

SS. Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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

25th Sunday Year A

20th September 2026

Readings: On page 131 of the Mass Book

God's Justice

The parable of the workers in the vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16), for this weekend's Gospel, can seem puzzling at first. A landowner hires labourers at different times throughout the day, yet when evening comes, he pays them all the same wage. Those who had worked since early morning naturally expected more than those who arrived at the last hour. To many of us, this appears unfair. To understand the parable fully, we must first appreciate the circumstances of the harvest. The grapes usually get ripened towards the end of September and then the time of heavy rains will arrive; therefore the grapes needed to be gathered quickly before the seasonal rains arrived. If the harvest was not completed in time, the entire crop could be ruined. The landowner therefore returned repeatedly to the marketplace, hiring anyone willing to work, regardless of how much time remained in the day. His concern was not simply to complete the harvest but also to provide work for those who were still waiting and hoping for employment. The landowner's actions were marked by both justice and generosity. He honoured the agreement made with the workers hired first, paying them the promised denarius, the standard daily wage. Yet he also showed compassion towards those who had secured work only at the end of the day, ensuring that they too received enough to support themselves and their families. The landowner was not merely rewarding labour; he was caring for people. In this way, he becomes a powerful image of God, whose mercy always exceeds our expectations as the first reading (Isaiah 55:6-9) says, "for my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord."

Jesus uses this parable to remind us that God calls each person individually and at the right moment. Some people respond to God's invitation early in life, while others discover faith later on. Through Baptism, all Christians are called into the Lord's vineyard, the Church, to live as disciples and witnesses of Christ in the world. The grumbling of the workers comes from their unhappiness as they compared themselves with others rather than appreciating what they had received. The same temptation can affect us today. Instead of rejoicing in God's generosity towards others, we can become preoccupied with what we believe we deserve. Long-time believers and newcomers alike are equally precious in God's eyes because in God's Kingdom, grace is always a gift.

Fr Saju

Mass Intentions

Saturday 19th September

10.00am Maria Yacoub RIP
6.00pm Lilly Briffa RIP
(Bonnici)

Sunday 20th September 25th Sunday

8.00am Int. Chan Family
9.15am Sarah (Sally) Magee RIP
(Jones)
FHC Rite or Enrolment
11.00am Mr George VM RIP
(Allen)
5.00pm People of the Parish

Monday 21st September St Matthew

10.00am Rozaria Fernandes RIP

Tuesday 22nd September

10.00am Stella Clarke RIP
(O'Donovan)

Wednesday 23rd September

St Pius of Pietrelcina

10.00am Lucia Holder RIP

Thursday 24th September

Our Lady of Walsingham

10.00am Thanksgiving to our
Blessed Mother (Lohan)

Friday 25th September

10.00am Breda MacLeer RIP
(O'Donovan)

Saturday 26th September

10.00am Holy Souls (Allen)
6.00pm Maizy O'Hara & Michael
Jansz RIP

Sunday 27th September 26th Sunday

8.00am Henrietta Ewart RIP
(O'Donovan)
9.15am Thanksgiving Soumia
(Allen)
Baptism Rite of Welcome
11.00am Albert Norman & Emily
Ida May Spink (RIP)
5.00pm People of the Parish

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.

Open Surgery will be held on Mondays from 4.30-6.30pm in Holy Trinity House with Fr Saju and a Deacon.

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

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Preparation. The Rite of Enrolment will be celebrated at the 9.15am Mass this Sunday.

Session 1 will be held on Friday 25th September at 3.45pm in Holy Trinity House & Saturday 26th September at 9.15am in the church hall.

Confirmation Preparation 2026-2027. If your child is in Year 8 or above and would like to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in June 2027, please complete and print out our **Confirmation**

Registration Form:

[https://www.stjosephsbromley.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Confirmation-Registration-](https://www.stjosephsbromley.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Confirmation-Registration-Form-July-2025.pdf)

[Form-July-2025.pdf](https://www.stjosephsbromley.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Confirmation-Registration-Form-July-2025.pdf). Once completed, you will need to attend a surgery session to meet with Fr Saju.

Confirmation Parents Information Meeting on Thursday 12th November at 7.30pm in Holy Trinity House. Sessions start in January 2027.

RCIA: The Journey in Faith Group welcomes new enquirers to start a period of preparation and discernment. If you would like further information please email: bromleyrcia@rcaos.org.uk or ring Matt Gibbs on 07955 084287 or email Deacon Barry.

Annual Mass Count—first count will be taken this weekend.

Installation of Fr Saju as a Chapter Canon. Canon Saju will be formally installed by the Archbishop at St George's Cathedral on Friday 6th November 2026 at 6.00pm, during the Solemn Mass of Dedication of the Cathedral. All parishioners are welcome to attend this Installation Mass. Fr Saju will continue to serve us as our parish priest. This is a great honour and a proud moment for our parish of St Joseph & St. Swithun Bromley. Please keep him in your prayers.

Coach to St. George's Cathedral on Friday 6th November 2016. We have booked a coach to take parishioners to Canon Saju's Installation Mass. A return seat on the coach will be £20.00 per adult. Leaving St. Joseph's car park at 4.00pm and leaving the Cathedral at 8.00pm. Please let the parish office know asap if you would like to book a seat. Spaces will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

We look forward to welcoming Fr Jude Murray JH, as our new Assistant Priest later this month. Fr Jude is a member of Pious Association Jesus the Healer.

Archbishop John Wilson will be visiting our parish on Sunday 18th October 2026 and 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.

9.15am Sunday Mass:

20th September	Uniform Groups
4th October	Children's Liturgy
11th October	Children's Liturgy

Ss Joseph & Swithun Youth Group for ages 11-18 years of age. Next session to be held on Saturday 26th September 2026 from 7-9pm in the church hall. Please let the parish office know if your child would like to attend or complete the sign-up sheets in the foyer. Volunteers are required to held out at this session.

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, Theodore Bennett, Salma Moujalled, Peter Tease, Daniel McLoone, Catherine Rideout, Maria Dillane, Maureen Webster, Alan O'Donnell, Teresa Cadogan, 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, Anthony Clifford Mascarenhas Lucia Holder, Charles Rideout, Graham Morton, Maria Yacoub, Lilly Briffa, Sarah (Sally) Magee, Mr George VM, Rozaria Fernandes, Stella Clarke, Breda MacLeer, Maizy O'Hara, Michael Jansz, Henriella Ewart, Albert Norman & Emily Ida May Spink.

May they rest in peace.

The Christian Meditation Group will resume on Thursday 24 Sept. at 7.00pm in the Upper Room.

October Devotions. A Rosary Procession will take place on Sunday 11th October after the 11am Mass. All are invited to join the celebrations which will conclude with St Joseph prayers and a blessing with a Franciscan relic.

Service for those who have been harmed by abuse. Led by Archbishop John Wilson on Wednesday 30th September at 6.30pm in St. George's Cathedral SE1 7HY. An evening of hope and healing. All welcome. See poster in foyer.

Lectors' & Eucharistic Ministers' Formation Day on Saturday 31st October 2026 at Capuchin Franciscan Friary, Carton Road, Erith DA8 1DN. Canon Victor Darlington will celebrate Mass at 10.00am. Day concludes at 2.00pm. For more information please see poster in foyer.

The Missionary Sisters of St. Peter Claver will be in our parish on the weekend of 26th & 27th September with their Mission Calendar 2027. The Sisters are here to raise funds to help provide food for girls from poor families at a boarding school established by the Diocese of Tunduru-Masasi in Tanzania. Please support the Sisters generously.

Young Family Group: School of Community will meet again on Wednesday 14th October at 8.00pm in the Upper Room. The Group will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of each month. Please contact Mario Brioschi at: mario_brioschi@yahoo.it

Parish Bereavement Group. Trained volunteers from our parish will facilitate regular supportive and confidential meetings for those who are living with bereavement. Meeting in the Upper Room on Tuesday 22 September at 7pm. For further information please email: bromleybereavement@rcaos.org.uk

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 on Saturday 31st October.**

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: £606.00 Building Fund: £31.00

Offertory Collection last week:

St. Joseph's: £884.06 St. Swithun's: £116.56

Catholic Education Services:

St. Joseph's: £376.10 St. Swithun's: £52.00

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 your Parish with a gift in your Will.

This Sunday there will be a second collection for Evangelii Gaudium (Home Mission Sunday).

Online Bank Transfers. When making an online bank transfer to the parish for Mass Intentions, Hall Hire, Repository etc. please remember to include your surname as the reference.

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday 19th September

6.00pm Thanksgiving Jazlyn Lopes

Sunday 20th September

10.00am Wellbeing of Reuben Noruega
(Jenny)

Monday 21st September

10.00am Thanksgiving Maria Mariathas

Saturday 26th September

6.00pm Debbie Doherty RIP (Grace)

Sunday 27th September

10.00am Patrick John Doherty RIP (Grace)

Monday 28th September

10.00am Antonia Smith RIP

For Mass Intentions please see Nelson

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

St Swithun's Hall Bookings: 020 8402-0459

Parish Social

Cancer Café Group will meet again on Tuesday
29th September from 1.30pm in the Upper Room.
Please call Gina on 07780 468767.

Coach Outing: 28 September to Petworth House
& Park. National Trust members free entrance.
After lunch journey on to Midhurst seeing
Cowdray castle ruins and other ancient buildings.
Please contact Gina on 07780 468767 for further
information and to book your place.

New Mum's Coffee Morning. To be held on the
second Friday of each month from 8.40am in
Holy Trinity House. Babies & young siblings
welcome.

Seniors Lunch: The next Seniors' Lunch will be
on Tuesday 13th October from 12 noon to
1.30pm in Holy Trinity House.

The Dad's Group will meet again on Wednesday
7th October at 19.30-21.00 in the Upper Room.
For further information please email Richard
Barratt at: rgtbarrett@gmail.com

Bromley Foodbank Quiz on Saturday 3rd
October in St Joseph's Church Hall. 6.30pm for
7.00pm start. See poster in foyer or email Kathy
Barber at: kathybarber@btopenworld.com

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

Canon Saju Thomas (Parish Priest)	Tel: 020 8402 0459	e: sajuthomas@rcaos.org.uk
Fr Jude Murray (Asst. Priest)	Tel: 020 8402 0459	e:
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

Mondays: Fr Saju & Deacon Barry/Aidan

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.