



# 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](http://www.saintstephens.co.uk) Email: [welling@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:welling@rcaos.org.uk)

Secretary: Mrs. Lorraine Harris. email: [adminparish@saintstephens.co.uk](mailto:adminparish@saintstephens.co.uk)

School St. Stephen's Primary School, Ruskin Avenue, Welling, Kent. DA16 3QG

Telephone: 020 8303 9738

## 16th Sunday (Year B)

### Saturday 17th July

**5pm** People of the Parish

### Sunday 18th July

**9.30am** Betty Fletcher RIP (McMorrow)

**11.30am** Della Maria Baker

### Mon 19th Feria

**7pm** Neal Wells RIP

### Tues 20th Feria

**10am** Dick Eakins RIP

### Wed 21st Feria

**7pm** Janine Cunningham—birthday

### Thurs 22nd St Mary Magdalene

**10am** Joseph Paul Anderson

### Fri 23rd St Bridget

**10am** Brian Wilson RIP

## 17th Sunday (Year B)

### Saturday 24th July

**5pm** Daniel McElroy RIP

### Sunday 25th July

**9.30am** Lorna & Danzel 40th Wedding Anniv

**11.30am** People of the Parish

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

## 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.mydona.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](http://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](http://justgiving.com/campaign/parishsupport). Please note that parishioners need to reference their donation with the full parish name and location.

My Dear People

Gospel today is the account of the return of the twelve whom Jesus sent out which we heard last Sunday. Now they report back, and seem to boast about their success. They seemed to have forgotten that their mission was the mission of Jesus equipped with Jesus' authority. This reminds me of the prayer attributed to St. Oscar Romero, and I share that with you today. *It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us. No statement says all that could be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No programme accomplishes the Church's mission.*

*No set of goals and objectives includes everything. That is what we are about. We plant a seed that will one day grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realising that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.*

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

**Sixteenth Sunday of the Year - (Year B)**

**Scripture Insights**

Jeremiah's indictment of leaders who abandon the people is at once powerful and disturbing. The priests, rulers, and false prophets in the period just before the exile had predicted that God would never allow Jerusalem to fall. All the people had to do was wait a little longer for God's vindication. Jeremiah knew that something different was going to happen: Jerusalem would be destroyed by the Babylonians, and in 587 BC, it was. He saw that the false hopes and promises raised by the rulers had left the people of Jerusalem scattered like the sheep so many of them had pastured in the hills surrounding the city. And with no moral guidance, many Israelites had been led astray. God promises to gather the sheep and bring them back by raising up shepherds for them. The promise has much the same structure as the promise to raise up a prophet like Moses who will tell the people all God has said. In Jeremiah, the shepherd will shepherd (literally pasture) the people. Finally, God promises to raise up a righteous Branch. The Branch will reign as a wise king who will execute justice and righteousness. This description is important; in Jewish theology, the reign of God brings justice and righteousness. Here, a king from David's family tree will become God's shepherd on earth.

Another great vision of the Davidic shepherd is the restoration of the divided Israel. Paul sees the restoration in his time as the coming together of Jews and Gentiles in Jesus Christ.

In Mark we hear again the image of shepherd. When Jesus sees the crowd hungry for guidance, he must reach out to them. But Mark gives us a different image for the shepherd of these sheep. This shepherd is not a king or a branch of David's tree; he is a teacher—yet another description that helps the reader grasp who Jesus is for the world.

**Thoughts for Reflection**

- In the First Reading, we hear about God's people Israel being left without a shepherd; without anyone to guide them in God's ways, they struggle. In the Gospel, we see Jesus as the fulfilment of God's promise to give Israel a shepherd; Jesus is the Good Shepherd who guides the people in God's ways.
- Jesus was promised to the ancient Israelites, and they waited for him to emerge from David's line, knowing God keeps his promises.
- Though Jesus came from David's line, his Incarnation, crucifixion, and Resurrection were for all people—Jewish and Gentile.
- Jesus was deeply moved by the condition of the suffering people he encountered. Our Lord knows and understands our suffering.

<p><b>NHS TRACK AND TRACE</b>  <i>"To manage the risk of the virus re-emerging."</i>  <i>Attending public worship in the Archdiocese of Southwark</i></p>	<p>NAME:</p> <p>ADDRESS:</p> <p>TELEPHONE NUMBER:</p> <p>EMAIL ADDRESS:</p> <p>DATE:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TIME OF MASS:</p>
<p><b>NHS TRACK AND TRACE</b>  <i>"To manage the risk of the virus re-emerging."</i>  <i>Attending public worship in the Archdiocese of Southwark</i></p>	
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**Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage** on Saturday 9th October at St George's Cathedral. If you are celebrating your 1<sup>st</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>/40<sup>th</sup>/50<sup>th</sup>/60<sup>th</sup> + wedding anniversary this year (2020 anniversaries are welcome), please email [mflse@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflse@rcaos.org.uk) so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop to attend this special Mass. Please write the location of your parish in the title of your email, e.g. Welling. Please provide your names in the format *John and Mary Smith*, your home address and the anniversary you are celebrating. Please apply as soon as possible—the last day to apply is 1<sup>st</sup> August. Spaces are limited.

**Celebrate: Summer** is a magazine for Catholic kids, full of cool activities, fun quizzes, puzzles and facts. Perfect for 7–12-year-olds it will encourage children to think about and grow in their faith whilst having fun with 22 jam-packed pages. *Celebrate: Summer* comes with a six-week summer calendar and activity sheet for even more things to do through the school holidays. This year enjoy the school holidays knowing that God is with us every day as we *Celebrate: Summer*. £1.95 from Redemptorist Publications. [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk)  
Tel: [01420 592974](tel:01420592974)  
Email: [customercare@rpbooks.co.uk](mailto:customercare@rpbooks.co.uk)

#### 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. Narrow down your search results by selecting the Mass Type (Daily, Vigil or Sunday). You can also select from the available languages (including signed).

**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. [Celebrate | Following Your Faith | Children's Liturgy \(rpbooks.co.uk\)](#)

**Ordinations to the Priesthood:** Southwark Diocese is blessed to have two gentlemen offering their lives in the service to the Lord through the vocation of Priesthood this year. Please pray for *Matthew Donnelly* and *David Hunter*, who will be ordained by Archbishop John Wilson in St George's Cathedral at 12.30pm on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021. May God bless their future ministries.

The Diocese is pleased to announce that the service will be livestreamed this Saturday via <https://youtu.be/kHTTpuiPoXk>

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

**Job Vacancy: Mary's Meals** has a new job opportunity in the London/SE England region. The role of 'Supporter Engagement Officer' is an exciting and varied one which will suit someone with good organisational and people skills. The closing date is 19<sup>th</sup> July. Job details are here <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/useful-links/work-for-us/supporter-engagement-officer-london>

**Job Vacancy: Children and Family Leader:** New Generation Church, Sidcup are looking for a creative, passionate and energetic person to develop their work with 0–11-year-olds and support the work they already do with 11–17-year-olds. For full details of the role please go to <https://www.newgen.org.uk/job-vacancies/> Please send a CV and covering letter to [paula@newgen.org.uk](mailto:paula@newgen.org.uk) by Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July.

#### Counselling Matters Bexley

Lonely, isolated, stressed or anxious in these difficult times? Phone this talk line and talk to a counsellor free of charge. We won't give you advice or judge you, but we will listen and can also give you information about other services. You are not alone in these times, we are here to support you. Freephone 0800 047 2600  
E: [mail@cmbtalk.org](mailto:mail@cmbtalk.org)  
7 days a week 9am – 9pm  
[www.counsellingmattersbexley.org](http://www.counsellingmattersbexley.org)

**Church Flowers:** If you would like to join a rota to look after the flowers in church please contact Velia Dobinson. Everyone welcome—no floral experience needed. Velia 07789 673747.

#### Opening of the Church for the Celebration

**of Mass:** St Stephen's will be open for the celebration of Mass for the week 19th July — 25th July on the following days & times.

**Monday 7pm**

**Tuesday 10am**

**Wednesday 7pm**

**Thursday 10am**

**Friday 10am**

**Saturday 5pm**

**Sunday 9.30am & 11.30am**

**Many thanks to all our stewards.**

**Please note that the number of attendees in church will be limited to 55 people and face coverings have to be worn in church.**

Please note that in accordance with the guidelines from Archbishop's House there will be no toilet facilities open in church or the hall. 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.* We ask everyone to respect and follow the guidance for the celebration of Mass in church and for your cooperation and understanding.

## 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 can use whenever you come into church. 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—online and/ or in church. 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> or go the parish website [www.saintstephens.co.uk](http://www.saintstephens.co.uk) and click on the **Donate with Dona** button on the home page. 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, cheques (payable to *St Stephen's RC Church*), PayPal and Justgiving donations are all 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.

**Bexley Foodbank** needs strong carrier bags or bags for life please. Food donations welcomed and needed too. Donations in box in porch please.

**Catholic Voices Pandemic Survey** - Catholic Voices was involved in a very successful survey and report during the first lockdown in May-July 2020. Over 2,500 Catholics in England and Wales and Scotland were surveyed, which has given us important insights into how people responded to the arrival of the pandemic. Since then a lot has changed and *Catholic Voices* would like to hear again from people about their current experiences and, crucially, what they feel about that future, so the survey is being relaunched. Repeating the survey now provides a good comparison moment. *The link is* <https://www.catholicvoices.org.uk/survey>

**Baptism Preparation Class** for parents wishing to baptise their child(ren) at St Stephen's on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30am in church.

**Covid-19 Guidance:** On 19th July, the current legislative powers which assist the mitigations against the covid-19 virus transmission will be rescinded by HM Government. Even without this legislation in place, the Church in England and Wales will be adopting a cautious approach to capacity and activity within our churches. All places of worship will have to consider the prevailing local conditions for the virus. Special consideration will be given to rates at which people are being vaccinated in the locality, the prevalence of new variants of the virus, the local rates of hospital admissions and any local public health advice.

At St Stephen's, we will continue to celebrate Mass socially distanced and face coverings are to be worn. Hand sanitisers should be used entering and leaving church. As long as the *NHS Test, Track and Trace* system is in operation, we will continue to make available the means for people to sign in when attending Mass using the NHS app and scanning the QR code or completing a Track & Trace card.

We ask everyone to respect and follow the guidance for the celebration of Mass in church and for your cooperation and understanding so we can keep the church a safe environment for all.

**Sea Sunday** is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. There is a collection for Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea), the Catholic Church's official maritime welfare agency. It supports seafarers both practically and spiritually. For an appeal talk from Bishop Paul Mason, and a video showing some of what Stella Maris does, please visit [www.stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday](http://www.stellamaris.org.uk/SeaSunday). This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work. To donate, please visit [www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate](http://www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate) or text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Envelopes are available in the porch area and by the collection baskets. Please take one and if you are a tax payer please consider completing the gift aid declaration attached to the envelope. Stella Maris is dependent on voluntary donations, so please give generously. Thank you.

**The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS)** course provides knowledge and understanding of theology and the Catholic faith. For more information visit [brs-ccrs.org.uk](http://brs-ccrs.org.uk) You can learn the course in person, by distance learning or online - details below:  
Centres (in person learning)  
<http://brs-ccrs.org.uk/index.php/course-centres>  
Life-Light Home Study Courses (distance learning)  
[info@studylifelight.com](mailto:info@studylifelight.com)  
01844 351 514  
CCRS Online (online learning)  
[ccronline@hope.ac.uk](mailto:ccronline@hope.ac.uk)  
0151 291 3055

**Living Water Online:** Visit the parish website ([www.saintstephens.co.uk](http://www.saintstephens.co.uk)) and look for the link, or go to: [www.saintstephens.co.uk/blog](http://www.saintstephens.co.uk/blog)  
**NEW: Reflections for the Month of July:**  
Deacon Michael Baldry  
**NEW: Deacon Joseph Gulliford:** His journey to the priesthood  
**AND:** Pope's Prayer for Coronavirus.

**Summertime 2021:** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August: Southwark is pleased to announce that this annual activity for young people is back, and commend it to boy and girl altar servers aged 10 - 15 years within Southwark Diocese. The Summertime 2021 Altar Servers' Summer break will take place at the Oratory School in Reading and will open with Mass celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson. Activities will include talks, discussions, prayer, daily Mass, as well as sport, Thorpe Park and swimming. A coach will be provided from St Anselm's, Dartford and the cost of £165 covers all board and lodging, a visit to Thorpe Park and swimming. For more details please contact Fr Stephen Boyle, Chaplain to the Guild of St. Stephen. Email: [dartford@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:dartford@rcaos.org.uk)  
[Summertime 2021 Application Form](#)

**Sunday Morning Churches Together Celebration** #BEXFEST Bexley Festival Danson Park Southside on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd August 2021 run by Welling Round Table. #BEXFEST is a ticketed event, with whole weekend at £10 adults, £5 children 6-17, under 6's free. Christians across the fellowships in Bexley are invited to come together at **10am on Sunday 22nd August** at Danson Park. Tickets must be booked in advance via the website <https://www.bexleyfestival.co.uk/>