

SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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Third Sunday of Lent Year A 8th March 2026

Readings on Page 158 of the Parish Mass Book

Something Beautiful in Lent

Last week, Deacon Barry and I were at a Clergy Formation Week near Northampton with our Archbishop and around eighty clergy from our Archdiocese to reflect on our ministry and life. The formation week which facilitated an opportunity for personal reflection and preparation for a genuine spiritual growth, was very refreshing. As we come closer to the celebration of Holy Week and Easter, the remaining weeks in Lent offers us all similar opportunity for personal reflection and preparation. This may assist us to live this Lent in the following ways.

The image of Jesus carrying the cross is a sign of carrying responsibility. We may find some situations in life as burdensome. Lent asks us to see any cross in life as sharing personal or community responsibilities in life. On the way of the cross we see Jesus falling a few times, but he got up from that fall to continue his journey to the end. Lent is a time for us to get up from our falls in life. In his final journey Simeon and Veronica helped Jesus. We need support in our life journey especially at the moments we feel low. Lent is a season to seek spiritual support in life through the Sacrament of confession to refresh us and at Holy Mass to embrace God's grace.

In this Jubilee Year the Franciscan vision of penance is another model for personal and community preparation. Francis's understanding of penance is the same as the biblical sense of conversion of heart. In the language of the original Greek New Testament, both Jesus and John the Baptist urge their followers towards *metanoia*, which means 'change of heart'. This was later translated into Latin as *Paenitentiam agite* (literally do penance). St Francis states in the first line of his *Testament* that he began to do penance by serving lepers. "The Lord granted me to begin to do penance in this way: While I was in sin, it seemed very bitter to me to see lepers. And the Lord Himself led me among them and I had mercy upon them. And when I left them that which seemed bitter to me was changed into sweetness of soul and body; and afterwards I lingered a little and left the world." For Francis penance means a conversion, a *metanoia*. In this Lent, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media and in our communities.

Fr Saju

Mass Intentions

Saturday 7th March

10.00am Lucia Holder RIP
6.00pm Aninha Pereira Vas RIP
(Fernandes)

Sunday 8th March

3rd Sunday of Lent

8.00am People of the Parish
9.15am Jonathan Brooks RIP
11.00am William Cullen RIP
5.00pm Anna Marie Fernandes RIP
First Scrutiny

Monday 9th March

10.00am Julia Monk RIP (Nelms)

Tuesday 10th March

10.00am Holy Souls (Seidel)

Wednesday 11th March

10.00am Int. Moble Benny

Thursday 12th March

10.00am Patrick McDonagh RIP
(Lohan)

Friday 13th March

10.00am Roy Parker RIP (Maguire)
11.30am **Funeral: Maria Conroy RIP**
7.00pm Douglas & Richard Francis
RIP (Nolan)
Night Vigil

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 Deceased relatives & friends
of Blythe & Maguire families
9.15am People of the Parish
11.00am Int. Monique Fernandes
5.00pm Int. Sister Maureen (Doran)
Second Scrutiny

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.

First Holy Communion Preparation:

FHC Session 6 will be held on Monday 9th, Friday 13th & Saturday 14th March 2026.

FHC 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.

We look forward to welcoming both visitors to our parish.

Cafod Lent Reflection: Galatians chapter 6 "we must never get tired of doing good because if we don't give up the struggle, we shall get our harvest at the proper time. While we have the chance, we must do good to all"

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.

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

Funerals: The funeral of Maria Conroy RIP will be held on Friday 13th March 2026 at 11.30am.

John Dias RIP died on 5th March 2026. Details of his funeral will be announced in due course.

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

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, Aninha Pereira Vas, Jonathan Brooks, William Cullen, Anna Marie Fernandes, Julia Monk, Patrick McDonagh, Roy Parker, Maria Conroy, Douglas & Richard Francis, James & Pearl Coles, Michael, Souad Hanaie & Kathleen Flaherty.

May they rest in peace.

9.15am Sunday Mass:

8th March Children's Liturgy

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.

The St Vincent de Paul Group (SVP). What does the SVP do? Please see flyer in the Newsletter.

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.

Southwark Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 21st to 28th August 2026. Details for booking travel and accommodation can be found at <https://www.tangney-tours.com/diocese-pilgrimages/diocese-ca/> Pilgrims are asked to complete a form with details, including medical requirements (if any) at <https://www.catholicassociation.co.uk/join2026> For more information, please contact Canon Edward Perera (edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk) or Deacon John Fogarty (johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk)

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: £570.00 Building Fund: £35.00

Offertory Collection last week:

St. Joseph's: £962.50 St. Swithun's: £211.20

Cafod Lent Fast Day:

St. Joseph's: £1118.97 St. Swithun's: £325.28

Cashless contributions: £186.00

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)**

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday 7th March

6.00pm Diane Traynor RIP (Daniel)

Sunday 8th March

10.00am Somto Boniface Thanksgiving

Monday 9th March

10.00am Peter Ward RIP

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

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.

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: 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 Tuesday evenings until 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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e: sajuthomas@rcaos.org.uk

Fr Patrick Essien (Asst. Priest)

Tel: 020 8402 0459

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Deacon Barry

Tel: 07445 417335

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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 Times: 4.30-6.30pm in Holy Trinity House

Monday 23rd February: 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

Head Teacher: Mrs Cribben

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