

# SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A 15th March 2026

Readings on Page 164 of the Parish Mass Book

Dear All,

During the liturgical season of Lent, the church turns to the Gospel of John to strengthen the journey of the faithful who are seeking baptism and other sacraments at the Easter Vigil. The Gospel passages selected on Sundays in Lent are meant to aid their path into full communion with the church, the body of Christ. The Gospel of the Samaritan woman at the well which we heard last Sunday, the healing of the man born blind on this Sunday and the raising of Lazarus from the dead next Sunday reinforce that the symbols of water, light and life are essential to the spiritual journey. Water is a sign of cleansing and acceptance of new life in Christ. I invite you to pray for all the catechumens and the candidates in our parish as they devoutly walk into the Holy Week to celebrate their faith at the celebration of the sacraments over Easter.

The healing of the man born blind in the Gospel for this weekend represents our spiritual journey in Lent. The blind man stands for all humanity. "Born totally in sin," he is made a new creation by the saving power of Jesus Christ. As God fashioned the first man from the clay of the earth (Gen 2:7), Jesus gives the blind man new life by anointing his eyes with clay (Jn 9:11). In the Jewish tradition: "there was an opinion that it was not permitted to anoint an eye on the Sabbath," and "one may not put fasting spittle on the eyes on the Sabbath." So, Pharisees concluded, "the man who did this cannot be from God, because he does not obey the Sabbath law." The Pharisees although realising that the man born blind is able to see, they considered him as a sinner who is not worthy of God's grace. They found Jesus as one breaking the Sabbath, so he is not a man of God. The Pharisees in this account need clear vision to know God's plan.

Similarly, we as the Pharisees may turn a blind eye to the situations around us and in the world. The prophetic call of the Church means that the Christian community cannot remain indifferent to the world around it. The Church in every age must take up the task of 'scrutinizing the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel', (*Gaudium et Spes* 4). This week, let us reflect on what we fail to see, or what we refuse to see, or what we want to see.

**Fr Saju**

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday 14th March

6.30am James & Pearl Coles RIP  
10.00am Michael, Souad Hanaie RIP (Amal)  
6.00pm Kathleen Flaherty RIP (Margiotta)

### Sunday 15th March

#### 4th Sunday of Lent

8.00am People of the Parish  
9.15am Jim & Joyce Macey RIP  
11.00am Int. Monique Fernandes  
5.00pm Int. Sister Maureen (Doran)  
*Second Scrutiny*

### Monday 16th March

10.00am Joy Bassett RIP

### Tuesday 17th March St Patrick

10.00am Arokiasamy & Dhanamani RIP (Stoner)

### Wednesday 18th March

10.00am Julia Whitaker RIP (Nelms)

### Thursday 19th March St Joseph

10.00am Betty Murphy RIP

### Friday 20th March

10.00am Doreen Esau RIP (Jones)

### Saturday 21st March

10.00am Ramona Nazareth RIP  
6.00pm Andy Whitelaw RIP (Bennett)

### Sunday 22nd March

#### 5th Sunday of Lent

8.00am People of the Parish  
9.15am Vincenzina Grillo RIP  
11.00am Wellbeing of Jill Browning (Doran)  
5.00pm Kevin Quinn RIP (Bristow)  
*Third Scrutiny*

**Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers and grandmothers in our parish.**

### Our Parish Faith Formation

All those registering to attend one of our Sacramental Preparation Courses are requested to meet with Fr. Sajú/ 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 Sajú & 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 6th June 2026.

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

**Confirmation Session 4** will be held on Saturday 21st March at 3.45pm in Holy Trinity House.

**RCIA:** Kindly pray for our RCIA candidates as they prepare to be received into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

**Peter Fortune, our local MP, will be attending the 9.15am Mass on Sunday 22nd March** and joining for coffee/tea in the hall after the Mass.

**Bishop Gerard Bradley**, new Auxiliary Bishop of the Southwark Diocese will be celebrating the 11.00am Mass on Palm Sunday 29th March.

### Cafod Lent Reflection:

**Pope Leo** "Let us continue to pray for peace".

Please click on the following link to watch Pope Leo's Prayer for March 2026: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSrOCQDFdFA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSrOCQDFdFA)

### Living our Lent

**Lent Talk: Life of St. Francis of Assisi. Care for our Common Home: Franciscan Vision** led by Fr Patrick will be held on Tuesday 17th March in Holy Trinity House. Tea/coffee will be served from 7.00pm. Talk/reflection from 7.30-8.30pm.

**24th March** Lent Talk and Parish Lent Reconciliation Service at 7.30pm led by Canon Victor Darlington. If you have not celebrated this sacrament for some time, do not worry about remembering set prayers as we say all our prayers together tonight and the priest will gently guide you through your confession to receive God's love and mercy.

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

Wednesdays after the 10.00am Mass and on Fridays at 7.30pm. Please visit the Parish website for information on our Holy Week services.

### 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

**The funeral of John Dias RIP** will be held on Thursday 26th March at 11.30am in St. Joseph's Church. May he rest in peace.

**Christian Meditation** is held on Thursdays at 7.00pm in the Upper Room.

**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,** Mike Heneghan, Maria Dillane, Paul Lowing, Maureen Webster, Alan O'Donnell, Teresa Cadogan, Gina Clark, John Ammundsen, Stella Ludlum, Catherine Rideout, Betty Byrne, Mary Edwards, 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,** John Dias, Robert Fitzpatrick, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Jim & Joyce Macey, James & Pearl Coles, Michael, Souad Hanaie, Kathleen Flaherty, Joy Bassett, Arokiasamy & Dhanamani, Julia Whitaker, Betty Murphy, Doreen Esau, Ramona Nazareth, Andy Whitelaw, Vencenzia Grillo, and Kevin Quin. **May they rest in peace.**

## 9.15am Sunday Mass:

15th March Uniform Groups

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

**Holy Week Choir Practice.** The choir will meet in the church between 7.00-8.00pm on **Thursday 26th March and Tuesday 31st March.** New members are welcome to join. For further information please email Charles Rudge at: charlesrudge@aol.com.

### Jubilee Year of St. Francis.

As part of celebrating the Jubilee Year of St. Francis a **Night Vigil will be held on 16th/17th October.** The Night Vigil 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.

**St Joseph's Youth Group for ages 11-18 years of age to be held monthly in the church hall starting on Saturday 25th April from 7.00-9.00pm.** Volunteers required to help out with this group. For further information please contact the parish office.

**The Cafod Group** are meeting from 9.45am in the Club Room on Sunday 22 March. To join this group please come and meet the team.

**Legion of Mary.** All praying members are invited to the annual Mass and Consecration to Our Blessed Lady on Saturday 21st March at 2.00pm. **Venue:** St Saviour's Church, Lewisham High Street, SE13 6AA, followed by refreshments.

**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 Saturday 6th June 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: £553.30 Building Fund: £26.00

### Offertory Collection last week:

St. Joseph's: £846.04 St. Swithun's: £178.29

### 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 Poor Parishes.

**The Cafod Group** would like to thank all our parishioners who gave so generously for Family Fast Day. £1630 was donated. Thank you very much.

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

**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday 14th March**

6.00pm Joan Cox RIP (Cunningham)

**Sunday 15th March**

10.00am Robertina Noronha Dias RIP

**Monday 16th March**

10.00am Holy Souls

**Saturday 21st March**

6.00pm Benjamin & Margaret Aloysius RIP

**Sunday 22nd March**

10.00am Antonia Miranda RIP

**Monday 23rd March**

10.00am Zam Boniface Thanksgiving

**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 17th 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 25 March at 19.30 in The Crown, Plaistow Lane at 7.30pm. Please contact: Richard Barrett on 07729 392936 or email: rgbarrett@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.

**The Orpington Band will be performing in St Joseph's Church Hall on Sunday 22nd March from 2.30-3.30pm.** All welcome. Free admission. There will be a retiring collection to help the work of the Bromley Foodbank.

**Scout News:** Four of the 11th Bromley Scouts took part in a district assault course and came 7th out of 26. Well done to Leo, Harry, Patrick and Mikel. Congratulation on their achievement.

**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

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Deacon Barry

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Deacon Aidan

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Deacon Garry

Tel: 07766 557213

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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**

**Mondays:** Fr Sau and 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](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.