SS Joseph & Swithun Parish News

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

Twenty Seventh Sunday **Year A** **4th October 2026**

Readings on page 137 of the Mass Book

Last week Jesus gave a parable about two sons who were either disobedient or difficult to instruct. And our gospel today immediately follows on from this passage to focus on another parable about a vineyard, this time involving wicked tenants. It's important to recognise that the picture painted by Jesus is not simply about a vineyard, rather it is about the House of Israel. And we could consider the vineyard through the lens of the Garden of Eden – a place created by God, full of beauty, purity and goodness.

The tenants in our story are actually the priests, scribes and elders, given the responsibility by God to look after his flock. And we can see that in this, they fail miserably, even when God sent Prophets (called servants in our story) to warn them about their ways and the ways of the people under their direction. Their response? To beat, stone and kill them. God then sends his only beloved son, believing they will respect him, but no, they kill him in order to claim the land as their own. And in this we foresee Jesus' seizure in the Garden of Gethsemane, before finally being led out of the city of Jerusalem and there crucified.

This parable is as relevant today as it was some 2,000 years ago. It highlights God's patience with a truculent people, who treated His messengers with contempt, facts very evident in the world around us today. Into this world God thrusts us, who, by the way in which we live our lives, are supposed to contradict the sinfulness we see and experience, helping those around us to see and feel God's love. For this to happen though, we need to see how we measure up to God's plans for us. Are we even a little bit similar to the bad tenants we see today? Do we pick and choose when to follow God? Do we recognise that everything we have is a gift from God? Questions such as these give us much to reflect on in the week ahead. **Deacon Garry**

Mass Intentions

Saturday 3rd October
12.30pm **Baptisms:** Lochlainn & Constance Shaughnessy
6.00pm Rajini Ariaratnam RIP (Selvanathan)

Sunday 4th October St Francis of Assisi
8.00am Marjan Wosiek RIP
9.15am Jack & Jean Egan RIP
11.00am People of the Parish
12.30pm **Baptism**: Vivienne Shaw
1.30pm **Baptisms**: Sienna & Leo Barham
5.00pm Paul Gibbs RIP (Doran)

Monday 5th October
10.00am Graham Taylor RIP (O'Donovan)

Tuesday 6th October
10.00am Silva Coser RIP & Dina Palolina RIP (Valentina)

Wednesday 7th October
Our Lady of the Rosary
10.00am Margaret Russell RIP (McConnell)

Thursday 8th October
10.00am Richard Samuel RIP (Seidel)
11.30am **Funeral:** Charles Rideout RIP

Friday 9th October
St John Henry Newman
10.00am Maria Surti RIP (Chauhan)

Saturday 10th October
10.00am Franco Casari RIP (Valentina)
12.30pm **Baptism:** Winifred Durken
6.00pm Wellbeing Charlotte McDonagh (Lohan)

Sunday 11th October 28th Sunday
8.00am Kathleen Murphy RIP (Joyce)
9.15am Breda McAleer RIP (O'Sullivan)
FHC Signed with the Cross
11.00am People of the Parish
5.00pm Margaret Rice RIP (O'Sullivan)

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. Session 3 will be held on Friday 9th October at 3.45pm in Holy Trinity House & Saturday 10th October 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-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. First session to be held on Saturday 9th 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.

Post RCIA Monthly Meeting led by Fr Saju. Next session on Tuesday 20th October at 7.30pm in the Upper Room. All those who have previously attended our Journey in Faith Group are welcome to attend.

The funeral of Charles Rideout RIP will be held on Thursday 8th October at 11.30am.

Annual Mass Count—3rd 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.

Coach to St. George's Cathedral on Friday 6th November 2026. 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 very soon. 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. **The 10.00am Mass at St Swithun's will be celebrated at 9.30am on this date.**

9.15am Sunday Mass:

4th October Children's Liturgy
11th October Children's Liturgy

St Joseph's Primary School Open Days. Please see poster in foyer with all the Open Day dates, including: Thursday 1st October at 9.30-11.00am, Wednesday 14th October at 9.30-11.00am, Wednesday 11th November 2.00-3.30pm.

Homelessness Sunday is on 4th October. Our local homeless charity is Bromley Homeless. Their annual fund-raising event, the 'Big Sleep Out' takes place on 14th November and two of our parishioners (Norah Agiru and Teresa Adams) will be participating. If you wish to sponsor them, the links to their JustGiving pages will be advertised soon. If you wish to 'sleep out' yourself please go to https://bromleyhomeless.org/big-sleep-out-2026/ or see the poster in the foyer. To donate directly to Bromley Homeless go to: https://bromleyhomeless.org/

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,** Lucia Holder, Charles Rideout, Graham Morton, Breda McAleer, Rajini Ariaratnam, Marjan Wosiek, Jack & Jean Egan, Paul Gibbs, Graham Taylor, Silva Coser, Dina Palolina, Margaret Russell, Richard Samuel, Saria Surti, Franco Casari, Kathleen Murphy and Margaret Rice. ***May they rest in peace***.

The Christian Meditation Group will meet on Thursdays 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.

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.

Cafod Harvest Fast Day is on Friday 2nd October. Members of our Cafod Group will make an Appeal at the end of all Masses this weekend. There will be a second collection. Donation envelopes are available.

Young Family Group: School of Community will meet again on Wednesday 14th October at 8.00pm in the Upper Room. 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 27th October at 7pm. Email: bromleybereavement@rcaos.org.uk

Missio Red Box Holders: Are invited to bring their boxes for emptying **on Sunday 18th October at the 11.00am Mass celebrated by Archbishop John.** Alternatively, leave boxes at the back of either church or bring to the parish office. Empty boxes will be left in the church porch for you to collect. Thank you for your continuing support for Missio's worldwide work.

World Mission Sunday is on 18th October. This year is the 100th Anniversary of the Pope's charity appeal asking for your prayers and support for missionaries. There will be a second collection for Mission.

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: £398.00 Building Fund: £31.00

Offertory Collection last week:
St. Joseph's: £1077.69 St. Swithun's: £164.39

St Peter Claver: £2082.95

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.**

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: Cafod Harvest Fast Day collection. Please see donation envelopes in foyer.

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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays from10.30-11.30am 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 is starting on Saturday 31st October.**

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

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

Mass Intentions

Saturday 3rd October
6.00pm Wellbeing of Hopkins Family (Paul)

Sunday 4th October
10.00am Benjamin & Margaret Aloysius RIP (Steve)
Deceased Souls of Noruega & Guedes Families (Jenny)

Monday 5th October
10.00am Wellbeing of Rincy Lopes (Agnelo)

Saturday 10th October
6.00pm Maria Antonia Albuquerque Thanksgiving

Sunday 11th October
10.00am Georghe Chiriac RIP

Monday 12th October
10.00am Aluiza and Lactancio Menezes RIP (Agnelo)

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 20th October from 1.30pm in the Upper Room. The group will not meet on 6th October. Please call Gina on 07780 468767.

Ss Joseph & Swithun Youth Group for ages 11-18 years of age. Next session to be held on Saturday 7th November from 7-9pm in the church hall. Please let the parish office know if your child would like to attend or if you are able to volunteer to help out at this session.

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. Next date Friday 9th October 2026.

Seniors Lunch: The next Seniors' Lunch will be on Tuesday 13th October 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 Wednesday 7th October at 19.30-21.00 in the Upper Room. For further information please email Richard Barratt at: rgtbarrett@gmail.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

Surgery Times: 4.30-6.30pm in Holy Trinity House
Mondays: Fr Saju & Deacon Barry/Aidan/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. For enquiries ring: Caroline O'Brien on 07961 413694.