



SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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3rd Sunday of Lent Year C

23rd March 2025

Readings on Page 160 of the Parish Mass Book

Bearing Fruits in Lent

The Scripture readings for this weekend present God's love for us as constant and consistent. The first reading (Exodus 3:1-8) explains how God shows His mercy to His chosen people by selecting Moses as their leader and liberator. God said to Moses, *'I have seen the miserable state of my people', 'I have heard their cry, I know their sufferings'*. Here the personal relationship of God with God's chosen people is visible. Our God is not someone far off from creation, but who dwells among us. Our world is going through the pains of war, struggles of illness and sense of insecurity. In this darkness of life, we trust in God who sees our miseries, hears our cry and knows our pain as Psalm 110 describes, *'The Lord is compassion and Love, slow to anger and rich in mercy'*.

The vine and the fig tree are long established metaphors for Israel in the Bible. In Luke 13:1-9, the parable of the fig tree planted in the vineyard was a powerful symbol in that culture. Fig tree has messianic significance. Israel should welcome the Messiah with a harvest of figs. Its absence is lack of preparation. The fig tree is an emblem of peace and prosperity. The hope for the future is expressed in terms of sitting in security under one's vine and one's fig tree and gathering fruit from them. Lack of fruit is lack of conversion, *metanoia*, which implies not just regret for the past but a radical conversion and a complete change in our way of life as we respond and open ourselves to the love of God. Repentance is a total commitment to the love of God, not partial.

Lent is an ideal time 'to dig around and feed' the tree of our life so that it may bring forth fruits of the Goodnews in us. The fruits God expects from us during Lent are repentance and renewal of life and humble service. Let us start producing fruits in the family by becoming more sensitive to the feelings of others, and by accepting each member of the family with love and respect. The Christian fruit of reconciliation will grow in the family when each member shows good will by forgiving others, and by asking their forgiveness. We become fruit-bearing in the community by caring for the unborn, the poor and the lonely. Let us keep a grace filled Lent.

Fr Saju.

Mass Intentions

Saturday 22nd March

10.00am Ivanka & Family (Slawek)

12 Noon

Baptism: Mirabel & Michelle Nwabumma

6.00pm

People of the Parish

Sunday 23rd March 3rd Sunday of Lent

8.00am

Eric Sayer RIP

9.15am

Int Barry & Margaret Mizen (Mellish)

11.00am

Filippo Spirito Senior RIP

5.00pm

Lily Carvalho RIP
JIF 1st Scrutiny

Monday 24th March

10.00am

Lily Carvalho RIP (Lowery)

Tuesday 25th March

The Annunciation of the Lord

10.00am

Holy Souls (Seidel)

Wednesday 26th March

10.00am

Deliverance of Irel Marino

10.30am

Stations of the Cross
(No Adoration)

Thursday 27th March

10.00am

Victoria & Emil Luis RIP
(Stoner)
& Whole School Mass

Friday 28th March

10.00am

Bernie Sheahan RIP
(Audrey)

6.00pm

Int. Roger & Maureen Evans
(Mellish)

Followed by Night Vigil

Saturday 29th March

5.15am

Holy Souls

10.00am

Carlo Gori RIP

6.00pm

Vincenza Inzalaco RIP

Sunday 30th March 4th Sunday of Lent

8.00am

Mary Pinakkattu Thomas RIP

9.15am

Eleanor Mary Grindle RIP

11.00am

Int. Benny Cyriac

5.00pm

Cecil Mariyathanan RIP
JIF 2nd Scrutiny

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday 22nd March

6.00pm Margaret & Benjamin Aloysius RIP

Sunday 23rd March

10.00am Paulina Noruega RIP

Monday 24th March

10.00am Zam Boniface Birthday Thanksgiving

Saturday 29th March

6.00pm People of the Parish

Sunday 30th March

10.00am Kevin Brenson RIP

Monday 31st March

10.00am Mary Dunne RIP

For Mass intentions please see Nelson.

St. Swithun Parish Hall bookings: 020 8402 0459

Stations of the Cross in Lent: Fridays at 7.00pm

Confession will be available in St. Swithun's Church on Saturdays between 5.20-5.45pm.

Tea & Coffee will be served in the church hall after the 10.00am Mass on Sundays. All welcome.

Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of Hope

A Night Vigil for the Jubilee Year will be held in St. Joseph's Church from 6.00pm on Friday 28th March to 6.00am on Saturday 29th March. Mass will be celebrated at 6.00pm to start the Night Vigil and will conclude with Mass at 5.15am the following morning.

Please complete the Sign-Up sheets in the foyer to ensure we have cover in the Church throughout the night. An Order of Service will be available containing prayers and scripture readings.

Parish Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi in the Jubilee Year: Dates: 6th – 10th October 2025

Travelling from Gatwick Airport

Cost: £1175 (per person sharing/ Single room supplement – £295.00 (LIMITED AVAILABILITY)

A few highlights: Entering through the Holy Doors of Basilicas in Rome to obtain plenary indulgence
Papal Audience

Visiting the tombs of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Claire and Carlo Acutis.

For more details and booking your seat immediately please email Susan Lowery at: slowery@hotmail.co.uk or contact the parish office.

Our Parish Faith Formation

All those registering to attend one of our **Sacramental Preparation Courses** are requested to meet with one of our priests during surgery hours. Surgeries will be held 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 reverse of Newsletter to enrol on our next Baptism Preparation Course.

FHC Parents Practical Planning Meeting to be held on Wednesday 26th March at 7.30pm in St. Joseph's Church Hall.

Confirmation Session 5 will be held in Holy Trinity House on Saturday 29th March at 3.45pm for 4.00pm start.

The Journey in Faith Group will join the Lent Talk on Monday 24th March at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity House. Please contact Matt Gibbs on 07955 084287 or email: bromleyrcia@rcoas.org.uk

Funerals in St. Joseph's Church:

The funeral of Michael Holland RIP will be held on Monday 31st March at 11.30am.

The funeral of Clare Pascoe RIP will be held on Friday 4th April at 11.30am.

The funeral of Eileen O'Reilly RIP will be held on Tuesday 8th April at 11.30am.

As a parish community we offer our prayers with deepest sympathy to the family and friends of all the deceased. May they Rest in Peace.

Family Mass on Sundays at 9.15 am

30th March Children's Liturgy

18th April Good Friday —9.30am Children's

Stations of the Cross in the Church Hall.

20th April Children's Liturgy

For Children's Liturgy parents are welcome to meet in the hall at 9.10am. **Please note:** Children attending Children's Liturgy must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Called to Bear Fruit. Thank you to all those who took the time to attend one of the recent meetings. The group leaders will submit their responses to the Diocese directly.

Lent in our Parish

Stations of the Cross in St. Joseph's Church:

Wednesdays at 10.30am following the 10.00am Mass

Fridays at 7.30pm

Parish Lent Talks will be held from 7.30-8.30pm in Holy Trinity House on the following Monday evenings during Lent:

24th March Pilgrims of Holy Eucharist

31st March Pilgrims of Word of God

Tea and coffee will be served from 7.00pm.

Canon Gerard Bradley (Episcopal Vicar, Southwest) will give two talks in St. Joseph's Church on Wednesday 9th April:

10.30-11.00am and **7.30-8.30pm** followed by Parish Lent Confession. There will be 3 priests available to hear Confession.

Confessions will also be available on 14th & 15th April from 10.30-11.30am

All Readers and Special Ministers are invited to an information session led by Fr Saju on Saturday 14th June from 10.30am-12 noon in Holy Trinity House. To include updated guidelines and a practical session.

Parish Skills Survey. Your participation in this survey is valuable and much appreciated. Thank you for your generous response. Fr Saju.

Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, July 12th, at St George's Cathedral. If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know as soon as possible, **and no later than the middle of May**, providing the following details: your names in the format John and Mary Smith, your home address, your parish, and the anniversary you are celebrating, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Spaces are limited. Contact us at mflse@rcaos.org.uk As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Clapham, Beckenham. **Marriage and Family Life South East.**

Archdiocesan Jubilee Celebration Day at The Friars, Aylesford 7th June 2025. Led by Archbishop John Wilson, a day of prayer, reflection, celebration, and fun. Mass will be celebrated at 3.00pm. There will also be a walking pilgrimage from St George's Cathedral in Southwark to The Friars (2-6 June 2025). Please see: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/pilgrimage2025> and posters in the foyer of the church.

Supporting the Parish

Parish Finances for last week

Average weekly standing order contributions: £1400.

Mass Offertory last weekend:

St Joseph's: £1333.08 St. Swithun's: £181.91

Cafod Lent Fast Day:

Sr Joseph's: £1402.08 St. Swithun's: £318.08

Weekly Offertory. Thank you for your continued generosity to your Parish. We are grateful to all those who have set up standing orders for their weekly offering. If other parishioners would like the parish bank details to set up a standing order please email either the parish office or: bromleygac@rcaos.org.uk.

This weekend there will be a second collection for Poor Parishes.

St George's Cathedral in Southwark is hosting a Shroud of Turin Exhibition from 12 March to 21 April. At the exhibition you can see a life-sized replica of the Shroud of Turin and learn more about the artefact which many believe to have been used to wrap the body of the Lord Jesus after his crucifixion. For further information please see: <https://www.stgeorgescathedral.org.uk>

The next Seniors' Lunch will be held on Tuesday 15th April from 12 noon to 1.30pm in Holy Trinity House. Please let the parish office know if you would like to attend.

The Dad's Group will meet again on Wednesday 26th March at 7.30pm in the Upper Room. This is open to all dads who still have a child at school. Contact: Richard Barrett on 07729 392936 or email: rgtbarrett@gmail.com.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day. Thank you very much for your generous donations. **One of our parishioners, Tommy Lane, will be running the London Marathon to raise money for Cafod.** If you would like to sponsor him please see: https://www.justgiving.com/page/thomas-lane-1727617274635?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

The Cake Sale last Sunday organised by the Uniform Groups raised £25.40 for our SVP Group. Thank you to all those who supported the cake sale.

Summer Days Out. The coach is booked for 22 May going to Folkestone. Call Gina to book on 07780468767.

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, Sr Jeanne Madeleine, Betty Byrne, Mary Edwards, Cathy Mair, Sandra Shaw, Carol Cambridge, Faith Millar, Stella Ludlam, Robert Straker, Bennett Marcellus, Paul Gibbs, Mary Scanlon, Utz & Yoko Reiff, Simon Franks, Paul Emans, Brian Daley, Veronica Alanemo, 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, Michael Holland, Sister Janet Thomas, Eileen O'Reilly, Trevor Geopfert, Clare Pascoe, Robert Fitzpatrick, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Eric Sayer, Filippo Spirito Senior, Lily Carvalho, Victoria & Emil Luis, Bernie Sheahan, Carlo Gori, Vincenza Inzalaco, Mary Pinakkattu Thomas, Eleanor Mary Grindle and Cecil Mariyathanan.

May they rest in peace.

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: Parents & Expectant Parents—You are invited to register for your child's baptism on line: www.stjosephsbromley.org/baptism-registration. A separate form needs to be completed for each child. Please register, and then come 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.

Marriage: Please contact a priest or deacon. **Six Months notice is required.**

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

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.