

SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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4th Sunday of Easter Year A 26th April 2026

Readings on Page 262 of the Parish Mass Book

Call to be Shepherds of People

You may have noticed in the foyer of St. Joseph's church the beautiful glass painting of **Jesus the Good Shepherd**.

This image captures one of the most beloved ways Jesus reveals himself in the Scriptures. In the Gospel of John, Jesus offers us seven profound "I am" sayings that help us understand who he is and what he offers us: "*I am the bread of life,*" "*I am the light of the world,*" "*I am the gate for the sheep,*" "*I am the good shepherd,*" "*I am the resurrection and the life,*" "*I am the way, the truth, and the life,*" and "*I am the true vine.*" Among these, the declaration "*I am the good shepherd*" stands out as deeply personal and intimate. It reveals a God who is attentive, compassionate, and wholly committed to the wellbeing of his people.

The image of the shepherd is deeply rooted in the Old Testament. God is repeatedly described as the shepherd of Israel, guiding, protecting, and caring for his flock. In the book of Exodus, the Lord shepherds his people out of slavery and through the wilderness. The prophets Isaiah and Ezekiel speak movingly of God's tender concern: "*He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast*" (Isaiah 40:11). Psalm 23 offers perhaps the most cherished image of all: "*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I lack... to green pastures you lead me.*"

When Jesus speaks of himself as the Shepherd, he draws upon this rich tradition and brings it to fulfilment. He describes a shepherd who knows his sheep intimately, who calls them each by name, and whose voice they recognise. This is not the voice of fear, pressure, or control, but the voice of love and trust. The sheep follow not because they are forced, but because they are known and cared for. Jesus contrasts this with false voices that promise much but lead to loss. He, the true shepherd, always leads towards life. We are all called, in different ways, to share in the shepherd's role. Anyone entrusted with the care of others, clergy, parents, teachers, healthcare workers and leaders, acts as a shepherd. Let us remind us today that we are called to lead with humility, teach truth, protect the vulnerable, care for others, and serve through sincere love and faithful presence.

Fr. Saju

Mass Intentions

Saturday 25th April St Mark

- 10.00am Protection of life from conception to natural birth (Lohan)
6.00pm Christopher Niibarnor
Nathan RIP (Rogers)

Sunday 26th April 4th Sunday of Easter

- 8.00am People of the Parish
9.15am Int. First Holy Communion Families
11.00am Giuseppa Caltagirone RIP (Grillo Family)
5.00pm Helen Evans RIP

Monday 27th April

- 10.00am Private Intention (Lohan)

Tuesday 28th April

St Peter Chanel

- 10.00am Int. Nuala Walsh (Lohan)

Wednesday 29th April

St Catherine of Siena

- 10.00am Adeline Street RIP (Cunniffe)

Thursday 30th April

- 10.00am Mark Donlan RIP (Crosby)

Friday 1st May St Joseph the Worker

- 10.00am Int. Wayne Seidel

Saturday 2nd May St Athanasius

- 10.00am Augustine Thomas RIP
6.00pm Regina Agum Agboguo RIP (Veronica)

Sunday 3rd May 5th Sunday of Easter

- 8.00am Int Mary Seidel
9.15am Ben & Jo White RIP (Daphne)
11.00am William Cullen RIP
5.00pm David & Deborah Burford
1st Wedding Anniversary

Our Parish Faith Formation

All those registering to attend one of our Sacramental Preparation Courses are requested to meet with Fr. Saju or a member of the clergy team during surgery hours with the form duly filled.

Surgeries will be held from 4.30-6.30pm in Holy Trinity House:

Monday: Fr Saju & Deacon Barry/Aidan

Wednesday by Appointment only:

Fr Patrick & Deacon Garry

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Preparation for 2026-2027. If your child will be in Year 3 or above in September and would like to prepare for First Holy Communion please download and complete our Reconciliation & First Holy Communion Registration Form **which can be accessed here:**

https://www.stjosephsbromley.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/First-Holy-Communion-Registration-Form_July-2025.pdf

Once completed, you will need to attend a surgery session with Fr Saju, which takes place on Mondays between 4.30-6.30pm in Holy Trinity House.

Baptism Preparation. Please see below how to enrol on our next Baptism Preparation Course starting on Saturday 6th June 2026.

Confirmation Session 5 will be held in the **Church Hall** on Saturday 25th April at 3.45pm followed by attendance at 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.

Archbishop John Wilson will be visiting our parish on Sunday 18th October 2026. Archbishop John will celebrate the 11.00am Mass followed by refreshments in the church hall where you will have an opportunity to meet and chat with the Archbishop informally. All parishioners are invited to attend.

The Parish Assembly/AGM will be held on Saturday 6th June at 7.00pm in St. Joseph's Church Hall. Members of our Finance Committee will present the parish finances at this meeting. All parishioners are invited to attend where you can share your thoughts on the future of the parish.

Funeral: The funeral of Mary Edwards RIP will be held on Thursday 28th May at 11.30am. May she rest in peace.

9.15am Sunday Mass:

26th April Children's Liturgy

17th May Uniform Groups

24th May Children's Liturgy

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

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. See posters in the foyer. For further information and to register your child please contact the parish office.

Missio Red Box holders are invited to bring their boxes for emptying from 26th April to 10th May. Please leave in foyer of church or bring to the parish office. Empty boxes will be returned to the foyer. Thank you for your continued support for Missio's worldwide work.

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 Gibbs, Mike Heneghan, Maria Dillane, Paul Lowing, Maureen Webster, Alan O'Donnell, Teresa Cadogan, Catherine Rideout, Betty Byrne, Stella Ludlam, , Utz & Yoko Reiff, Veronica Alaneme, Bernadette Murray, Maria Lopes, Billie McPartlan, Fr Bob Mercer, Ann Hoolihan, Patricia Lefkaridi, Fr. David Peck and Gail Mortimer.

Please pray for our deceased relatives and friends, remembering, Mary Edwards, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Christopher Niibarnor Nathan, Giuseppa Caltagirone, Helen Evans, Aluiza Menezes, Lai Kuen Wong, Eileen Warren, Lactancio Menezes, John Dias, Adeline Street, Mark Donlan, Augustine Thomas, Regina Agum Agbogou, Ben & Jo White and William Cullen. **May they rest in peace.**

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 commencing with Mass at 7.00pm and concluding 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.

Cafod Group. The next meeting will take place on Sunday 26th April in the Club Room at 9.45am. We will also be serving coffee after the 9.15am Mass - please come and join us.

Parish Meditation Group. You are warmly invited to "A Journey of Remembrance" **Spiritual Retreat** led by Mariana Mazzaferri (07428212864) from the Parish Christian Meditation group. A day of guided meditation, stillness and prayer through the **ancient Aramaic teachings of Jesus**, will be held in the quiet beauty of The Friars, Aylesford on Saturday 20th June, from 10am to 4pm (lunch and drinks included). The Holy Mass will be celebrated by Fr Saju at 12 noon. If you wish to attend, inform the Parish office as spaces are limited. For further info www.breathofspirit.co.uk

Coach Outings this summer. Gina has booked the following coach outings this summer. Please contacted Gina on 07780 468767 to book your place:
Wed 27 May - Whitstable,
Fri 12 June - Broadstairs
Wed 15 July - Rye,
Fri 14 Aug - Eastbourne
Fri 11 Sep - Brighton

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 Saturday 6th June 2026.

Marriage: Please contact a priest. **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: £568.00 Building Fund: £34.00

Offertory Collection last week:

St. Joseph's: £937.22 St. Swithun's: £380.23

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:**



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 the Priests Training Fund.

11th Bromley Beavers have spaces. Thursdays 5.15-6.15pm in St Josephs Church Hall. Please Text Cerys for more information on 07939 516612.

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday 25th April

6.00pm Eileen Warren RIP (O'Brien)

Sunday 26th April

10.00am Lactancio Menezes RIP

Monday 27th April

10.00am John Dias RIP (Grace)

Saturday 2nd May

6.00pm People of the Parish

Sunday 3rd May

10.00am George Mariathas RIP

Monday 4th May

10.00am Int. Alison, Benoit Ville & Family

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

Car Park: Champion Timbers will be carrying out maintenance work and will need to erect some scaffolding in our car park from end April to end May. Parking spaces may be reduced.

Parish Social

Cancer Café Group will meet again on Tuesday 5th May from 1.30pm in the Upper Room.

The Dad's Group will meet for a board game night on Wednesday 29th April at 7.30pm in the Upper Room. Please contact: Richard Barrett on 07729 392936

The next Seniors Lunch will be held on **Tuesday 12th May** from 12 noon to 1.30pm in Holy Trinity House.

Cafod Plant Sale will be held outside St. Joseph's Church after the 6.00pm Mass on Saturday 16th May and after all Masses on Sunday 17th May. Lot's of tomato's. All proceeds are for Cafod. For further information please ring Gina on 07780 468767.

Parish Volunteers Cheese and Wine Evening on Saturday 20th June from 7.00-8.30pm in St. Joseph's Church Hall. All parish volunteers are invited to attend.

Parish/Primary School Summer Event to be held on Sunday 28th June 2026. Morning Mass will be followed by a picnic in the grounds of Holy Trinity House.

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

e: patrickessien@rcaos.org.uk

Deacon Barry

Tel: 07445 417335

e: barymellish@rcaos.org.uk

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

Mondays: Fr Saju and 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. For enquiries ring: Caroline O'Brien on 07961 413694.