

SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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

4th Sunday of Advent Year C 22nd December 2024

Readings on Page 90 of the Parish Mass Book

Joy of Christmas as Pilgrims of Hope

During the midweek we gather to celebrate Christmas. We welcome you all to the Christmas Masses especially all those who are back home from University or their work place to join your family and friends. We wish you all and your loved ones a joyful Christmas.

All four weekends of Advent we have been reflecting on the four parts of the Holy Mass and subsequently this weekend's homily will focus on the Rite of Communion and Mission. The Advent reflection on Holy Mass offers us an opportunity to engage with the liturgy to grow in our preparation, reverence and appreciation for the Eucharist. Our contemplation of the Eucharist forms into a renewed relationship and to a personal encounter with Jesus Christ; and Holy Mass stays as the source and summit of our personal and parish life.

On Christmas day the Angels bring us the good news of great joy for all the people, for to us is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. In the words of Pope Benedict XVI, 'from the infinite horizon of his love God wished to enter into the limits of human history and the human condition. He took on a body and a heart. Thus we can contemplate and encounter the infinite in the finite, the invisible and ineffable mystery' becomes Christmas. As we ponder on the love of God, I, as your Parish Priest, thank God and you for all the blessings God continues to bestow upon our parish through your various ministries. The Pastoral Team, Parish secretary, all the Committees and Groups, and other volunteers in the Parish are remembered with gratitude in this season of joy. Likewise I thank you for the Christmas cards, generous Christmas offerings and gifts that Fr. Patrick and I have been receiving this season.

We prepare with great hope this year for Christmas as we always do for the celebration of the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us. The birth of a child is, in all cultures, a source of happiness and hope for those who receive it as a gift of life, even in the midst of disease, natural disasters and war around us. With the birth of Jesus there is a renewal of hope and the desire to build a better future than the present. Let that hope be the gift of Christmas for us to walk as 'Pilgrims of Hope', into the New Year 2025. Wishing you the peace and joy of Christmas,

Fr. Saju and the Pastoral Team

Saturday 21st December

10.00am Agnes Achampong RIP
6.00pm People of the Parish

Sunday 22nd December

4th Sunday of Advent

8.00am Terence Noel Flynn RIP
9.15am Int Fr Saju (Cyriac)
11.00am Thelma Malone RIP
5.00pm Dearly departed members of Fogarty Family (Grillo)

Monday 23rd December

10.00am **Funeral: Emilio Demetz RIP**

Tuesday 24th December **Christmas Eve**

5.00pm William Cullen RIP
7.00pm Frank Lohan RIP
Midnight Cecil Maryithasan RIP

Wednesday 25th December

Christmas Day

8.00am Linda McGee RIP (Lowery)
9.15am Dorothy Samuel RIP (Seidel)
11.00am Luigi & Giulia Natalina Zanre RIP

Thursday 26th December **St. Stephen**

10.00am Padraic & Maureen McDonagh RIP (Lohan)

Friday 27th December **St John**

10.00am Ivan Kightly RIP (Spink)

Saturday 28th December

The Holy Innocents

10.00am Anthony Flynn RIP (Cunniffe)
6.00pm Alma Whitelaw RIP (Bennett)

Sunday 29th December **The Holy Family**

8.00am People of the Parish
9.15am Camilla Pettit RIP
11.00am Bridget & Pat McDonagh RIP (Lohan)
5.00pm Geraldine Colleary RIP (Chandler)

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday 21st December

6.00pm Arthur Hopkins & Lilian Edwards RIP

Sunday 22nd December 4th Sunday of Advent

10.00am Paddy Bates RIP

Monday 23rd December

10.00am Maggie, Jossie & Mary Dunne RIP

Tuesday 24th December Christmas Eve

6.00pm

Wednesday 25th December Christmas Day

10.00am

Saturday 28th December

6.00pm People of the Parish

Sunday 29th December

10.00am Wellbeing of Jorge Noruega

Monday 30th December

10.00am Peace in the World

For Mass intentions please see Nelson.

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

St. Swithun Parish Hall bookings: 020 8402 0459

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.

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve – Tuesday 24th December 2024

St. Joseph's Church

Holy Mass -5.00pm

Holy Mass 7.00pm

Midnight Mass *(a Carol Service from 11.30pm)*

St. Swithun's Church: Holy Mass -6.00pm

Christmas Day – Wednesday 25th December 2024

St. Joseph's Church

Holy Mass - 8.00am, 9.15am and 11.00am

St. Swithun's Church 10.00am

St Stephen's Day (Boxing Day) –

Thursday 26th December 2024

St. Joseph's Church 10.00am

Christmas Offerings. Christmas offerings are traditionally your personal gift to your priests in the Parish. The collection taken on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, together with anything placed in the White Christmas Offering envelopes constitute your personal gift to Fr Saju and Fr Patrick. White envelopes are now available at the entrance and exit of our two churches. If you are in the Gift Aid Scheme please put your name and postcode on the envelope so that we can claim the tax refund. If you have a pack of gift aid envelopes you can use the envelope which is marked Christmas Offering 25 December 2024. You can place the envelope you use in a collection bag at any of our Christmas Masses or at other Sunday Masses. They can also be handed in at the Parish Office at any other time. If you wish to make your Christmas offering via bank transfer to the parish bank account, please use the following Account:

Name: RCAS St. Swithun Gift Aid

Account Number: 27868508

Sort Code: 60 04 02 **Reference:** Christmas or pay by selecting 'Christmas Donations' on the cashless terminals at the entrances of St. Joseph's Church. You can also scan the QR code below which will enable you to access the Parish cashless system whenever it is convenient. If you are a taxpayer please gift aid your offering as it will enable the Parish to claim tax back from HMRC which is equivalent to a quarter of what you give. Thank you very much.



Pastoral Placement: Theodore De Menezes, 23 years of age, is a seminarian of our Archdiocese and currently studying at the English College, Valladolid,. Theodore as part of his pastoral placement will be staying in the Parish from 3-29th January 2025. He is from Surbiton Parish and originally studied Mechanical and Electrical Engineering to Level 5 (BTec HND). We look forward to welcome him in the New Year.

Funerals: The funeral of Emilio Demetz RIP will be held on Monday 23rd December at 10.00am.

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.

Confirmation Preparation for 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/>. Session 1 will be held on Saturday 11th January 2025 in Holy Trinity House.

The Journey in Faith Group will meet again in the New Year. New enquirers only. Please contact Matt Gibbs on 07955 084287 or email: bromleyrcia@rcaos.org.uk

Poinsettias. You are invited to donate a poinsettia in memory of a loved one. The poinsettias will be used to decorate the church for Christmas. Please leave the poinsettias in the foyer or near one of the exits of St Joseph's Church. Thank you.

Crib Offerings. This Christmas please give the gift of hope to children and families in crisis. Every penny donated at the Crib will be given to **The Catholic Children's Society**. For further information please see: www.cathchild.org.uk

Sign Up Sheets for Christmas Masses. Sign Up Sheets for Altar Servers and Welcomers are on display in the foyer of St. Joseph's Church. Please add your name to the Mass you are attending. Thank you.

The next Senior's Lunch will be held on Tuesday 21st January 2025 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 Friday 24th January at 7.30pm in The Crown Pub, Plaistow Lane. The theme will be a film discussion. Film TBC. All dads with a child at school are welcome to attend.

Supporting the Parish Parish Finances for last week

Average weekly standing order contributions: £1400.

Mass Offertory last weekend:

St Joseph's: £ 1091.90 St. Swithun's: £135.30

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.

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.

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

Baptism Family Gathering and Thanksgiving Service to be held on Saturday 18th January 2025 from 11.30am-12.30pm in Holy Trinity House. All families in the parish who have celebrated their child's baptism in the last two years are invited to attend.

Car Park Management. Due to excessive congestion in St. Joseph's Car Park at school drop-off and pick-up times it has been unanimously agreed with the PPC, the Pastoral Team and the Premises Committee to work with Creative Car Park to introduce a Vehicle Registration System. We propose this system for our parish will can be introduced at some time in the New Year. Further details to follow.

The Christmas Card box is on display in the foyer of St. Joseph's Church. Please leave your cards for other parishioners to collect. Please also check to see if there is a card for you.

Carol Singing in The Glades. Well done to the St. Joseph's Primary School Choir for their beautiful singing in The Glades. They raised £126.10 for **CAFOD**. This is a great amount.

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, Daniel Y, Paul Gibbs, Robert Straker, Gina Clark, Mary Scanlon, Bernie Sheanan, Quin Francis, Agnieszka Kudlinska, Nichola Ibe-Spence, Vanessa Leary, James Brown, Cathy Mair, Sue Fraser, Roger Wintle, Stella Ludham, Utz & Yoko Reiff, Ava Pedder, Patricia Supple, Luke Kelly, 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, Amanda Deane, Emilio Demetz, Agnes Achampong, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Terence Noel Flynn, Thelma Malone, William Cullen, Frank Lohan, Cecil Maryithasan, Linda McGee, Dorothy Samuel, Luigi & Giulia Natalina Zanre, Padraic & Marueen McDonagh, Ivan Kightly, Anthony Flynn, Alma Whitelaw, Camilla Pettit, Bridget & Pat McDonagh and Geraldine Colleary. **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 (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 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.