

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

Mass Intentions

Sunday 19th July

10.00am Antonia Miranda RIP (Jenny)

Monday 20th July

10.00am Imelda Mortimer RIP (Grace)

Sunday 26th July

10.00am Paulina Noruega RIP (Jenny)

Monday 27th July

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

Parish Social

Cancer Café Group will meet again on Tuesday 21st July from 1.30pm in the Upper Room if not too hot. If you cannot manage Tuesdays or get to the Upper Room please call Gina on 07780 468767.

Coach Outings to:

Fri day 14th August - Eastbourne (air show on this date).

Fri 11th September - Brighton

Please contact Gina on 07780 468767.

The Dad's Group will meet on Wednesday 22 July, 19.30-21.00 at The Crown, Plaistow Lane.

There will be no meeting in August. Please contact: Richard Barrett on 07729 392936 or email rgtbarrett@gmail.com.

There will be no Seniors Lunch in July and August due to the main holiday period. The next Seniors' Lunch will be on Tuesday 15th September.

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.

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

Please note that the Parish Open Surgery will take a summer break. Open Surgery will resume on Monday, 7th September 2026. In case of necessity, you can meet with Fr Saju or a member of the clergy team by appointment.

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.

SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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

Sixteenth Sunday Year A

19th July 2026

Readings: Page 105 of the Parish Mass Book

Let us not delay

Last Sunday's Gospel presented the Parable of the Sower. This Sunday, Jesus gives us another farming image: the Parable of the Man Sowing Good Seed (Matt 13:24-43). Next Sunday, He will compare the Kingdom of Heaven to a treasure hidden in a field. These agricultural images spoke directly to the people of Jesus' time, who lived close to the land and understood the challenges of farming. These parables continue to speak powerfully to us today.

In the Gospel, a farmer sows good seed in his field, but during the night an enemy comes and sows weeds among the wheat. The servants are shocked when they discover the weeds and immediately want to pull them up. Surprisingly, the master tells them to wait until the harvest. Why? First, because the wheat is strong enough to survive despite the presence of the weeds. Secondly, because the weeds, known as dandelion, look remarkably similar to wheat. While the plants are young, it is almost impossible to distinguish one from the other. Pulling them out too early could result in damaging or uprooting the good wheat as well.

Good and evil exist side by side in our world, in our communities, and even within our own hearts. We often wish that all difficulties, injustices, and negative influences could disappear immediately. Yet Jesus reminds us that God is patient. He allows time for growth, conversion, and transformation. Here the Gospel challenges us to focus not on the weeds but on producing good fruit. Our task is not to spend our lives judging others; rather, it is to ensure that the seed of God's Word grows strong within us. Every act of kindness, every word of encouragement, every moment of forgiveness, every prayer offered in faith contributes to a harvest of goodness. In a world where negativity can spread quickly, Christians are called to be bearers of hope, joy, compassion, and truth.

C. S. Lewis captured this danger brilliantly in *The Screwtape Letters*, where the devils discuss how best to tempt humanity. The youngest devil proposes the most effective temptation of all: "Tell them there is no hurry." How often we postpone prayer, reconciliation, or forgiveness, thinking there will always be another day. The time to produce the fruits of goodness is now. Let us not delay but allow God's grace to bear a rich harvest in our lives and in our parish community.

Fr Saju

Mass Intentions

Saturday 18th July

10.00am Alison Morrison RIP (Spink)

6.00pm Colin Samson RIP

Sunday 19th July Sixteenth Sunday

9.00am Thanksgiving for Andrew, Stephanie, James & John Stoner (Mercy Journey)

11.00am Clare Johnson RIP (Doran)

12.30pm Baptism:

Adrian Edward Kovalichim
 Travis & Edna Ellison RIP (Spink)

People of the Parish

Monday 20th July

10.00am Trevor Callan RIP

Tuesday 21st July

10.00am Ann McDonagh RIP (Lohan)

11.30am **Funeral:**
Arunas Mickus RIP

Wednesday 22nd July

St Mary Magdalene

10.00am Mark Donlan RIP

11.00am Y6 Leavers Mass

Thursday 23rd July St Bridget

10.00am Marianna Vardinoyannis RIP

Friday 24th July

10.00am Int. Teresa & Paul Adams
 50th Wedding Anniversary

Saturday 25th July St James

10.00am Int. Barry & Julia Mellish
 Wedding Anniversary

6.00pm Int. Christians of the ME

Sunday 26th July Seventeenth Sunday

9.00am Pamela Rhodes-Duncan RIP

11.00am Int. Anna Rossini & Family

12.30pm **Baptism:** Keira Rajakariar
 5.00pm People of the Parish

Reduced Summer Mass Schedule. From Sunday 19th July to Sunday 6th September (both inclusive), our weekend Mass times will be as follows:

St Joseph's Church:

Saturdays: 6.00pm

Sundays: 9.00am, 11.00am & 5.00pm

St. Swithun's Church:

Sundays: 10.00am

All weekday Masses will remain unchanged.

Our Parish Faith Formation

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

Parish Open Surgery Hours in Summer time:

Please note that the Parish Open Surgery will resume on Monday, 7th September 2026. In case of necessity, you can meet with Fr Saju or a member of the clergy team by appointment.

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

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.

Parish Website: Please visit News & Events for latest information on parish events.

First Holy Communion Parents Information

Evening will be held on Thursday 10th September at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity House.

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 Deacon Barry.

No meetings until September.

Fr Patrick Essien: After more than two years of dedicated service among us, Fr Patrick Essien has been appointed Assistant Priest at St Peter the Apostle Parish, Woolwich. We are grateful to Fr Patrick for the generous way in which he has shared his priestly ministry with our parish community during this time. While we shall be sorry to see him leave and we recognise that this new appointment offers him further pastoral experience as he continues his journey towards taking on the responsibilities of parish leadership. We wish and pray that he may be blessed with happiness and every grace in his life and ministry at his new parish. Fr Patrick will be leaving us during the first week of September. If you would like to express your appreciation, gratitude, and affection for him, envelopes bearing his name are available at the back of the church. Please also sign Fr Patrick's Leaving Card. Thank you

Post RCIA Monthly Meeting led by Fr Saju. Next session on Tuesday 15 September at 7.30pm in the Upper Room. All those who have previously attended our Journey in Faith Group are welcome to attend.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) will resume during the 9.15am Mass in September.

St Joseph's Youth Group for ages 11-18 years of age will be taking a summer break. The next session to be held on Saturday 26th September 2026 from 7-9pm in the church hall.

Summertime 2026: 11th August – 14th August:

Altar Servers Trip to Westminster Pastoral Centre, £199. For aged 11-15. Residential trip for altar servers and those who regularly attend Mass. It is a few days for deepening one's catholic faith, in a great social atmosphere, including football, sports and visit to Thorpe Park. Coach laid on at St. Anselm's Dartford, please contact Fr. Stephen Boyle, chaplain to the Guild of St, Stephen, Dartford@rcaos.org.uk, Tel:01322 220075.

Meditation: Will resume on 10 September 2026 from 7.00-8.00pm in the Upper Room.

Safeguarding Training for our Catechists, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Server Trainers and those who lead our Youth Groups and the Elderly Groups in our parish. To be held in Holy Trinity House on:

Saturday 12th September from 4.00-6.00pm

Saturday 19th September from 10.30am-12.30pm

You are invited to attend one of the above sessions. Please let the parish office know which session you will be attending. Thank you.

Parish Bereavement Group on Tuesday 28th July at 7.00pm in the Upper Room. Trained volunteers 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.

**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: £ 660 Building Fund: £12

Offertory Collection last week:

St. Joseph's: £ 908.28 St. Swithun's: £164.85

Stella Maris Collection:

St. Joseph's: £ 396.07 St. Swithun's: £62.06

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)**

Please remember the Parish with a gift in your Will.

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

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 McLoone, 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, Patricai Lefkaridi, Fr. David Peck and Gail Mortimer.

Please pray for our deceased relatives and friends, remembering, Arunas Mickus, Anton Rabot, Lucia Holder, Graham Morton, Alison Morrison, Colin Samson, Clare Johnson, Trevor Callan, Ann McDonagh, Mark Donlan, Marianna Vardinoyannis and Pamela Rhodes, Duncan. **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: 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 starting in September.**

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