



ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

26 DEEPDENE ROAD, WELLING, KENT DA16 3QL ☒ Telephone: 020 8303 4422
 Parish Priest: Canon Edward Perera
 website: www.saintstephens.co.uk Email: welling@rcaos.org.uk
 Secretary: Mrs. Lorraine Harris. email: adminparish@saintstephens.co.uk
 School St. Stephen's Primary School, Ruskin Avenue, Welling, Kent. DA16 3QG
 Telephone: 020 8303 9738

DONATIONS

As the sharing of a collection bag is not permitted during Mass there will be a collection basket at the entrance and exit doors of the church to put your donation in. Any donation you are able to make will be greatly appreciated at this time to help support our church & parish. Thank you.

You can post your donation in a sealed envelope through the presbytery letterbox at anytime, place your donation in the basket in church or you can make an online donation—as a 'one-off' payment or set up a standing order to make regular weekly or monthly donations. Please consider signing up to our Gift Aid scheme. Contact the church office for more details.

Our bank details are as follows;
 NatWest Bank
 Sort Code: 51-70-14
 Account No. 39013332
 Account Name: RC Archdiocese of Southwark St Stephens Catholic Church Welling
 Please use your name as a reference (gift aiders please add your envelope number). Thank you.

To give online using your debit / credit card go to <https://portal.myдона.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=236> Making a donation here is simple and quick. Enter the amount you would like to give and enter your card debit / credit details—you also have the option to gift aid your donation & any future donations you make using this card online or in church will also be gift aided (if eligible).

PayPal Donate Button on St Stephen's website—go to www.saintstephens.co.uk and click on the PayPal donate button on the left of the page. Donations can be made as a 'one off' or regular monthly payments and will go directly to St Stephen's Church.

JustGiving: Parishioners who wish to support the parish may also do so online via justgiving.com/campaign/parishsupport. Please note that parishioners need to reference their donation with the full parish name and location.

1st Sunday of Lent (Year B)

Saturday 20th February

5pm Christina Donovan

Sunday 21st February

9.30am People of the Parish

11.30am Thanksgiving—Good Health in Pandemic

Mon 22nd The Chair of St Peter

7pm Sheila Gillespie—unwell in hospital

Tues 23rd Feria

Danny Lyons (P&A Lynch)
 (NOT A PUBLIC MASS)

Wed 24th Feria

7pm Thanksgiving

Thurs 25th Feria

Carmela Salamone RIP
 (NOT A PUBLIC MASS)

Fri 26th Feria

Thanksgiving Padre Pio
 (NOT A PUBLIC MASS)

2nd Sunday of Lent (Year B)

Saturday 27th February

5pm Joseph Sydney Tambyapin RIP

Sunday 28th February

9.30am Ron Baxter RIP—1st anniv

11.30am Parishioners

Please remember in your prayers the sick and housebound; at home, in hospital or in residential care.

NHS TRACK AND TRACE

*"To manage the risk of the virus re-emerging."
 Attending public worship in the Archdiocese of Southwark*

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

DATE: TIME OF MASS:

This information is being collected at the direction of the UK Government. It will be kept secure and will be destroyed 21 days after the act of public worship.

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My Dear People

We have begun the season of Lent. Henri Nouwen describes Lent as the season during which winter and spring struggle with each other for dominance. Last year just two weeks into the season of Lent the nation went into lockdown. The churches had to be closed. The message of the Prime Minister on that Monday evening was stark. Our normal lifestyle of meeting with loved ones came to an abrupt stop and we all remained in our own households. The circumstances we were plunged into became a kind of wilderness for us all.

Every year on the first Sunday of Lent we are reminded of the temptations of Jesus. The Greek verb used is the same for both 'tempt' and 'test' and so we can also say that Jesus was tested before he began his mission. Mark speaks of the temptations in just one simple sentence— After his baptism, "*The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days and was tempted by Satan*". Mark in these words reminds us, his readers, the seriousness of the situation.

Mark also gives us two more details— that Jesus was with '*wildbeasts*' and that '*angels looked after him*'.

The word 'repent' we hear in the gospel today is derived from the Greek word 'metanoia', which means a change of heart, a fresh beginning. Many years ago former prime minister David Cameron spoke about 'going back to basics'.

Lent is an invitation for us to go into our own spiritual wilderness so that we can take stock of our lives and to get down to basics. We too are confronted by our own wild beasts of our sinfulness. But the greatest temptation is that we can be so overwhelmed by our own wild beasts -our sin and guilt—to the extent that we can forget 'the ministering of the angels', in other words God's mercy, compassion and love, is always with us.

Lent is a time to recognise in a special way to open our hearts and minds to the loving mercy and compassion of God as Jesus assures us in the Gospel today that "the Kingdom of God is close at hand".

God Bless and love you.
United in prayer.
Canon Edward

First Sunday of Lent Time (Year B)

Scripture Insights

The Genesis passage comes from the priestly writer with a special interest in worship and obedience to the law. This writer sees God as all-powerful, creative, transcendent, holy, and orderly. Notice that perspective in the first creation story of Genesis. God creates by the power of the Word, creatures appear in orderly array, and God rests on the seventh day as if the Sabbath were written into the very order of the cosmos.

For this writer, then, the flood represents a mighty tearing of the fabric of creation, which God had originally pronounced "very good". After sin causes the wrath of God to break forth, God forswears the violence of the flood by making a covenant. This seems to anticipate the unconditional covenant made with Abraham. God promises never to destroy creation and sets a sign of the covenant in the heavens: a rainbow. Alongside the dove, the rainbow becomes a sign of peace. So, despite the terrors of war, the upheavals of nature, the catastrophes of human judgement, God's graciousness ensures stability "for all future generations."

Mark's account of the Gospel pictures Jesus being tempted in the wilderness following his baptism. But the most striking parallel today is between Jesus' proclamation of the Gospel and God's good

news of repudiating vengeance. The "good news of God" is thus a message of reconciliation.

The first letter of Peter tells of Jesus going to make a proclamation to the spirits in prison who had disobeyed in the time of Noah. The precise meaning of this passage is hard to grasp, but the general sense seems clear: Christ's death is a powerful Gospel for all times and people, admitting people into a new spiritual Noah's ark that saves them through the ritual flood of Baptism.

Thoughts for Reflection

- God's order is a good and wonderful reality in creation. In Genesis, God promises not to flood the world again, and in the Gospel reading we hear about further reconciliation between God and his human creation.
- As Lent begins, we are reminded that these forty days are a time to repent of sin, return to the Gospel, and recommit ourselves to our baptismal promises.
- God's covenants are forever; he never forgets a promise he made to his people.

LTP Sourcebook 2021

St Edmund's Church Beckenham Lent Talks

2021 by Fr Ashley Beck on Wednesdays 7.30pm

live-streamed (and recorded)

www.saintedmunds.net

Pope Francis and the Future

The Message of *FRATELLI TUTTI*

24 February: *Dark Clouds Over a Closed World*

3 March: *A Stranger on the Road*

10 March: *An Open World and a New Culture*

St Patrick's Day, 17 March: *Peace and Forgiveness*

24 March: *Fraternity in the World*

The text of the pope's letter can be found at

[Fratelli tutti \(3 October 2020\) | Francis \(vatican.va\)](https://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francesco/letters/2020/10/03/fratelli-tutti-2020-10-03_en.html)

Knowing Jesus: Jesuit Lent Online Retreat

2021

Walk with the Jesuits through Lent and Easter and really come to understand and love Jesus. They will ponder Gospel stories, reflect on their meaning and see how startlingly relevant Jesus is to living a truly human life in the 21st Century.

Follow the retreat online, and sign up to an online group (places limited):

<https://www.onlineprayer.net/>

Sign up to receive daily emails during Lent and additional resources:

<http://eepurl.com/hnIXAn>

Redemptorist Publications is pleased to

introduce **Celebrate**: a free initiative designed to help children grow in their faith. Each week we will provide a Children's Liturgy in the form of a video of the week's Gospel reading, a reflection and a final prayer. Fun, engaging and practical worksheets/resources will also be provided to help children continue to practise their faith during this difficult time.

[Celebrate | Following Your Faith | Children's Liturgy \(rpbooks.co.uk\)](https://www.rpbooks.co.uk/celebrate)

Lent Extra magazine is the perfect companion to guide you towards Easter. Daily reflections will offer you encouragement, support and joy on a road which will have challenges, as well as blessings.

£2.25 from www.rpbooks.co.uk or tel. 01420

592974.

Spiritual and Mental Wellbeing for Children

during the Pandemic: We have all faced an unexpected range of challenges during the pandemic, which may have led to a sense of disquiet or anxiety about not only our health, but also security and the need to adapt, at pace, to ever-changing circumstances.

Our children have also had to adjust their daily routines and with this has come significant disruption to study, the inability to meet with friends on a regular basis, uncertainty about the future and more time spent indoors with family. Jesus regularly took himself away to a quiet place in order to find peace and rest in the healing presence of the Father. It is with this in mind that the *Education Commission and Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis* have created a resource entitled '**Meditation, Contemplation and Well-being**'. This resource is intended to serve the spiritual and mental health needs of our children, mainly in this time of pandemic, but also to carry into the future.

The resource consists of a range of opportunities for young people to discover imaginative, contemplative and scriptural prayer through Christian meditation, Ignation Spirituality and the *Lectio Divina*.

[Download the Meditation, contemplation and well-being resource](https://www.educationcommissionandagencyfor.org.uk/resources/meditation-contemplation-and-well-being-resource)

[Visit the website of the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis](https://www.educationcommissionandagencyfor.org.uk/visit-the-website-of-the-agency-for-evangelisation-and-catechesis)

Live Catholic Mass Online

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/online-mass-directory/>

Use the online directory of churches in England and Wales streaming Catholic Mass live online (web address above). This directory aims to provide links to Live Catholic Masses online. It's easy to search – just enter your postcode. You can search without entering a postcode but these Masses might not necessarily be near you. Narrow down your search results by selecting the Mass Type (Daily, Vigil or Sunday). You can also select from the available languages (including signed) and you will get a list of the next available Catholic Masses streamed online.

Archbishop John and the Diocesan Spirituality Commission are offering a *Retreat for Lent*, which you can follow in your own home. Using the link below, you can watch a short video reflection each week, download prayer materials and other resources which can help you make the best use of whatever time and opportunity you may have during your week. If you are looking for a way to deepen your life of prayer this Lent, click on <http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/followme> where you can also sign up to receive materials directly to your email.

Six Bible Studies on the Lenten Sunday Gospels

Six Wednesday evening Bible Study sessions, to break-open each Lenten Sunday Gospel. You will experience Sunday Mass in a new way! Mauro Iannicelli will walk you through the forthcoming Sunday Gospel with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions. The sessions are delivered with 'Expository Preaching' teaching method & with 'Life-Application' questions. Wed 17th Feb - Wed 24 Mar, 2021 | 7pm - 8:30pm (Free & Live sessions)
Info & Registration: <https://comeandsee.org/lent>

CAFOD Family Fast Day: Friday 26th February.

Abdella lives in a extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. He spends nearly all his time collecting water just to keep his family alive. He has no time to lead the life he wants. Meet Abdella and explore his journey at: cafod.org.uk/lent
Help end water poverty and provide other vital support to communities around the world. Put your love into action today at cafod.org.uk/lent or tel. 0303 303 3030. Text LENT 10 to 70460 to give £10 (enough for sturdy water containers to store clean water safely) or add the amount you would like to donate eg Text LENT 20 to give £20. (Texts cost your donation amount plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hearing more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you would like to give but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460. More info at cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice

Pathways to Christ's Passion Three webinars exploring the accounts of the Passion & Resurrection of Jesus Hosted by Holy Innocents Parish, Orpington

To prepare for Holy Week Fr. Henry Wansbrough, a Benedictine monk based at Ampleforth Abbey, will lead participants through different narratives of the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus in order to gain a deeper understanding of these powerful events. The series offers an opportunity to increase personal insights into the historical context and profound theology expressed in these accounts, with a view to understanding what the Resurrection means for the mission of the Church and for our spirituality. If you have any queries, please contact the Holy Innocents' parish office by email (orpington@rcaos.org.uk) or (orpingtonpcrgo@rcaos.org.uk) or tel. 01689 817537.

The Passion and Resurrection of Jesus according to the Synoptic Gospels

Wednesday 10 March 2021 at 7.45 - 9.15 pm

The Passion and Resurrection of Jesus according to John

Wednesday 17 March 2021 at 7.45 - 9.15 pm

The Passion and Resurrection of Jesus according to the writings of Paul

Wednesday 24 March 2021 at 7.45 - 9.15 pm

To find our more and join the webinars, [visit Eventbrite](#).

Rediscover Marriage with Retrouvaille
'Retrouvaille' simply means 'rediscovery'. The programme offers the chance for couples to rediscover themselves, and a loving relationship. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 25 – 28 February 2021 Tel / text 0788 7296983 or 0797 3380443 Email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Opening of the Church for the Celebration

of Mass: St Stephen's will be open for the celebration of Mass on the following days & times.

Monday 7pm

Tuesday *No Public Mass* (Mass will be celebrated by Canon Edward without the faithful and will be offered for the noted intention –see front page of the newsletter)

Wednesday 7pm

Thursday *No Public Mass* (Mass will be celebrated by Canon Edward without the faithful and will be offered for the noted intention –see front page of the newsletter)

Friday *No Public Mass* (Mass will be celebrated by Canon Edward without the faithful and will be offered for the noted intention –see front page of the newsletter)

Saturday 5pm

Sunday 9.30am & 11.30am

Please note that the number of attendees in church will be limited to 50 people and face coverings have to be worn in church.

Please note that in accordance with the strict guidelines from Archbishop's House there will be no toilet facilities open in church. Hand sanitisers will be available to use on entry and exit of the church and a 'one-way' in and out system will be in use. Many thanks to the volunteers who have enabled us to open the church.

Guidance for the Celebration of Mass.

This guidance has been issued by the Bishops Conference of England and Wales for the celebration of Mass.

2m social distancing where possible.

Only those who need to be in the sacristy before Mass should attend.

The Holy water stoups should be dry.

No congregational singing at Mass.

The prayers of the faithful to be omitted.

No offertory procession.

Collection plates to be placed at the entrance and/or exits of the church.

Members of the congregation should not exchange the sign of peace.

The Communion Rite: The priest shows to the congregation the Host and says audibly – "The Body of Christ" and the "Blood of Christ" – and the people respond –Amen. The priest will receive Holy

Communion under both kinds using his own Host and Chalice. The priest will hold a reverent silence before the Prayer after Communion, giving the Blessing and dismissal. As the people have already acclaimed the presence of the Lord, at the Priest's Communion, the distribution to the congregation of Holy Communion will be in silence with no dialogue between minister and communicant. Communion must be given in the hand only, with the communicant standing, avoiding any physical contact. People should wait in their pews until instructed to move forward in an orderly manner pew by pew by the steward, aware of the social distancing. Once you have received communion please leave the church via the side door (through the small hall) as directed by the steward. Do not return to the pew. Please use the hand sanitiser. At the end of the celebration the priest should return to the Sacristy. The Church should be closed immediately after Mass in order to clean the space and parishioners encouraged to return home. Please note there will be NO toilet facilities available in church or hall. Please scan the QR code on arrival at church, using the NHS COVID-19 app **OR** a 'NHS Track & Trace' card will be required to be completed by everyone attending Mass to manage the risk of the virus re-emerging. The information is being collected at the direction of the UK Government. It will be kept secure and will be destroyed 21 days after the Mass you have attended. A copy of the card is attached to this newsletter which you can print and complete at home to bring with you when you come to Mass. One card per individual or household group. Cards will be available in the porch at each Mass (please bring your own pen) and must be completed. *Please note a card is required to be completed for each Mass you attend.* Given there is no Sunday obligation, we ask you to consider the possibility of attending Mass on a weekday. This will ease the pressure of numbers for Sunday celebrations. We ask everyone to respect and follow the guidance for the celebration of Mass in church and for your cooperation and understanding as we all get used to the new guidance.

Donations to St Stephen's Church: Online, Contactless and Chip & Pin

In an increasingly cashless society, driven by ever changing technology, we must be able to respond to the new and innovative ways in which people can donate to St Stephen's. This is particularly true in the current COVID19 situation. Online, contactless and Chip & Pin giving are **new** mechanisms at St Stephen's for giving, that can enable a huge range of people to donate.

We are pleased to announce that we have installed 2 new **Digital Collection Plates** situated at the back of the church which parishioners will be able to use from this weekend. Making a donation is simple and quick. Press one of the donation values e.g. £5, £10, £15, £20, £50 or Other Amount. Tap your card or phone on the card reader. For donations greater than £45, the card must be inserted at the top of the card reader with the chip facing downwards, enter your pin number and press the green arrow to confirm your donation. After tapping / inserting your card, the card reader will beep, and a blue light will show up, and screen will read payment approved. Your donation can be gift aided. The donor can complete a digital Gift Aid Declaration on the Digital Collection Plate screen and all future donations you make using this card will automatically be recorded. A Gift Aid Declaration is required when using the Digital Collection Plate for the first time even if you are registered for Gift Aid at St Stephen's. Once you have registered for Gift Aid you will receive a 'thank you' email with a copy of your Gift Aid Declaration.

In future, you will also be able to contribute to 2nd collections and other charity collections in this way. We cannot claim Gift Aid on behalf of other charities so a separate gift aid declaration will have to be completed if making a donation to e.g. CAFOD.

To give online go to <https://portal.mydona.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=236>

Making a donation here is also simple and quick. Enter the amount you would like to give and enter your card details. If you would like to gift aid your donation please click on the 'yes' button and enter your name, address and email address. Any future donations you make using this card online or in church will also be gift aided (if eligible).

All major payment methods accepted:



Reminder: To enable the church to claim the gift aid on your donation when using your debit / credit card (online or in church) you must register by entering your name, address and email address. Once registered, all future online and in church card payments will be gift aided (as long as you use the same payment card). *A suggestion to save you time in church* – you can make a small donation online (eg £1) and register your details so that when you tap your card in church you are already registered and therefore do not have to enter your details again. If you do not have an email address but would like to use the contactless / online donation device please contact the church office.

Please note that gift aid envelopes (past dated and current), loose cash, standing orders, 'one off' or regular online payments, PayPal and Justgiving donations are still valid and welcomed at St Stephen's.

If you have any questions regarding online, contactless and Chip & Pin payments please speak to Canon Edward or contact the church office.

Thank you to our stewards at the Ash Wednesday Masses. Without them we would not have been able to open the church for the celebration of Mass. Your help and assistance was appreciated by all – thank you.

Also, thanks to parishioners for your continued cooperation in following the stewards directions and guidance. Both Masses went smoothly and all COVID safety measures were observed. We appreciate your understanding and compliance as we all adhere to the Covid-19 guidance for the safety of everyone in church.

Bexley Foodbank needs strong carrier bags or bags for life please. Please put your donated bags in the box in the porch. Food donations welcomed and needed too. Thank you.

St Elizabeth of Portugal parish in Richmond (Fr Stephen Langridge) is an Alpha hub parish and is hosting an **Online Alpha** starting on Tuesday 23rd February on Zoom and will run for 11 weeks 7.30pm to 8.45pm.

Alpha is a chance to ask life's big questions and explore the Christian faith in a fun, no-pressure environment. Each session includes a short film and a discussion where you can chat through your thoughts and questions with a small group of people just like you. Alpha is for everyone. There's no charge and no follow up. Just come along and bring a friend. Go to <https://www.alpha.org/catholic-context/> to find out more.

We would like to extend the invitation for anyone from the parish to join this Alpha Online course to just see what it's like, to be inspired, to learn, to receive – basically to support and bless each other across parish lines within our diocese and beyond. The sign-up link can be found here: <https://stelizabethofportugal.churchsuite.co.uk/events/drbrvfnag>

The Opportunity to make a Covid-19 vaccination possible for somebody else in the world.

We're getting our jabs, but what about our brothers and sisters all over the world who are not so fortunate? The World Health Organisation has set up a [COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund](#). In the UK the donations to this fund are managed by [CAF](#) (Charities Aid Foundation) which is facilitating donations of £5 upwards with no charge. What would you pay for your job if it were not free? Why not give this to help someone else fight the virus? We have been reminded as part of the global family - until everyone is safe, no one is safe.

Home for Good Information Event

Fostering or adopting children with disabilities and additional/medical needs on Wednesday 24th February 8pm -9.30pm
Details at <https://www.homeforgood.org.uk/events/foster-adopt-24-feb-21>

We hope this event provides space for exploration and results for our local authority. There is a great need here.

Billy-Jo O'Leary, Project Worker: Kent and South East 07749 555537

Twitter: [@home4gd](#) | Facebook: [@home4gd](#) | Instagram: [@homeforgood.org.uk](#)

Bexley Winter Shelter (BWS) – update

We were able to fill the 4 rooms by the end of week. While there is one guest who has had to be referred back to the Council, we are eager to get more guests. The referral process has been developed through good teamwork between BWS, Thames Reach, and Bexley Council. Many rough sleepers have been picked up and moved on through SWEP (Severe Weather Emergency Protocol), which is a wonderful answer to prayer. However, this leaves the referrals coming into BWS slower than we anticipated. Good relationships are being built with the guests.

We were unable to offer places to 2 referrals, being too complex and beyond the scope of BWS. Please keep BWS and their work with the homeless in our borough in your prayers.

Catholic Universe and Catholic Times Newspapers can be delivered direct to your home every week, POST FREE. Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange your order and delivery.

SPECIAL OFFER 3 Months: £25.00
SPECIAL OFFER 12 Months: £99.00
DIGITAL COPY: - 12 Months: £55.00

Redemptorist Publications is delighted to bring the Holy Mass, celebrated by Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R. into your home every Sunday.
[Holy Mass Online | Every Sunday | RP Books](#)



Job opportunity at Synergy Network

Synergy Network Co-Ordinator – full time
Working to end serious youth violence <https://wearesynergy.org.uk/>

Ascension Trust, Alpha House, 158 Garth Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 4TQ

DD: | T: 020 8330 2809

www.ascensiontrust.org.uk

Church Flowers: If you would like to join a rota to look after the flower arrangements in church once a month please contact Velia Dobinson. Velia will be offering free flower arrangement training / teaching to anyone interested. Everyone welcome to join the rota—no floral experience needed. Velia 07789 673747.