

SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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

5th Sunday of Easter Year A 3rd May 2026

Readings on Page 265 of the Parish Mass Book

What is it to have *faith*? Often, we will talk about our *beliefs* as interchangeable with faith, but in today's Gospel we see a subtle difference between the two. That's because we sometimes confuse belief and knowledge with faith and Philip's question to Jesus demonstrates the problem that all of us face in truly embracing faith.

Today's gospel opens with Jesus attempting to reassure his disciples; telling them to have Faith in him. They have spent quite some time with Jesus, giving up their livelihoods to follow Him and to spread His teachings. At the last supper, after he had washed their feet and eaten with the them, Jesus foretold his betrayal by Judas as well as Peter. He commanded his disciples to love each other even as he predicts his own departure.

Jesus knows that this will frighten and confuse them, and so He emphasizes that they must have faith that He will ensure that they will join Him. After their long association with Jesus, asking them for faith seems a little strange; haven't they seen His works and seen Him teach more than anyone else? They have already known Jesus to be The Christ, even if they do not yet fully understand what that means for Jesus in Jerusalem.

They *know* who Jesus is, and they *believe* what He teaches. But knowledge and belief on their own are not *faith*. Philip makes this clear when he asks Jesus to just unveil the Father for their own *knowledge*. It's a test, in its way, as Philip's question demonstrates a hesitancy to *trust* in Jesus. Not that different from Thomas or even us?

When we find ourselves struggling with doubt or unable to relinquish control, we start trying to fit God into our own plans rather than fit ourselves into His. This should not surprise us as our reason and our experience works within our human limitations. We cannot possibly fit God into our own little boxes, no matter how highly we think of our own powers of rational thought. Jesus asks for faith, for the disciples and us to *trust* that He will lead us all to the Father.

Deacon Aidan

Mass Intentions

Saturday 2nd May St Athanasius

10.00am Augustine Thomas RIP
12.30pm **Baptism:** Aurelius Chin
6.00pm Regina Agum Agboguo RIP
(Veronica)

Sunday 3rd May 5th Sunday of Easter Safeguarding Sunday

8.00am Int Mary Seidel
9.15am Ben & Jo White RIP
11.00am William Cullen RIP
5.00pm Int. David & Deborah
Burford

Monday 4th May The English Martyrs Bank Holiday

10.00am Int. Anne-Marie Lohan

Tuesday 5th May

10.00am Paul Flynn RIP (Cunniffe)

Wednesday 6th May

10.00am John Vincent Fernandes RIP

Thursday 7th May

10.00am Int. Nicholas Bennett

Friday 8th May

10.00am Mark Donlan RIP (Nelligan)

Saturday 9th May

10.00am Emmanuel Anthony Pillai
RIP
11.00am FHC Mass
1.00pm **Wedding:** Katie Deacon &
Alessandro Freschi
6.00pm Josephine Sheriden RIP
(Bennett)

Sunday 10th May 6th Sunday of Easter

8.00am Deceased Relatives &
friends of Blythe & Maguire
families
9.15am People of the Parish
FHC Mass
11.00am FHC Mass
5.00pm Ray Atkinson RIP
(Nelligan)

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

Not Bank Holiday Monday

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.

There will be no Adoration and Confession after the 10.00am Masses on Saturday 9th & 16th May due to the First Holy Communion Masses at 11.00am.

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

Confirmation Session 6 will be held on Saturday 16th May at 3.45pm in Holy Trinity House.

RCAIA: Our Journey in Faith Group meet on Mondays at 8.00pm in Holy Trinity House. *Not this Bank Holiday Monday.* For all enquiries, please ring Matt Gibbs on 07955 084287 or contact the parish office.

The Archdiocese of Southwark has designated 3rd May 2026 as Safeguarding Sunday to focus on protecting children and vulnerable adults and to emphasise the safety of all individuals. For further information, please see posters in the foyer and outside cabinet.

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.

St Joseph's Youth Group for ages 11-18 years of age to be held monthly in the church hall starting on Saturday 16th May 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.

Rosary For Life. Archbishop John Wilson is calling on all of us to join him in praying the Rosary for Life this May (Month of Mary). Together, we will pray through the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries. For video, audio and written versions of the Rosary for Life, visit rcaos.org.uk/rosaryforlife.

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, Patricial Lefkaridi, Fr. David Peck and Gail Mortimer.

Please pray for our deceased relatives and friends, remembering, Mary Edwards, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Augustine Thomas, Regina Agum Agbogu, Ben & Jo White, William Cullen, Paul Flynn, John Vincent Fernandes, Mark Donlan, Emmanuel Anthony Pillai, Josephine Sheriden and Ray Atkinson.

May they rest in peace.

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.

Blessing of Pets will be held on Sunday 4th October 2026 after 11.00am Mass in the Holy Trinity garden.

Funeral: The funeral of Mary Edwards RIP will be held on Tuesday 2nd June 2026 at 11.30am. May she rest in peace. **Please note change of date.**

9.15am Sunday Mass:

17th May Uniform Groups

24th May Children's Liturgy

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

Rosary Novena Friday 22nd - Saturday 30th May

2026. A Rosary Novena will take place at the Grotto, adjacent to Holy Trinity House, after the daily 10am Mass until 11.30am approx. On 30th May the Novena will be completed with a procession with Our Lady's Statue to the Grotto, devotions and return to St Joseph's Church for Benediction. All are welcome to honour Our Blessed Lady in this way during her month of May.

Parish Meditation Group. You are warmly invited to "A Journey of Remembrance" **Spiritual Retreat** led by Mariana Mazzaferri (07428212864) at The Friars, Aylesford on Saturday 20th June, from 10am to 4pm. The Holy Mass will be celebrated by Fr Saju at 12 noon. If you wish to attend, inform the Parish office. For further info www.breathofspirit.co.uk

Coach Outing. Wed 27 May - Whitstable coach is full. If you would like to go but have not booked please call Gina who will request a larger coach when she has final numbers. 07780468767

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: £561.00 Building Fund: £24.00

Offertory Collection last week:

St. Joseph's: £1051.31 St. Swithun's: £151.06

Priest's Training Fund:

St. Joseph's: £728.54 St. Swithun's: £142.14

Cashless: £259.00

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 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)**

Our Scout Group Race Night will be held in St Josephs Church Hall, Friday 8th May, start 7pm. For more information and tickets please text Kathy on 07736446704. See poster in foyer of church.

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday 2nd May

6.00pm People of the Parish

Sunday 3rd May Safeguarding Sunday

10.00am George Mariathas RIP

Monday 4th May Bank Holiday

10.00am Int. Alison, Benoit Ville & Family

Saturday 9th May

6.00pm Nora McKeon RIP

Sunday 10th May

10.00am Jack Doherty RIP

Monday 11th May

10.00am Wellbeing Fr Vincent Doherty
(Madelina)

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 have erected scaffolding in our car park until the 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 The next meet up will be on Wednesday 20 May, 19.30-21.00, at The Crown, Plaistow Lane 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 on Sunday 28th June 2026. 10.00am Mass will be followed by a picnic in the grounds of Holy Trinity House. The 9.15am and the 11.00am Masses will be combined on this date.

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: barrymellish@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—Not Bank Holiday Monday

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.