



# ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

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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

## 18th Sunday (Year B)

### Saturday 31st July

**5pm** Fr Peter Ryman RIP—anniv  
(Tambyapin Family)

### Sunday 1st August

**9.30am** People of the Parish

**11.30am** Lilian Thornton—Thanksgiving

### Mon 2nd Feria

**7pm** Oliver Robinson-Cooper—birthday

### Tues 3rd Feria

**10am** Canon Jeremiah McCarthy

### Wed 4th St John Vianney

**7pm** Rowena Govia RIP

### Thurs 5th Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major

**10am** Karl Easthorpe RIP (Vine)

### Fri 6th Transfiguration of the Lord

**10am** Donald Govia RIP—birthday

## 19th Sunday (Year B)

### Saturday 7th August

**5pm** Thanksgiving—Lloyd Lobo 60th Birthday

### Sunday 8th August

**9.30am** Mary Sanger RIP—anniv (McMorrow)

**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

We continue reading from the sixth chapter of John’s Gospel. After the feeding of the five thousand, when the people tried to make him king, Jesus withdrew to the hills. People did not know where Jesus had gone. The next day they find him and they ask Him when he had arrived in there, perhaps it was Capernaum. However Jesus does not answer their question about the time of his arrival, but rather talks to them about why they seek him and that they are seeking him for the wrong reason Him. It is interesting to note how the people addressed Jesus when they found him. They said to him ‘Rabbi’ meaning teacher. It seems they had forgotten how they proclaimed him as a prophet the previous day. Miracles in the Gospel of John are ‘signs’ of his power and of his authority. Those who were witnesses for these events believed in him. But the people who witnessed the feeding of the five thousand have not come to believe in Him. That’s why Jesus tells them that they looked for him only because their stomachs were satisfied.

Jesus tells them not to look or work for the food that perishes but to work for food that endures for eternal life. As we hear the gospel text today, firstly, it is an invitation for us to ask ourselves what our reasons are as we look for Jesus? In the aftermath of the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves, a long conversations begins between Jesus and the people, so that Jesus could lead them to a deeper understanding of himself as the ‘Bread of Life’. There is a similarity of the conversation of Jesus with the Samaritan woman at the well. Gradually He brought her to an understanding of Him as the ‘Living Water’. Secondly we too are invited to approach this encounter in a similar way, so that we too believe that Jesus is the Bread of Life, God’s life giving gift to all of us.

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

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

**Scripture Insights**

Alongside John 6 and the discourse on the bread of life, the Church hears most of the fourth and fifth chapters of Paul’s letter to the Ephesians. Known as one of the captivity letters because it is apparently written from prison, the Letter to the Ephesians discusses the mystery of life in Christ. Paul’s exhortation to “live in a manner worthy of the call you have received,” which we heard last week, strikes at the heart of Christian discipleship. This week, Paul continues to call the Ephesians to a renewal in Christ—to “put away the old self of your former way of life...and be renewed in the spirit of your minds”. It was expected that Baptism into death and Resurrection of Christ would bring radical life changes for early Christians. For some, this meant giving up jobs and wealth; for others, it meant hospitality or service. For everyone, life in Christ was lived according to God and not according to the world. Christians were encouraged to embrace love rather than ambition, greed, or power and to focus on the treasure of heaven rather than on earthly wealth.

Consequently, this small section of the Letter to the Ephesians provides the perfect prelude to the discourse on the bread of life in John’s account of the Gospel. Jesus warns the crowd that they are thinking wrongly—running to see him for perishable bread. In Paul’s vocabulary, the crowd sees Jesus with old eyes, with their old selves. If they saw Jesus with spiritual eyes, they

would know him as the Bread of Life. They would seek only the bread of life. They would hear Jesus’ gentle correction to their assertion that Moses gave them manna from heaven. “My Father gives you the true bread from heaven”. Physical hunger and thirst made the Jews rely on God in the desert. Jesus shows the crowd that hunger has much deeper implications for the soul. If they believe Christ is food and drink, they will never be hungry or thirsty.

**Thoughts for Reflection**

- Through Christ, we are able to put away that which is not of Christ. In him, we choose holy lives that are earmarked by kindness, love, and charity. In this life, we are fed and nourished by Christ himself, present in the Eucharist.
- In the desert, God provided the Israelites with manna that sustained their lives throughout their years in the desert following the exodus from Egypt.
- In the Gospel reading, Jesus references the manna and begins explaining the bread of life that has come from heaven.
- When we receive the Eucharist, we are consuming the bread that is Christ, and our spiritual hunger is filled.

<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 align="center">TIME OF MASS:</p>
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**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  
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 \(rpbooks.co.uk\)](#)

**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](#)

**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.

**Young Minds:** If you are worried about the emotional health and wellbeing of a young person *Young Minds* offer good resources, including support for young people and parents. Go to <https://youngminds.org.uk/> for more details.

**Bexley Foodbank:** Stocks are really low at the moment in the following items,  
*Jam*  
*Long life milk*  
*Long life fruit juice*  
*Small jars coffee*  
*Tinned fruit*  
*Noodles*  
*Mashed potato (packets)*  
*Sweet treats*  
*Chocolate*  
*Size 6, 6+, 7 nappies*  
*Clothes washing tablets non-bio*  
Please put your donations in box in porch. Many thanks for your generosity.

**Lark in the Park:** Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> July – Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> August *Free Event* <http://larksidcup.com/>  
We are excited to be back with you in person for 2021 and celebrating 25 years of Lark in the Park this year! Wow!

It is going to look a little different to usual this year as it is a smaller event but there will be all the usual expectation of fun! Come and enjoy on your own, with friends or as a family. You will just need to bring your own picnic blanket and chairs and enjoy the entertainment from the stage for all the family! You don't need a ticket or to register EXCEPT for our *Outdoor Cinema Events* and for *Inspiration Adult Craft* and sign up for extra events after LITP: [Outdoor Cinema Tickets](#)  
[Inspiration Craft Tickets](#) (Adults Only)  
[Larklife Spiritual Treatments](#)  
[Alpha](#)

We do hope you will join us for some or all of our events this year! For more info  
Email [info@larkinthePark.com](mailto:info@larkinthePark.com)  
Phone 0208 309 6056

**Job Vacancy: Youth and Families Worker** at Sidcup Baptist Church. For full details of the role and how to apply please go to [Job vacancies – Youth Worker in Sidcup](#) If you would like to discuss the role or have any questions prior to applying, please email [rachel@sidcupbaptistchurch.org.uk](mailto:rachel@sidcupbaptistchurch.org.uk). Applications to be sent by 15<sup>th</sup> August.  
[www.sidcupbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.sidcupbaptistchurch.org.uk)

### Celebration of Mass:

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 and the 'one-way' in and out system will be in use. 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. 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.* There will be no toilet facilities open in church or the hall.

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

### Guidance for the Celebration of Mass.

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

*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 is to 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.*

### 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.

**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>



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

In an increasingly cashless society, we are able to respond to new ways in which people can donate to St Stephen's.

We are pleased to announce that we have installed 2 **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.

You will also be able to contribute to 2nd Collections. Just choose the fund you wish to donate to and the amount you wish to donate.

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).

**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.



All major payment methods accepted:

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.

**NEW: One-Off Gift Aid Envelope:** Please find at the back of church one-off Gift Aid envelopes. These envelopes can be used for different funds / options and can be used for both Gift Aid and Non-Gift Aid donations. You can choose to make the gift a one-off Gift Aid donation or sign up to on-going Gift Aid. Mass intention details can be included on the envelope. Visitors / guests to St Stephen's are encouraged to use an envelope if they wish to make a donation.

Please take an envelope to make a donation to;

*Parish Offertory*

*Poor Box*

*General Church Income*

*Church Building Fund*

*Clergy Support Fund*

*Priest Training Fund*

*Christmas / Easter Offering*

*Mass Offering* - If you wish to use the envelope for a Mass Offering, please do not tick a box but write the intention or name of the person on the lines provided so we can clearly identify the intent of your gift.

**The Archbishop's Certificate (ArchCert)** is an online course for all in Southwark who wish to know their Catholic faith more deeply and to develop the skills to share this faith with others. The certificate is in accord with Archbishop John Wilson's vision for a missionary diocese and is open to all who work towards this in our diocese whether in parishes, chaplaincy work, schools and in their families. We encourage those who volunteer in the parish to speak to Canon Edward about participation on the Archbishop's Certificate.

Participants will take a two-year journey through the Church's teaching to understand their faith in a more profound way and be able to share it with both confidence and joy. Students are supported with 9 online study sessions throughout the course, together with a tutor who will accompany them for the duration of the course and also with attendance at three study days (on Saturdays) at the Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral, in Southwark. The study days combine a balance of teaching, liturgy, social time and prayer.

The course will commence in October 2021 and the cost will be £365 per year. Registration must be completed in advance. All of the details of the course, including how to apply, dates and content are available on the website: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/archcert> If you would like any further information on the Certificate please contact the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis on 020 8672 7684 or email [archcert@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:archcert@rcaos.org.uk).

Please speak to Canon Edward in confidence regarding the course fee if it is a financial concern. We wish the course to be open for all.

**The Guild of St Stephen** will be holding its *Annual Rally* for Altar Servers this year on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September at Aylesford Priory. Registration at 10am. Holy Mass at 11.30am. 12:30pm Lunch (picnic or local refreshments) 1:45pm Football. Everyone welcome. A full programme of the day is available at [http://rcsouthwark.co.uk/future\\_events.html](http://rcsouthwark.co.uk/future_events.html)

**Bishop Paul - Fundraising for Lourdes:** Last summer, my cat went missing for a fortnight. During that time, my prayer had new urgency and I realised that, until then, my prayer for others hadn't been anything like as intense! From then, I made a special effort to say the whole Rosary each morning, while I was out walking before breakfast, saying each of the 20 decades for a particular intention. As we come up to the time when dioceses would normally be preparing for their Lourdes pilgrimage, I'm asking people to sponsor me to raise money for the Lourdes Sanctuaries. This will help them maintain their facilities for pilgrims and people who need particular assistance, at this time when little money is coming in from visitors, because of travel restrictions. If you would like to help, please visit <https://catholicassociation.enthuse.com/pf/bishop-paul-hendricks> Thank you very much.

Rt. Rev. Paul Hendricks  
Auxiliary Bishop, SW Area  
RC Archdiocese of Southwark

**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

**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/> All profits raised from the festival goes to local good causes and charities.