, he or she must flavour the many lives around them, rising up against any kinds of violence or corruption of human life and dignity. A Christian whose effect stops at the church door is little use to anyone. It should be even more visible in the ordinary activities of the world. Our Christianity should be visible in the way we treat a shop assistant across the counter, in the way we order a meal in a restaurant, how we treat our employees or serve our employer, in the way we play a game or drive our car, in our daily language, in the daily literature we read.

Fr Saju

Mass Intentions

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)

Monday 9th February

10.00am Bernie Sheahan RIP (Callan)

Tuesday 10th February

St Scholastica

10.00am Holy Souls (Seidel)

Wednesday 11th February

10.00am Thanksgiving (Lohan)

Thursday 12th February

10.00am Kuni Forbes RIP (Callan)

Friday 13th February

10.00am Thanksgiving (Lohan)

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)

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 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.

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.

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.

A Solemn Pontifical Vespers will be prayed for the Most Rev Richard Moth, Archbishop-elect of Westminster, on the eve of his Installation in Westminster Cathedral on **Friday 13th February 2026, at 5.30pm. Admission to the service is open to all. It will be livestreamed.** Please see:

<https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/installation-vespers-mass-livestreams/>

The following day, on **Saturday 14th February at 12 noon**, the Most Rev Richard Moth will be solemnly Installed as the 12th Archbishop of Westminster in Westminster Cathedral. **This is a ticketed Mass**, which will also be livestreamed.

Funeral: The funeral of Maria Conroy RIP will be held on Thursday 5th March at 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 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, Dr Arnott Perera, Henrietta Duncan, Dominic Bennett, Bernie Sheahan, Kuni Forbes and Jim & Joyce Macey.

May they rest in peace.

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.

Valentine's Retreat: Generally couples seek quality time and meaningful connection. This is for couples of any age, on Sat 14 Feb from 11.30am to 4.30pm in St Joseph's church hall. 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.

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.

The Clergy Support Fund enables the Archdiocese of Southwark to care for clergy in their retirement, old age, and at their time of ill health, after a lifetime of service and devotion to Christ, His Church and His People. Your donations ensure a dignified retirement for all of our priests.

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.

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: £655.97 Building Fund: £79.00

Offertory Collection last week:

St. Joseph's: £834.92 St. Swithun's: £164.93

Racial Justice Sunday:

St Joseph's: £388.02 St Swithun's: £64.74

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 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 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

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

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.

Bromley Borough Foodbank. Donations are still urgently required. Please leave Long life fruit juice and desserts, sugar and washing up liquid 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 Barry

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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

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 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

Head Teacher: Mrs Cribben

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