

SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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Twenty-Seventh Sunday Year B 6th October 2024

Readings on Page 140 of the Parish Mass Book

Marriage: Vocation to Holiness

You may well recall the opening lines in the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis on love in the family, *The Joy of Love* which states, "the joy of love experienced in the families is also the joy of the Church". This statement first of all is an invitation to Christian families to value the gifts of marriage and the family as well as to experience the closeness of the church in their joy and challenges. From the first reading for this weekend (Genesis 2:18-24) we understand that God established the family by joining man and woman, thereby enabling them to alleviate the solitude which man felt amidst the animals and the world around him; and to become one body not only in its *physical* dimension, but in its voluntary self giving in love, a union of hearts and lives. Jesus, as we read in this week's Gospel, presents the original plan of God for man and woman as the indissolubility of marriage saying, 'what God has joined together, let no man put asunder' (Mark 10:2-16). This message is carried on among the early Christians as we read in Hebrews, "Let marriage be held in honour among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled" (Hebrew 13:4).

A crisis in a couple's relationship destabilizes the family and may lead to serious consequences for adults, children and society including the church. The church reminds us that the sacrament of marriage is not a social convention, an empty ritual or merely an outward sign of a commitment. It is a vocation to live the covenant of love and fidelity, "inasmuch as it is a response to a specific call to experience conjugal love as an imperfect sign of the love between Christ and the Church". (Ref. *The Joy of Love*). This analogy therefore reminds us to pray for an outpouring of God's divine love on every married couple. Similarly, the Church's pastoral care with love for the couple in irregular union provides an opportunity to journey towards celebrating this sacrament as a covenant and commitment, given for the sanctification and salvation of the spouses. This week let us pray for all couples that they may continue to witness marriage as a vocation and to inspire young people to embrace it with joy.

Fr. Saju

Mass Intentions

Saturday 5th October

10.00am Int Georgia Moorvan
6.00pm Deceased members of Selvanathan Family

Sunday 6th October 27th Sunday

8.00am John & Lily Robertson RIP
9.15am People of the Parish
FHC Signed with the Cross
11.00am Vincenzina Grillo RIP (Russo)
12.30pm **Baptism: Jack Herbert**
5.00pm Richard Spoor RIP (Lohan)

Monday 7th October

Our Lady of the Rosary

10.00am Ruby Carvalho RIP

Tuesday 8th October

10.00am Richard Samuel RIP (Seidel)

Wednesday 9th October

St John Henry Newman

10.00am Holy Souls in Purgatory

Thursday 10th October

10.00am Holy Souls (Allen & Soumia)

Friday 11th October

10.00am Tim McCarthy RIP (Adams)

Saturday 12th October

10.00am Teresa, Mary & PJ O'Sullivan RIP
6.00pm Wellbeing Joseph Molony

Sunday 13th October 28th Sunday

8.00am Deceased members of John & Mary Heneghan & Family (Davies)
9.15am People of the Parish
11.00am Joseph & Harriet Peat RIP (Spink)
12.30am **Baptism: Ada Murphy**
5.00pm Int Henry & Elizabeth Murphy
50th Wedding Anniversary (Armstrong-Denby)

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday 5th October

6.00pm Benjamin & Margaret Aloysius RIP

Sunday 6th October

10.00am Wellbeing of Maria Antonia Lopes

Monday 7th October

10.00am Wellbeing of Rincy Lopes

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

Sunday Tea & Coffee will be served in the church hall after the 10.00am Mass.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Daily Mass is livestreamed and available by visiting the Parish Website:

<https://www.stjosephsbromley.org/>

Please click on the link for the daily Mass. If you wish to receive communion out of sight of the camera, please speak to a priest before Mass.

Surgery Cancelled on Monday 7th October

Due to a meeting in Archbishop's House on this date, Fr Saju and Deacon Barry will be unable to hold their surgery. Please accept our apology. Surgery will resume on 14th October.

Third National Mass Count will be taken at all Masses this weekend.

Children's Liturgy will be held during the 9.15am Mass on Sunday 6th October.

Tea and coffee will be served in the Club Room after the 9.15am Mass on Sundays. All welcome.

Congratulations to our First Holy Communion Children who will celebrate the rite of Signing with the Cross as another stage of their preparation.

Induction Mass. Fr Saju's Induction Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Philip Moger on Saturday 26th October at 6.00pm in St. Joseph's Church. This will be followed by refreshments in the church hall. To assist with planning, please enter your name on the **Sign-Up Sheet** in the foyer to confirm your attendance. **Please note:** On this date there will be **NO 6.00pm Mass** at St. Swithun's. All parishioners are invited to attend Fr Saju's Induction Mass.

Our Parish Faith Formation

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

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Session 4 will be held on Monday 7th October, Friday 11th October & Saturday 12th October. All families have been allocated a date and time to attend their session.

FHC Rite of Signed with the Cross will be celebrated during the 9.15am Mass on Sunday 6th October.

Confirmation Preparation for 2024-2025 If your child will be in Year 8 or above in September you are welcome to apply. Please click on the following link: <https://www.stjosephsbromley.org/confirmation/>

The Confirmation Diary for 2024-2025 is available to view on the parish website.

A Confirmation Parents Information Meeting to be held on Thursday 7th November at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity House. Further information will be given out at this meeting.

The Journey in Faith Group will meet on Monday 7th October at 8.00pm in Holy Trinity House. New enquirers only. For further information please contact Matt Gibbs on 07955 084287 or email: bromleyrcia@rcoas.org.uk

Funerals: The funeral of Olivia O'Connor RIP will be held in St. Joseph's Church on Friday 25th October at 12.30pm.

Anne Cerase died peacefully on 19th September. Details of her funeral will be announced in due course.

St Joseph's Primary School Open Days.

Wednesday 9th October from 9.30-11.00am

Wednesday 13th November from 9.30-11.00am

Tuesday 26th November at 7.00pm

Monday 9th December from 2.00-3.30pm

Wednesday 8th January from 9.30-11.00am

For further information please see poster in foyer and www.st-josephs.bromley.sch.uk

Prayer for Peace on Day of Prayer, Fasting and Penance - Monday 7th October.

For the past year the Holy Land has been plunged into a vortex of violence and hatred. After the 10.00am Mass on Monday we will pray the Prayer for Peace. Copies will be available in the foyer of the church.

Black History Month. October is a month when we, as a country, celebrate Black History Month to acknowledge and honour over 150 years of Caribbean emancipation from slavery. Canon Victor Darlington has prepared a letter, copies of which are available in the foyer of the church and also emailed out with this Newsletter.

Life in Truth—St John Diploma in Spiritual Formation. This is particularly helpful to anyone interested in learning more about the path to prayer. Please see www.lifeintruth.org and poster in foyer.

The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies. The CCRS is a knowledge-based, internationally recognised qualification that provides participants with an understanding of the teachings of the Catholic faith. Please see: aec.rcaos.org.uk/ccrs

The Archbishop's Certificate (ArchCert) is a two-year online course incorporating three in person study days for all in Southwark who wish to understand their faith in a more profound way and be able to share it with both confidence and joy. The course will commence on **12 October 2024** with an introductory zoom session and the first in person session will take place on 19 October 2024 at St George's Cathedral. Further details can be found here: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/archcert>. If you have any questions please email archcert@aec.rcaos.org.uk

Missio Red Box Holders. Boxes may be left at the back of either Church or brought to the parish office. Thank you so much for your continued support for Missio's missionary work.

Supporting the Parish

Parish Finances for last week

Average weekly standing order contributions: £1400.

Mass Offertory last weekend:

St Joseph's: £ 1062.25 St. Swithun's: £147.12

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

The Cafod Harvest Fast Day collection will be taken at all Masses this weekend. Donation envelopes are available in the foyer of the church.

Seniors' Lanches. The next Seniors' Lunch will be held on 16th October from 12 noon to 1.30pm in Holy Trinity House. Please let the parish office know if you would like to attend. From November the monthly Seniors Lanches will take place on a Tuesday. This will give Fr Saju the opportunity to meet all the senior parishioners in the parish.

Prisoners' Sunday 13th October. National Day of Prayer and Action for prisoners and their families. This is an opportunity for us to direct our thoughts and prayers to the needs of prisoners, their families and all who work in and are affected by the criminal justice system. For further information and to donate to PACT please see: www.prisonadvice.org.uk/

Sundridge Court Nursing Home Open Day on Thursday 10th October from 10.00am to 2.00pm at 19 Edward Road, Bromley BR1 3NG. This is an opportunity to tour of the facilities and meet with the staff and residents. Refreshments will be available.

A Day with Mary to be held at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 12th October. The day commences with the Entry Procession at 9.45am. Mass will be celebrated at 10.30am with the Cathedral Choir. See poster in foyer or see: <https://www adaywithmary.org/>

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, Quin Francis, Nichola Ibe-Spence, Vanessa Leary, James Brown, Clairey & Cathey, Cathy Mair, Sue Fraser, Roger Wintle, Stella Ludham, Utz & Yoko Reiff, Ava Pedder, Patricia Supple, Luke Kelly, Simon Franks, Paul Emans, Agnes Achampong, 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, Olivia O'Connor, Anne Cerase, Tim McCarthy, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, John & Lily Robertson, Richard Spoor, Ruby Carvalho, Richard Samuel, Teresa, Mary & PJ O'Sullivan and Joseph & Harriet Peat.

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 we will contact you to arrange a meeting with a priest/deacon. If you have completed one of our Preparation Courses please email the parish office to book a date and time for your child's baptism.

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	Tel: 020 8402 0459	e: sajuthomas@rcaos.org.uk
Fr Patrick Essien	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 Wednesday: Fr Patrick & Deacon Garry
(No surgery on Monday 7th October)

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.