



# 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

## 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](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.

## 28th Sunday (Year B)

### Saturday 9th October

**5pm** Andrew Vine RIP—1st anniv

### Sunday 10th October

**9.30am** People of the Parish

**11.30am** Brian Griffith RIP—1st anniv

### Mon 11th Feria

**7pm** Jean Mann RIP

### Tues 12th Feria

**10am** Fr Paul Saunders

### Wed 13th St Edward the Confessor

**7pm** Maria Josephina D'Silva

### Thurs 14th Feria

**10am** Holy Souls (G Robinson)

### Fri 15th St Teresa of Jesus (of Ávila)

**10am** Evelyn Morgan RIP

## 29th Sunday (Year B)

### Saturday 16th October

**5pm** Etta & Otis Rodrigues—1st Birthday

### Sunday 17th October

**9.30am** Deceased members of F. Abreo Family

**11.30am** People of the Parish

**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

Our Sunday readings challenge us with the need and importance of making choices—choices in life and choices for God. The readings also remind us whatever choice we make it comes with a price. If we make the right choice we will benefit from it.

As Jesus continues his journey to Jerusalem, a man approaches Jesus, throwing himself down at the feet of Jesus, and he asks what he needs to do to inherit eternal life. In the mind of Jesus this is the wrong question to ask! The man thinks that he has to do something to enter God's Kingdom. Ignoring the man's flattery, Jesus moves the man away from 'doing something' to gain eternal life to the generosity of God.

Jesus reminds him of some of the commandments, which the man has kept since his youth. Yet there is some sort of emptiness in him and he is desperate to fill that emptiness.

The response of Jesus makes the man sad. It is interesting to note that this man is the only person in the Gospel to refuse Jesus' call to follow him. Jesus lets the man go because he does not want to force anyone to become a disciple.

All of us want to be happy and thus we make all kinds of choices that guarantee success. We all look for security. However, in the world we live in where there are so many choices it is difficult to choose. But we have to choose. This is where we need the great wisdom of Solomon.

What choices do we make each day for God and to be a disciple of Jesus? Whatever choice we make, what will be the reaction of the Lord?

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

### Twenty Eighth Sunday of the Year - (Year B)

#### Scripture Insights

Legend connects the book of Wisdom with Solomon, who succeeded his father, King David, on the throne of Israel. In the story of Solomon, the young king prays to God, not for riches or power, but for an understanding heart to govern the people. God grants his request and also rewards him with riches and glory beyond compare. In the passage from Wisdom, we hear the narrator (usually thought to be Solomon) tell how he prayed for wisdom, desiring her more than any earthly treasure. The author writes in the style of much of the wisdom literature (Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes for instance). Unlike the prophets who got their message from visions or the voice of God, the lessons in wisdom literature are drawn from life experience.

Wisdom was paired with understanding and discernment. Wisdom is feminine; she is depicted as the reflection of God and image of God's goodness. She is also God's master crafter and the first of God's acts. In Wisdom 10, she is cast as God in the retelling of stories from Genesis and Exodus. Some scholars have called her the feminine face of God. Whatever her identity, ancient writers saw great beauty and treasure in Wisdom. They considered her a pathway to God. Thus wisdom literature is full of prayers for wisdom.

The Wisdom reading provides a nice counterpoint to the Gospel, where Jesus discusses the price of discipleship. "Riches" in the Gospel means everything is related to worldly wealth, possessions, and relationships. None of these can stand in the way of service of God. When the disciples look at the implications of the word "rich" and realise there are many ways of being rich, they cry out in frustration: "Then who can be saved?" For Jesus, the answer is not in doubt. Rich or poor, God must be the centre of life, but the rich must work especially hard to overcome attachments to their worldly goods. He might have recited Wisdom's prayer for them.

#### Reflections

- Our attachment to worldly things has a warning from the Lord. Our material possessions should not take precedence over the Wisdom gifts, nor should they overtake the importance of care of the poor.
- The spirit of Wisdom is a tremendous gift. Wisdom is often personified as a woman in the wisdom literature.
- Jesus understands human life perfectly, being a fully human (and fully divine) person. Being omnipotent, God knows our inmost hearts and minds.
- Our riches are best gathered in the form of Wisdom rather than material wealth.

#### Admission arrangements for St Stephen's Catholic Primary School for September 2022.

Please read this carefully if you have a child born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018, and you wish her/him to attend St Stephen's.

#### Application MUST be made on the Primary Common Application Form for the Local Authority where your child lives.

You should also complete the Supplementary Information Form. Both can be obtained from the school or from the Bexley Borough website. Please return the Supplementary form to the school once it has been signed by your Parish Priest. You will also need to provide proof of residence and your child's baptism certificate.

Please be aware that priority will be given to practising Catholic families (i.e. attending Mass at least 3 out of 4 Sundays), who live in the Welling Parish. If you regularly attend Mass in another parish or chaplaincy you should ask that Parish Priest to verify your attendance.

*On the advice of the Education Commission of the Archdiocese of Southwark the governing body of St Stephen's school has agreed the following statement in order to clarify how its faith-based oversubscription criteria will be interpreted whilst churches are closed or attendance at church is not possible due to COVID19. This statement has been shared widely with parishes in order to ensure that determinations made by parish priests concerning regular practice of the faith are being made on a consistent basis.*

***The suspension of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass was announced on 18th March 2020 by Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. If a parent/carer attended Mass at particular parish (or parishes) prior to 18th March 2020 then they will be considered to have attended Mass in that parish (or parishes) regularly since that time. This will remain the case until the Sunday obligation is reintroduced by the Bishops.***

If there are more applications than places available, we will apply the order of priority to each of the over-subscription criteria in turn. ***Although we would wish to admit children with siblings in the school, that alone does not guarantee an automatic right of admission.***

The Admissions Policy with a full list of the over-subscription criteria is available on the school website, the Bexley Borough website and at local libraries.

**St Columba's Catholic Boys' School Open Mornings** – check website for dates & details [www.st-columbas.bexley.sch.uk](http://www.st-columbas.bexley.sch.uk) Halcot Avenue, Bexleyheath, Kent DA6 7QB.

To reserve a place at one of the *Open Mornings*, please email [admissions@st-columbas.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@st-columbas.bexley.sch.uk) giving your name, your son's name, your son's current school and which date you would like. Please list your preferred dates, in order of preference and we will respond to you asap. The number of visitors is restricted to one adult and one child per application. A strict booking policy will be in operation. See website for details. There is a tab on school website called '*Open Day Portal*' and on this you can find the 3D Virtual Tour of the school, videos and other information. Please do have a look.

Latest edition of *Reflection*, the school magazine that gives a picture of the activities and successes from September 2020 to date at the school. Please take a copy from the porch to read at home.

**Encounter En-route:** We are all aware of the struggles faced by the young adults of this country to live out their Christian identity rooted in God and so we cannot ignore the urgency of prayers that are needed for them to come to know of the overwhelming love our Lord has for them. So, *Jesus Youth UK Youth Ministry* invites all of us to come and join us on this beautiful journey with the Eucharistic Lord, Encounter En-route. We will be travelling to various parts of the UK with the Blessed Sacrament to surrender the youth of the UK to the sacred heart of Jesus. We hope you can join us for a time of adoration at St Stephen's on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October from 5pm to 6pm. Please contact Bijoy (07438828350) for more information and in the meantime, please do keep the initiative in your prayers.



**Baptism Preparation Classes** for parents wishing to baptise their child(ren) at St Stephen's on Saturday 30th October and Saturday 6th November at 10.30am in church. Parents need to attend both sessions.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion 2021-2222**

There will be a meeting of the parents of the 1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion children who worship at St Stephen's on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30am in church to look at the preparations and possibility of celebrating 1<sup>st</sup> communion next year.

**Red Box Holders:** Please would you bring your box to be emptied and counted. Please put it on the table at the back of the church or you could take it to the Presbytery. We will get it back to you as soon as possible. Thank you very much.

#### **COP26: Uniting the World to Tackle Climate Change:**

The Centre for the Study of Religion and Politics (CSRP) of the University of St Andrews is hosting an international conference to address the theme of the COP26 in relation to religion and politics. This year, the conference will be hosted together with Scholars at the Peripheries (a group of scholars from the Global South) and Laudato Si' International (a group that has been working to understand and deliver the message of Pope Francis' Encyclical Laudato Si' 2015 on the care of the planet as the common home). Most relevant session on Laudato Si is from 12pm on Sunday 31st October. Free event. For details see link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cop26-uniting-the-world-to-tackle-climate-change-tickets-172755495337?ref=eios>

#### **Climate Crisis: CAFOD**

COP26 is the annual UN climate conference held in November 2021. Governments and negotiators from across the world will travel to Glasgow to discuss how to prevent the climate crisis from causing even worse catastrophes for the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. With the eyes of the world on the UK, we must urge the Prime Minister to make sure communities hardest hit by the climate emergency are listened to at COP26. Sign the online petition at [Urge the Prime Minister to put people hardest hit at the heart of COP26 climate talks | CAFOD \(e-activist.com\)](#) Go to [What is COP26? | CAFOD](#) to find out more.

#### **COP26 – Is There a Specifically Christian/Catholic Response to the Climate Crisis?**

Tuesday 12th October 7pm - 9pm at the London Jesuit Centre (114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH). Invited contribution: £10pp. Join Dr Keith Chappell as he reflects on the social and theological significance of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26). Register & more info at <https://londonjesuitcentre.org/cop-26>

**A Day With Mary** at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October 9.45am – 4pm. See poster for programme or go to [www adaywithmary.org](http://www adaywithmary.org). Please note due to covid restrictions no access to the Cathedral Hall is available. No refreshments served – please bring your own lunch / use local facilities. Face masks required to be worn at all times.

**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 \(rpbooks.co.uk\)](#)

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

**Bexley Foodbank:** Urgently needed;

*Jam & Tinned fruit*

*Long life milk & fruit juice*

*Small jars coffee*

*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.

**Pact:** If you would like to find out more about the work of Pact or you feel you can make a difference and would like to volunteer please get in touch with the [Volunteering Team](#) or [take a look at the available volunteering opportunities](#).

#### **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.

#### **Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis:**

Supporting parishes in terms of evangelisation, catechesis and formation, is the work of the *Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis* which celebrated its first anniversary last month. If you would like to find out more on the courses, resources and support they offer please visit the website <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk>; follow them on various social media platforms [@aecsouthwark](#) or subscribe to their free monthly newsletter: <http://eepurl.com/heWjml>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/aecsouthwark>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/aecsouthwark>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/aecsouthwark/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/aecsouthwark>

## 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 Missionary Society of Saint Columban** gratefully acknowledges the support of the parishioners of St Stephen's parish for generously donating to the mission appeal last weekend the sum of £755.20. Many thanks.

[www.columbans.co.uk](http://www.columbans.co.uk)

**Please pray** for the repose of the soul of **Canon Richard Hearn**, Dean of St George's Cathedral, who died on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Funeral details to follow.

## The Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission—Autumn Assembly 2021 'COP26: What next?'

A continued response to the huge environmental issues of our time. What can we do that we are not doing now? Respond to care for the earth, care for the poor, care for a fairer economy. At Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Brixton Hill on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November from 10am onwards. Entrance is free. Everyone welcome. To reserve a place email [jpiccontact@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:jpiccontact@rcaos.org.uk). Please bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee provided.

**The Passage** - a Catholic Charity working with homeless people has its annual opportunity to take up a public collection on the streets of the City of Westminster on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October (from 7am to 6.30pm.). In order to make the most of this opportunity to raise funds to support homeless people more volunteers are needed on the day. Could anyone interested please contact Andrew Hollingsworth [andrew.h@passage.org.uk](mailto:andrew.h@passage.org.uk) 020 7592 1886 or 07928 703131. More info at <https://passage.org.uk/>

**The Promotion of Ecumenism with the Roman Catholic Church: The new Ecumenical Vademecum – Looking to Nourish our Ecumenical Journey:** A free Zoom event arranged by the *Archdiocese of Southwark Christian Commission* on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm. Everyone with an interest in the search for Christian unity is warmly invited. Fr Jan Nowotnik, Director of Mission and National Ecumenical Officer at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, has kindly agreed to introduce the document and to lead our discussion. Please book your free ticket and for more information please go to: <http://christianunity.rcaos.org.uk>

## Prisoners' Sunday – National Day of Prayer and Action for prisoners and families.

Prisoners' Sunday is an opportunity for us all to direct our thoughts to the needs of prisoners, their families, and their children, to pray for them and to reflect on the ways we can make a difference to the lives of those who are affected by the criminal justice system. *Pact*, the national Catholic charity supporting prisoners, people with convictions, defendants and their families. *Pact* continues to bring hope in a very difficult environment: hope to families and children who have suffered prolonged separation; hope to those who have been confined to their cells for 23 hours a day for over a year; hope to those like Michael whose story can be read on the *Pact* leaflet (available on the table in the porch) or online <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=2c83f1e3-1673-477f-a28e-240213cb1db2>

Rooted in Catholic Social Teaching the staff and volunteers at *Pact* are unrelenting in their dedication to accompanying people on their journey through the criminal justice system to a fresh start and new opportunities. Please take an envelope from the table in the porch to donate to *Pact* - envelopes can be returned directly to *Pact* (freepost) or placed in the collection baskets in church. Please complete the Gift Aid form to increase the value of your gift. Donations can be made online at <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/donate/donate-to-prisoners-sunday/10/credit-card> The mission of *Pact* is to support prisoners and their families to make a fresh start, and to minimise the harm that can be caused by imprisonment on people who have committed offences, on families and on communities.

The following prayer has been written for *Pact* by the Rt. Rev. Richard Moth, Liaison Bishop for Prisons, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

*Lord Jesus Christ,*

*You have come so that we may have life to the full, Listen to our prayers for all in prison and their families,*

*Touched by your spirit,*

*May they find newness of heart and be open to that new life that is found only in you.*

*May they know care, and receive support from those around them.*

*May they find new purpose in serving you in their brothers and sisters.*

*Amen*