



SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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4th Sunday of Lent Year C

30th March 2025

Readings on Page 168 of the Parish Mass Book

Merciful Embrace of God

The fourth Sunday of Lent is set aside for us to recall God's graciousness. This Sunday we celebrate Mother's day, and today we recall the graciousness of our mothers and we entrust them gratefully to God's blessing. **Happy Mother's Day.**

The Gospel reading for this Sunday (**Luke 15:11-32**), the parable of the prodigal son presents to us the return of the son and the merciful embrace of God. In the parable the younger son without waiting for his father to decide on property, asks for his share of the inheritance. Normally the property was divided only after the death of the father. Instead the younger son abandons his duties and responsibilities in the family and goes abroad to live a life of fun. His reckless lifestyle drains his fortunes and he finds himself reduced to abject poverty and misery. Once abandoned by his friends, he condescends to feed pigs, which Jews regard as unclean animals, showing the depths of degradation in which he finds himself. A life away from the divine leads people to a situation where they lose all sense of shame and decency.

This parable similarly is the story of the joy of a loving and forgiving father who celebrates the return of his prodigal son by throwing a big party in his honour, a banquet celebrating the reconciliation of the son with his father, his family, his community, and his God. The prodigal son is anyone of us who takes courage to come back to God, in faith that God will bestow his mercy and forgiveness to restore their relationship with God. The beautiful moment of the story is that while the younger son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. The Forgiving Father runs out to meet his son. The Father is overwhelmed with joy. The son also felt the joy of being forgiven and restored to a loving relationship with the Father. This describes perfectly the relationship God has with us. Even when we are far off, God is there waiting for us, waiting to welcome us. In Lent we have a special opportunity to celebrate the mercy of God. On Wednesday 9th April, Canon Gerard Bradley will prepare us to celebrate the Sacrament of Mercy. Let us experience this merciful embrace of God in the Sacrament of confession, and not to remain outside as the elder son in the parable, in order to share the joy of resurrection. **Fr. Saju**

Mass Intentions

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 Mariyathasan RIP
JIF 2nd Scrutiny

Monday 31st March

10.00am Mike Heys RIP
11.30am **Funeral:**
Michael Holland RIP

Tuesday 1st April

10.00am Roderick Feeny RIP

Wednesday 2nd April

10.00am Andy Whitelaw RIP (Bennett)
10.30am Stations of the Cross
(No Adoration)

Thursday 3rd April

10.00am Dominic Bennett RIP

Friday 4th April

10.00am Deceased Relatives & Friends of McKenna & Curran Families
11.30am **Funeral: Clare Pascoe RIP**

Saturday 5th April

10.00am Thanksgiving of Esther, Mary & Aliane
6.00pm Marie Holsgrove RIP (Foley)

Sunday 6th April 5th Sunday of Lent

8.00am People of the Parish
9.15am David & Catherine Murray
50th Wedding Anniversary
11.00am Florence: Deliverance & Protection
5.00pm Matthew Sherman RIP
JIF 3rd Scrutiny

Happy Mother's Day. We wish all the mothers and grandmothers in our parish a very Happy Mother's Day on Sunday.

Reminder: The clocks go forward one hour at 1.00am on Sunday 30th March.

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday 29th March

6.00pm People of the Parish

Sunday 30th March

10.00am Wellbeing of Mary Bates

Monday 31st March

10.00am Mary Dunne RIP

Saturday 5th April

6.00pm Rodrigues Family Thanksgiving

Sunday 6th April

10.00am Perpetua Vasco Noronha RIP

Monday 7th April

10.00am Nora McKeon RIP

For Mass Intentions please see Nelson

St Swithun's 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.

Jubilee 2025 Pilgrims of Hope

Parish Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi in the Jubilee Year: Dates: 7th – 11th October 2025

Travelling from Gatwick Airport

For further information please email Susan Lowery at: sclowery@hotmail.co.uk or contact the parish office.

Family Mass on Sundays at 9.15 am

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.

Tea and Coffee will be served in the Church Hall after the 9.15am Mass. All welcome.

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

Please note: There will be **NO** surgery on Mondays 14th & 21st April 2025.

Baptism Preparation. Please see reverse of Newsletter to enrol on our next Baptism Preparation Course.

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 31st March at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity House. Please contact Matt Gibbs on 07955 084287 or email: bromleyrcia@rcoas.org.uk

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 mfise@rcaos.org.uk As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Clapham, Beckenham. **Marriage and Family Life South East, Diocese of Southwark.**

Funeral:

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

Missio Red Boxes. If anyone would like their box emptied please leave at back of either church or in the Parish Office before 13th April, Thankyou.

A new Playgroup will be opening in St. Swithun's Hall on Tuesday 22nd April 2025. For further information please contact Caroline O'Brien on 07525 651031 or email: stjosephsplaygrouppltd@gmail.com

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

A Parish Lent Talk will be given from 7.30-8.30pm in Holy Trinity House on Monday 31st March.

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.

Dates for your Diary:

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.

Festival of Hope and Flame on Sunday 22nd June

2025. St. Joseph's Parish and Primary School are joining together to celebrate Jubilee 2025 in St. Joseph's Church. The children of the Primary School will present a drama of Pentecost in the Church Hall followed by a bring and share picnic and fun and games in the parish garden. All are welcome to attend this great community event. Please feel free to dress in your cultural dress. **More details to follow.**

Thank you Day for Parish Volunteers. A Cheese and Wine evening will be held on Saturday 12th July after the 6.00pm Mass in the Church Hall. Fr Saju would like to request all volunteers to attend it.

Sharing from Flame 2025. *Flame 2025 was an ecstatic experience. It was a great way to connect with Catholics and God. It was an honour to meet Bear Grylls and receive an unreleased book that he wrote, "The Greatest Story Ever Told". I have learned new things that have opened my mind and soul. Flame is a wonderful experience that offers opportunities for deepening faith through talks and prayer sessions. It brings together young Catholics from various backgrounds fostering a sense of community. I will be looking forward to Flame 2027. Weronika*

Supporting the Parish

Parish Finances for last week

Average weekly standing order contributions: £1400.

Mass Offertory last weekend:

St Joseph's: £1052.15 St. Swithun's: £151.91

Poor Parishes:

Sr Joseph's: £552.91 St. Swithun's: £146.75

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.

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. Please see: www.stgeorgescathedral.org.uk

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.

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 Seniors' Lunch Group have donated £100 to Mary's Meals** which is a charity working across the world to ensure there is enough food for everyone.

The Dad's Group will meet again on Wednesday 30th April, 19.30-21.00, at The Crown, Plaistow Lane. We will have another board game evening. This is open to all dads who still have a child at school. Contact: Richard Barrett on 07729 392936 or email: rgtbarrett@gmail.com.

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

Please pray for our deceased relatives and friends, remembering, Celia Sweeny, Michael Holland, Sister Janet Thomas, Eileen O'Reilly, Clare Pascoe, Robert Fitzpatrick, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Carlo Gori, Vincenza Inzalaco, Mary Pinakkattu Thomas, Eleanor Mary Grindle, Cecil Mariyathan, Mike Heys, Roderick Feeney, Andy Whitelaw, Dominic Bennett, Marie Holsgrove and Matthew Sherman.
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.