

SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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

2nd Sunday of Advent Year C 8th December 2024

Readings on Page 84 of the Parish Mass Book

Second Sunday of Advent- Prepare the way of the Lord

As we enter into the second week of Advent, the homily at Holy Masses this weekend facilitates an opportunity for us to revisit *the Liturgy of the Word*. The Scripture readings at the Holy Mass help us to listen to the faith experience of the Old Testament community as well as of the New Testament community respectively. Moreover the Scripture readings remind us that we are joined by the people of the Old Testament and the New Testament whenever we gather to celebrate Holy Mass. As part of preparing for the Holy Mass, it is very important that we prayerfully go through the readings before we come to the church for the Mass, so that listening to the Word at Mass becomes an experience of listening to the faith sharing of the believing community who passed on their faith to the Church. Scripture readings likewise become a moment of God speaking to our heart not to our ears with God's love and compassion.

The key phrase in this weekend's Gospel for me is 'prepare the way of the Lord'. This cry is the reflection of the Hebrew prophets like Isaiah 40:3, Joel 2:12-13, as well as an invitation to return to the Lord from all ways of sin. Advent is a penitential season; a time of repentance, contrition and conversion of heart. We may from time to time become fallen, wounded and in need of healing and renewal (from *Walk with me*). However we may be blind to our own blindness. The Advent penitential service in our Parish on Monday 16 December from 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm will be a suitable time for us to experience God's mercy. St. Ambrose says, 'God waits for our tears that God may pour forth His goodness.' Our preparation of hearts will give meaning to our longing for the coming of the Lord at Christmas. The Advent preparation as St. Paul reminds us through the second reading will be our means of preparation for Advent, "*my prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ*" (Phil 1:11).

Fr Saju

Mass Intentions

Saturday 7th December St Ambrose

- 10.00am Norman William & Vera Kathleen Spink RIP
2.00pm **Nuptial Mass:** Dinuka Silvaneswaran and Stefan Rajakariar
6.00pm Thomas Flaherty RIP (Margiotta)

Sunday 8th December

2nd Sunday of Advent

- 8.00am People of the Parish
9.15am Jack & Joyce Peat RIP (Spink)
11.00am Michael & Mary Grady RIP
5.00pm Lucia Holder RIP

Monday 9th December The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- 10.00am Theresa Anthony Pillai RIP

Tuesday 10th December

- 10.00am Ann Watts RIP

Wednesday 11th December

- 10.00am Deceased relatives & friends of Ann Watts

Thursday 12th December

- 10.00am Wellbeing Kelly Alexander & Family (Holmes)

Friday 13th December St Lucy

- 10.00am Deceased Bromley UCM

Saturday 14th December

St John of the Cross

- 10.00am Anastasia Warren RIP
6.00pm Mary & John O'Donnell (Foley)

Sunday 15th December

3rd Sunday of Advent

- 8.00am People of the Parish
9.15am Past & Present Members of 11th Bromley Scouts
11.00am Tony Lenihan Senior RIP
5.00pm Mary Lamb RIP (Spink)

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday 7th December

6.00pm Thomas Lott RIP

Sunday 8th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

10.00am Wellbeing of Ionela Noruega

Monday 9th December

10.00am Thanksgiving Rita Rodrigues

Saturday 14th December

6.00pm Wellbeing of Rosa Menezes

Sunday 15th December 3rd Sunday of Advent

10.00am Aloisio & Antonia Miranda &
Benjamin & Paulina Noruega RIP

Monday 16th December

10.00am Wellbeing of Dean Taylor & Family

For Mass intentions please see Nelson.

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.

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.



Funeral Arrangements for Bishop John Hine RIP at St. George's Cathedral Southwark.

Monday 9th December at 6.00pm Reception of Bishop John's coffin into the Cathedral followed immediately by the Cathedral's Solemn Mass of the Immaculate Conception

Tuesday 10th December Requiem Mass at 2.00pm. Funeral Mass followed immediately by committal and internment in the Cathedral Crypt.

Funerals:

The funeral of Agnes Achampong RIP will be held on Wednesday 18th December at 11.00am. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated for Agnes on Saturday 21st December at 10.00am.

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 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 11th December at 8.00pm in the Upper Room. New enquirers only. Please contact Matt Gibbs on 07955 084287 or email: bromleyrcia@rcoas.org.uk

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during Advent will be held on Friday 13th December between 3.15-4.15pm in St. Joseph's Church.

Visits to the Housebound during Advent. 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 during Advent.

A Service with Anointing of the Sick will take place on Sunday 8th December at 2.00pm in St. Joseph's Church. Members of our SVP Group will serve tea and coffee in the church hall after the service. All our sick and housebound parishioners are invited to attend.

Canon Brian Coyle, a former Assistant Priest: 40th Ordination Anniversary. Fr Brian will be visiting our parish on Monday 16th December to celebrate the 10.00am Mass in St. Joseph's Church. Refreshments will be served after the Mass in Holy Trinity House. All welcome to join Fr Bryan on his special anniversary.

Supporting the Parish Parish Finances for last week

Average weekly standing order contributions: £1400.

Mass Offertory last weekend:

St Joseph's: £1031.30 St. Swithun's: £166.58

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.

Parish Advent Reconciliation Service will be held on Monday 16th December at 7.30pm in St. Joseph's Church. Four priests will be available to hear confession.

Children's Liturgy will be held during the 9.15am Mass on Sundays 8th and 22nd December. Children's Liturgy will start directly in the hall from 9.10am and children up to Year 3 can attend.

Baptism Family Gathering and Thanksgiving Service to be held on Saturday 18th January 2025 at 11.30am 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 in the New Year. Further details to follow.

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.

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.

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

Please pray for our deceased relatives and friends, remembering, Emilio Demetz, Baby Roseann, Agnes Achampong, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Norman & Vera Kathleen Spink, Thomas Flaherty, Jack & Joyce Peat, Michael & Mary Grady, Theresa Anthony Pillai, Ann Watts, Anastasia Warren, Mary & John O'Donnell, Tony Lenihan Senior and Mary Lamb.

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.