

SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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

Pentecost Sunday Year A 24th May 2026

Readings: Vigil Mass Page 278 Day during the day: Page 288

Breath of God

This Sunday, the Church celebrates the great feast of Pentecost, the day on which the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples and the Church was born. Following His Resurrection, the Lord Jesus instructed His disciples to remain in Jerusalem and wait for the fulfilment of the Father's promise, the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, who would guide and strengthen them.

In the First Reading (Acts 2:1–11), we hear how this promise was fulfilled in a powerful and transformative way. “Tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.” From fear and uncertainty, the disciples were renewed with courage and clarity, becoming bold witnesses to Christ. Pentecost, therefore, stands as a radiant testimony to the fruit of faithful obedience and steadfast prayer.

St Paul, in today's Second Reading (1 Corinthians 12:3–7), reminds us that “no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except by the Holy Spirit.” This profound truth calls us to recognise that faith itself is a gift of the Spirit within us. To proclaim Jesus as Lord is not merely to speak words, but to shape our lives according to His will. The Holy Spirit enables us to live as true sons and daughters of God, echoing the words of St Paul: “The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (Romans 8:16). In the Gospel, Jesus breathes on His disciples and says, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” This action recalls the moment of creation, when God breathed life into humanity. In this new moment, the disciples are re-created, transformed into a people sent forth in mission. Pentecost is thus not only a past event, but a present invitation to allow ourselves to be renewed and shaped by the Spirit of God.

As a parish community, we have a special reason for joy this weekend, as two candidates will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and be welcomed fully into the Church at the 6 pm Vigil Mass. We offer them our sincere congratulations and assure them of our prayers, that the Holy Spirit may strengthen them with His gifts and fill them with lasting joy. The Spirit we receive does not replace Christ, but leads us ever more deeply into His life and mission. May this Pentecost stir within us a renewed courage to witness to our faith and to celebrate life as the people of resurrection.

Fr Saju

Mass Intentions

Saturday 23rd May

10.00am Jose Baptista Vas RIP
6.00pm Julia McCarthy RIP
Journey in Faith
Reception into the Church

Sunday 24th May Pentecost Sunday

8.00am People of the Parish
9.15am Arthur McKenna RIP
(Jones)
11.00am Stephen Kane RIP (Doran)
5.00pm Deceased members of
Anthony family

Monday 25th May Bank Holiday Mary, Mother of the Church

10.00am Sr Veronica RIP &
Special Intention (McCrae)

Tuesday 26th May St Philip

10.00am Int. Fr Patrick
Birthday (Benny)

Wednesday 27th May

St Augustine of Canterbury

10.00am Ruberhna Novouka RIP

Thursday 28th May

Our Lord Jesus Christ

10.00am Teresa Bailey RIP (Curran)

Friday 29th May

10.00am Antonia Bennett RIP

Saturday 30th May

10.00am Emilio Demetz RIP
6.00pm Julia McCarthy RIP

Sunday 31st May

The Most Holy Trinity

8.00am Yvonne Pilkington RIP
(O'Sullivan)
9.15am David Thorogood RIP
(Jones)
11.00am Int. Nicholas Bennett
5.00pm Patrick & Kate Quin RIP

Our Parish Faith Formation

All those registering to attend one of our Sacramental Preparation Courses are requested to meet with Fr. Saju or a member of the clergy team during surgery hours with the form duly filled.

Surgeries will be held from 4.30-6.30pm in Holy Trinity House:

Monday: Fr Saju & Deacon Barry/Aidan

Not Bank Holiday Monday

Wednesday by Appointment only:

Fr Patrick & Deacon Garry

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Preparation for 2026-2027. If your child will be in Year 3 or above in September and would like to prepare for First Holy Communion please download and complete our Reconciliation & First Holy Communion Registration Form **which can be accessed here:** <https://www.stjosephsbromley.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/First-Holy-Communion-Registration-Form-July-2025.pdf> Once completed, you will need to attend a surgery session to meet with Fr Saju.

Baptism Preparation. Please see below how to enrol on our next Baptism Preparation Course.

Confirmation Rehearsal/Session 7 will be held on Saturday 30th May at 3.30pm. Please meet in the church. The **Rite of Choice** will be celebrated at the 6.00pm Mass.

Our Confirmation Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Gerard Bradley on Saturday 13th June at 3.00pm. Please remember the candidates and their families in your prayers.

RCIA: Journey in Faith Group Congratulations to Charles Rudge and Finlay Gardner who will be received into the Church on Saturday 23rd May at the 6.00pm Mass. Kindly keep them in your prayers.

RCIA: The Journey in Faith Group welcomes new enquirers to start a period of preparation and discernment. For further information please contact Matt Gibbs on 07955 084287 or email: bromley@rcaos.org.uk

Post RCIA Monthly Meeting led by Fr Saju. Next session on Tuesday 16th June at 7.30pm in the Upper Room. All those who have previously attended our Journey in Faith Group are welcome to attend.

Altar Server's Training & Refresher session led by Mac to be held on Saturday 6th June 2026 from 3-5pm in St. Joseph's Church. All new and current Altar Servers are invited to attend.

The Parish Assembly/AGM will be held on Saturday 6th June at 7.00pm in St. Joseph's Church Hall. Members of our Finance Committee will present the parish finances at this meeting. All parishioners are invited to attend where you can share your thoughts on the future of the parish. Copies of the **Parish Accounts for 2025** are available in the foyer of the church. They were also emailed out to all those who receive the Newsletter via Churchsuite.

Archbishop John Wilson will be visiting our parish on Sunday 18th October 2026. Archbishop John will celebrate the 11.00am Mass followed by refreshments in the church hall where you will have an opportunity to meet and chat with the Archbishop informally. All parishioners are invited to attend.

St Joseph's Youth Group for ages 11-18 years of age to be held on Saturday 27th June from 7.00-9.00pm in the church hall Volunteers required to help out at this session.

Coach Outing. Wed 27 May to Whitstable. If you would like to go please call Gina on 07780 468767.

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, Paul Gibbs, Mike Heneghan, Maria Dillane, Paul Lowing, Maureen Webster, Alan O'Donnell, Teresa Cadogan, Catherine Rideout, Betty Byrne, Stella Ludlam, , Utz & Yoko Reiff, Veronica Alaneme, 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, Louisa Lucy Raphael, Mary Edwards, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Jose Baptista Vas, Arthur McKenna, Stephen Kane, Sister Veronica, Ruberhna Novouka, Teresa Bailey, Antonia Bennett, Emilio Demetz, Julia McCarthy, Yvonne Pilkington and David Thorogood.

May they rest in peace.

Funerals:

The funeral of **Mary Edwards RIP** will be held on Tuesday 2nd June 2026 at 11.30am.

Louisa Lucy Raphael RIP died on 17th May 2026. Details of her funeral will be announced in due course.

9.15am Sunday Mass:

24th May Children's Liturgy
7th June Children's Liturgy
21st June Children's Liturgy

Tea and Coffee will be served in the Club Room after the 9.15am Mass.

Celebrating Month of May. A Rosary Novena will be prayed from **Friday 22nd - Saturday 30th May** at the Holy Trinity Grotto, after the 10am Mass until 11.30am. On 30th May the Novena will be completed with a procession with Our Lady's Statue to the Grotto, devotions and return to St Joseph's Church for Benediction. All are welcome.

Parish Meditation Group. You are warmly invited to "A Journey of Remembrance" **Spiritual Retreat** led by Mariana Mazzaferri (07428212864) at The Friars, Aylesford on Saturday 20th June, from 10am to 4pm. Mass will be celebrated by Fr Saju at 12 noon.

The Couples Group will meet on Sunday 14th June 2026 from 1.00pm in the Upper Room. For further information please email Natalia at : n.domanska@icloud.com

Parish Bereavement Group on Tuesday 23rd June at 7.00pm in the Upper Room. Trained volunteers plus a priest from our parish will facilitate regular supportive and confidential meetings for those who are living with bereavement, whether recent or long ago. Everyone is welcome, including loss through miscarriage or stillbirth, or if coping with anyone who is terminally ill. More details are on the Parish website.

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: You are invited to register for your child's baptism: https://www.stjosephsbromley.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Baptism-Registration-Form_July-2025.pdf Please complete and print the form and bring to one of the surgeries on Monday evening to meet a deacon/priest in the Holy Trinity House for the completion of the application. **The next Baptism Preparation Course will start on Saturday 6th June 2026.**

Marriage: Please contact a priest. **Six Months notice is required.**

Supporting the Parish Parish Finances for last week

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Standing Orders:

Average weekly contributions: £1400.00.

Cashless contributions last week:

Mass Offerings: £566.00 Building Fund: £150.00

Offertory Collection last week:

St. Joseph's: £967.88 St. Swithun's: £193.09

Catholic Communications Network.:

St. Joseph's: £ 419.81 St Swithun's: £82.77

Gift Aid and Standing Order Enquiries:

Please email the Gift Aid Co-Ordinator at: bromleygac@rcaos.org.uk or call the Parish Office on 020 8402 0459.

Please see the **Cashless Giving QR code:**



Bank transfers for Offertory contributions can be made to the account below:

Short bank account name: **St Josephs Parish**

Bank sort code: **60-04-02**

Account number: **84093595**

Reference: **Please show your surname and initials (eg. Bond J)**

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: 30th September to 7th October 2026. Please see poster in foyer. For further information please email Susan Lowery at: slowery@hotmail.co.uk

Aid to the Church in Need. Next weekend Michael Betts from Aid to the Church in Need will give a short appeal at the end of all Masses in St. Joseph's Church.

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday 23rd May

6.00pm Kathleen Hooper RIP
(Angela & John)

Sunday 24th May Pentecost Sunday

10.00am Charles O'Keeffe RIP (Mary Bates)

Monday 25th May Bank Holiday

10.00am Int. Sandra Clapson (Maria)

Saturday 30th May

6.00pm People of the Parish

Sunday 31st May

10.00am Martin Lopes RIP

Monday 1st June

10.00am Holy Souls

For Mass Intentions please see Nelson

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

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

St Swithun's Hall Bookings: 020 8402-0459

Car Park: Champion Timbers will be carrying out maintenance work and have erected scaffolding in our car park until the end May.

Parish Social

Cancer Café Group will meet again on Tuesday 2nd June from 1.30pm in the Upper Room.

The Dad's Group will meet on Wednesday 24 June, 19.30 at The Crown, Plaistow Lane. please contact: Richard Barrett on 07729 392936 or email rgtbarrett@gmail.com.

The next Seniors Lunch will be held on **Tuesday 9th June** from 12 noon to 1.30pm in Holy Trinity House.

Cafod Plant Sale. Thank you so much for your generosity and support with the Cafod plant sale. Over £500.00 was raised. Wonderful!

Parish Volunteers Cheese and Wine Evening on Saturday 20th June from 7.00-8.30pm in St. Joseph's Church Hall. All parish volunteers are invited to attend.

Parish/Primary School Summer Event on Sunday 28th June 2026. 10.00am Mass will be followed by a picnic in the grounds of Holy Trinity House. The 9.15am and the 11.00am Masses will be combined on this date and the 10.00am Mass at St. Swithun's will be transferred to St. Joseph's. Please see posters in foyer of the church.

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

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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

Mondays: Fr Saju and Deacon Barry/Deacon Aidan—**Not Bank Holiday Monday**

Wednesday: Fr Patrick & Deacon Garry by appointment only

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. For enquiries ring: Caroline O'Brien on 07961 413694.