

SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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

The Holy Family Year C 29th December 2024

Readings on Page 105 of the Parish Mass Book

2025 – A Jubilee Year

The Pope has declared that next year, 2025, will be a Jubilee. Question: What is a Jubilee Year? A jubilee is a special year of remission of sins, debts and universal pardon. In Leviticus a jubilee year is mentioned to occur every 50th year; during which slaves and prisoners would be freed, debts would be forgiven and the mercies of God would be particularly manifest and bountiful. Jesus described himself as having come to "preach the year of the Lord's favour" (Isaiah 61: 1-2) in a jubilee year.

The Catholic Church, began to celebrate jubilees formally in 1300 AD when Pope Boniface VIII convoked a holy year. They were seen as years of forgiveness of sins and reconciliation celebrated every 25 years. The most recent ordinary Year of Jubilee was 2000. Extraordinary jubilees, such as the Jubilee of Mercy (2015-16) are held as and when the need arises.

This coming Jubilee, which has the theme of "Pilgrims of Hope", will be a year of hope and trust for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased threats to the climate.

The Jubilee will begin in December 2024 with Pope Francis opening the "holy door" in St. Peter's Basilica, offering the world's 1.3 billion Catholics the possibility of obtaining a plenary indulgence and a year of special graces. The Jubilee of Hope will end on the Feast of the Epiphany in 2026.

In preparing spiritually for the 2025 Jubilee, Pope Francis has asked us to study the key documents from the second Vatican Council, namely:

- Constitution of The Sacred Liturgy – Sacrosanctum ConCilium
- Dogmatic constitution of the Church – Lumen Gentium
- Dogmatic constitution on the Divine Revelation-Dei Verbum
- Pastoral constitution of the Church in the modern world – Gaudium et Spes

Secondly by a renewed focus on prayer. Prayer is at the heart of our faith. If we do not talk to God how can we be friends with him? So let us pray that during this Year of Jubilee we grow ever closer to God so that he is not only our Father but also our close friend. **Deacon Barry**

Mass Intentions

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 Protection of Life (Lohan)
9.15am Camilla Pettit RIP
11.00am Bridget & Pat McDonagh RIP
(Lohan)
5.00pm Geraldine Colleary RIP
(Chandler)

Monday 30th December

10.00am Saraswathy Stanislaus RIP

Tuesday 31st December New Year's Eve

10.00am Deceased Members of Lohan
and McDonagh Families
11.00 pm Adoration for Thanksgiving
Midnight Mass Int. Lohan Family

Wednesday 1st January 2025

Mary, Holy Mother of God

10.00am Int. Amelia Leary—Birthday

Thursday 2nd January St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen

10.00am John Murphy RIP

Friday 3rd January

10.00am Audrey Cooke RIP (Perrin)

Saturday 4th January

The Beatified Martyrs of the Diocese

10.00am John Kelly RIP
(Aubin-Parvu)
6.00pm Julia Doyle RIP (Fanning)

Sunday 5th January The Epiphany

8.00am Jim & Kathleen Cunniffe RIP
9.15am People of the Parish
11.00am Florence Maisie Lee RIP
(Sherman)
5.00pm Sister Veronica RIP
(Chandler)

St. Swithun's Church

9 Fashoda Road, BR2 9RE

Mass Intentions

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

Saturday 4th January

6.00pm Wellbeing of Marcellus Family

Sunday 5th January

10.00am Wellbeing of Agnelo & Rincy
Menezes

2.00pm **Memorial Mass:** Mr M K Essilfie RIP

Monday 6th January

10.00am For all the Parish Families (Ada)

For Mass intentions please see Nelson.

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

St. Switthun Parish Hall bookings: 020 8402 0459

Thank you very much

I wish you all Happy Feast of the Holy Family. I was so delighted to see the large attendance over all Christmas Masses in the Parish. First of all I thank you for joining to celebrate together the joy of Christmas. While acknowledging your participation, I would like to thank you sincerely for your generous Christmas offerings and gifts for Fr. Patrick and me which demonstrate your appreciation and love for your priests in the Parish. We value so much your support and very grateful for your thoughtfulness and love.
THANK YOU Fr Saju

Fr Saju will be away from the parish from 30th December 2024 to 17th January 2025. There will be no Surgery on Monday 30th December 2024 and Wednesday 1st January 2025. Deacon Barry and Deacon Aidan will hold a Surgery on Mondays 6th and 13th January and Fr Patrick & Deacon Garry will hold his Surgery on Wednesday 8th January. Surgeries are held from 4.30-6.30pm in Holy Trinity House. **No appointment necessary.**

A Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated at Midnight on New Year's Eve in St. Joseph's Church. There will be adoration starting from 11.00 pm to thank God for Year 2024-25. All are invited to join.

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

Opening of the Jubilee Year. Sunday 29th December marks the beginning of the Jubilee Year. The theme will be '**Pilgrims of Hope**'. Archbishop John will be presiding at the 12 noon Solemn Mass at St. George's Cathedral.

Pastoral Letter from Archbishop John on the Solemnity of the Holy Family for the Opening of the Jubilee Year of Hope will be read out this weekend at all Masses.

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/>

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@rcoas.org.uk

Pilgrimage to Rome

As part of celebrating Jubilee Year with Pope Francis, the Parish has designed a parish pilgrimage to Rome for five days in October 2025. More details will be available in the coming weeks.

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.

A White Flower Appeal will be held in our parish on 18th/19th January 2025 for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC). There will be a second collection. For further information on the work of SPUC please see: www.spuc.org.uk

Peace Sunday—19th January 2025. On 1st January each year, the Catholic Church marks the World Day of Peace, first instituted in 1967 by Pope St. Paul VI. The second Sunday of the year is designated as Peace Sunday. Pax Christi is the International Catholic Movement for Peace. The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith with a vision of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. To know more about the work of Pax Christi please see: paxchristi.org.uk

FLAME 2025 Saturday 15th March 2025 – Happy Jubilee New Year! As we enter the Jubilee Year as Pilgrims of Hope, the FLAME2025 theme **UNSTOPPABLE: Fan the Flame of Hope** invites young people and those young at heart, to join the Catholic Youth Ministry Team of Bromley Deanery for this Big Youth Day Out. Don't miss the opportunity to join 10,000 other like-minded Catholics at an inspirational one-day event to hear from a line up of acclaimed key note speakers and UK's top faith music acts such as Gvnor B, One Hope Project and Adeniké. For a limited time, tickets are still £20 each, including the return journey to and from OVO Wembley Arena. For more information and payment details scan the QR code below. Please get your tickets now and jump on board the coach with us! Let's be Unstoppable, together!



Supporting the Parish Parish Finances for last week

Average weekly standing order contributions: £1400.

Mass Offertory last weekend:

St Joseph's: £960.80 St. Swithun's: £176.20

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@caos.org.uk.

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.

Interested in becoming an Altar Server? Full Induction and Training is required before becoming an Altar Server. Kindly contact the Parish Office for further details. Thank you.

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 are still working with Creative Car Park to finalise the Agreement. We hope to introduce this system at some point 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.

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

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, Bennett Marcellus, Daniel Y, Paul Gibbs, Robert Straker, Gina Clark, Mary Scanlon, Bernie Sheahan, Quin Francis, Agnieszka Kudlinska, James Brown, Cathy Mair, Sue Fraser, Utz & Yoko Reiff, Patricia Supple, Luke Kelly, 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, Amanda Deane, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Anthony Flynn, Alma Whitelaw, Camilla Pettit, Bridget & Pat McDonagh, Geraldine Colleary, Saraswathy Stanislaus, John Murphy, Audrey Cooke, John Kelly, Julia Doyle, Jim & Kathleen Cunniffe, Florence Maisie Lee and Sister Veronica.

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

No Surgery on 30th December 2024 and 1st January 2025

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.