

SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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

Thirtieth-Sunday Year B 17th November 2024

Readings on Page 157 of the Parish Mass Book

In his most recent Papal Encyclical Letter, *Dilexit Nos*, the Holy Father raises some key points, he says: *Instead of running after superficial satisfactions and playing a role for the benefit of others, we would do better to think about the really important questions in life. Who am I really? What am I looking for? What direction do I want to give to my life, my decisions and my actions? Why and for what purpose am I in this world? How do I want to look back on my life once it ends? What meaning do I want to give to all my experiences? Who do I want to be for others? Who am I for God?*

Each one of us is important to God, we are all part of his plan even if we do not know or fully understand the role that we are to play.

In a world where everything is bought and sold, people's sense of their worth appears increasingly to depend on what they can accumulate with the power of money. We are constantly being pushed to keep buying, consuming and distracting ourselves, held captive to a demeaning system that prevents us from looking beyond our immediate and petty needs.

The love of Christ has no place in this perverse mechanism, yet only that love can set us free from a mad pursuit that no longer has room for a gratuitous love. Christ's love can give a heart to our world and revive love wherever we think that the ability to love has been definitively lost.

Life is a gift from God emanating from his love for us and we do not have the authority to decide when life ends. Euthanasia and suicide as a rejection of God's sovereignty over life and death. The decision to take one's own life often comes as a result of issues like poor pain management, despair and loneliness, or the feeling of being a burden on family and others. These conditions can be addressed with better palliative and psychological care. We don't give enough attention to people near the end of life because we're afraid of the end of life and don't want to come to grips with it.

As faithful followers of Jesus we should do all in our power to oppose the legislation that is currently before Parliament which seeks to undermine God's Sovereignty. If you have not yet written to your MP, please do so before it is too late.

Deacon Barry

Mass Intentions

Saturday 16th November

10.00am Memorial Mass
6.00pm Marie Holsgrove RIP
(Sherman)

Sunday 17th November 33rd Sunday

8.00am Tim McCarthy RIP (Heys)
9.15am People of the Parish
11.00am Mary & Gerald Cullen RIP
12.30pm **Baptism: Chinedu Ezugwu**
5.00pm Elias & Rosemary Sahyoun
25th Wedding Anniversary

Monday 18th November

10.00am Miriam & Georg Agiru
Thanksgiving

Tuesday 19th November

10.00am Int Kelly Alexander &
Children (Holmes)

Wednesday 20th November

10.00am Dr Patrick Denvir RIP

Thursday 21st November

Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

10.00am Seamus Power RIP
(Crosby)

Friday 22nd November St Cecilia

10.00am Int. Fr Saju
Ordination Anniversary

Saturday 23rd November

10.00am Deceased Member of the
Legion of Mary
6.00pm George & Bernadette
Ross RIP

Sunday 24th November Christ the King

8.00am A. Jonas and deceased
family members
(Leema Rose)
9.15am People of the Parish
11.00am Robert & Eileen Macey RIP
5.00pm Lucia Holder RIP

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday 16th November

6.00pm Mark Gurrin RIP

Sunday 17th November

10.00am Pauline Dempsey RIP

Monday 18th November

10.00am Sarah Lattimore RIP

Saturday 23rd November

6.00pm Deceased members of Lopes &
Menezes Family

Sunday 24th November

10.00am Wellbeing of Jenny Noruega &
Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary

Monday 25th November

10.00am Sarah Lattimore RIP

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/>

Visits to the Housebound. If you are housebound and unable to attend Mass please inform the parish office. One of our Priests or Special Ministers will be happy to visit you and bring Holy Communion.

Altar Servers. All Altar servers who have been trained and Inducted in our parish may kindly serve at our Masses as per given rota.

Children's Liturgy will be held during the 9.15am Mass on Sunday 24th November.

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

November - Month of the Holy Souls. In November we are reminded to offer prayers for the Holy Souls. A Book of the Deceased is available in the Sacred Heart Chapel. Please enter the names of deceased relatives and friends who will be remembered during the month of November.

Pope Francis' November Intention: Pope Francis asks us to pray for anyone who has lost a child. We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

A Memorial Mass will be offered on Saturday 16th November at 10.00am in St. Joseph's Church for all those who have died in the past year in the Parish. All are welcome to attend this special Memorial Mass. Tea and coffee will be served afterwards in Holy Trinity House.

Assisted Suicide Bill. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales are asking Catholics to contact their local MP in advance of the debate on the new Assisted Suicide Bill on Friday 29th November. The Bill proposes a change in the law which would legalise assisted suicide. There is a chance that this Bill could be defeated on 29th but it is currently a close call. For further information please see:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/>

Cards are available in the foyer of the church to sign and post to your MP.

Our SVP Group will be hosting a Christmas Celebration for the Sick and Housebound. A Service with Anointing of the Sick will take place on Sunday 8th December at 2.00pm in St. Joseph's Church. Our SVP Group will serve tea and coffee in the church hall after the service. All our sick and housebound parishioners and those in Nursing Homes are invited to attend.

Baptism Family Gathering and Thanksgiving Service to be held on Saturday 18th January 2025 at 11.30am in St. Joseph's Church. All families in the parish who have celebrated their child's baptism in the last two years are invited to attend.

Our Parish Faith Formation

All those registering to attend one of our **Sacramental Preparation Courses** are invited to meet with one of our priests during surgery hours.

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

First Holy Communion Parents Review of Sacrament of Reconciliation to be held on Wednesday 20th November at 7.30pm in the church hall.

First Reconciliation will be celebrated on Saturday 23rd November. Deacon Garry will inform all families of the time to attend.

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 Journey in Faith Group will meet next Wednesday 20th November 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

Christ The King Youth Day will be held on Saturday 23rd November from 11.30am-6pm in St. Joseph's Church hall. This will be followed by Youth Mass. Join us to celebrate Christ the King of Heaven & Earth. Entry is £10 including lunch and snacks. Some activities and the tuck shop are extra. If you're joining us for the first time, why not bring a friend. **To register, please email Lolly Bell at: lollybell@rcoas.org.uk or scan the QR code on the poster in the foyer.** Payment is by cash on the door. We look forward to greeting all young people in the deanery aged 8-18.

Seniors' Lunch. Thank you to all the volunteers who kindly prepared the sandwiches and cakes for the recent lunch. **The next Seniors' Lunch** will be held on **Tuesday 10th December** from 12 noon to 1.30pm in Holy Trinity House. Please let the parish office know if you would like to attend.

Churches Together in Central Bromley will be singing Christmas Carols in The Glades on Saturday 7th December between 2-4pm.

Supporting the Parish Parish Finances for last week

Average weekly standing order contributions: £1400.

Mass Offertory last weekend:

St Joseph's: £1101.91 St. Swithun's: £142.20

Archbishop's Appeal:

St. Joseph's: £568.59 St. Swithun's: £62.52

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@rcoas.org.uk.

Next weekend there will be a second collection for Catholic Youth Services.

The Dad's Group will meet again for Christmas drinks at The Crown Pub, Plaistow Lane, at 19.30pm on Monday 2nd December. This is open to all dads who still have a child at school and is an opportunity for dads in the parish to get to know one another.

Ss Joseph & Swithun Christmas Day Lunch in St. Joseph's Church Hall. The lunch will be held after the 11.00am Mass. For more information and to register your attendance, please ring 07932 674557 or 020 8402 0459.

Christmas Trees. We will be selling Christmas Trees again this year for delivery to your home. Please see Order Form in the foyer of the church or emailed out with this Newsletter.

Bromley Borough Foodbank Christmas Appeal. Help support your Foodbank this Christmas. Please place your donations in the Donation Box in the foyer of St. Joseph's Church. See posters in foyer of church for the list of suitable donations. For further information, please see: www.bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk

Kathy Barber will give a short Appeal at the end of all Masses at St. Joseph's this weekend.

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, Bernie Sheanan, 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, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Marie Holsgrove, Mary & Gerald Cullen, Dr Patrick Denvir, Seamus Power, George & Bernadette Ross and Robert & Eileen Macey. **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 (Monday or Wednesday) 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	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

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.