

The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee: To celebrate the Queen’s 70 years of service we propose to have a Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday 4th June at 10am followed by tea/coffee and cakes to provide an opportunity to come together to celebrate this historic milestone. We would welcome volunteers to assist with setting up / serving refreshments and cake donations. If you would like to help please contact the church office.
If you have any other suggestions / ideas on how to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee please speak to Canon Edward or contact the church office.

The Rosary will be said before every weekday Mass. Please join us and arrive half an hour before Mass to participate in these prayers for peace, particularly for Ukraine.

Church Cleaning: As we are now getting back to normal Mass services, we are looking for anyone who is willing to joining the church cleaning rota. This will involve spending approximately one hour on a 4 weekly rota. Please contact Kate on 07747 620087. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

AGM of Churches Together in Welling will be held at Wellspring Pentecostal Church, New Road, Welling on Sunday 29 May at 5.30pm. The meeting will be followed by refreshments and a service of worship at 6.30pm. Anyone with an interest in Christian Unity is most welcome. Copies of the agenda and minutes from the last meeting are available on the table in the porch.

Choir for 11.30 Mass: If you would like to sing with the small choir we are trying to revive, please come and speak to us at the end of Mass. We would be delighted to have your support!

A Day With Mary on Saturday 11th June at St Anselm, Dartford DA1 2HJ 9.30am to 4.30pm. For full details of the day please see the poster in the porch or go to www.adaywithmary.org. All welcome to attend. Please bring a packed lunch—tea/coffee provided.

Church Flowers: If you would like to join a rota to look after the flowers in church, please sign the list on the noticeboard in the church porch or contact Velia Dobinson. Everyone welcome—no floral experience needed. Velia 07789 673747.
If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of flowers for church, please put your donation in the box on the wall at the back of the church labelled **Flowers**. Thank you.

40th Anniversary Exhibition of the visit of Pope John Paul II to St George's Cathedral
In the summer of 1982, Pope Saint John Paul II travelled to Great Britain for an historic six-day tour that saw him greet and bless hundreds of thousands of people at sixteen different venues including St George's Cathedral where he anointed the sick, the Polish Community at Crystal Palace and the Religious at Roehampton. The Cathedral is hosting an exhibition until 30 May about the visit of St John Paul. All are welcome. More details at <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/news-events/news/40th-anniversary-exhibition-of-the-visit-of-pope-john-paul-ii-to-st-george-s-cathedral/>

As part of this celebration, Archbishop John Wilson will celebrate Mass at **12.30pm on 28th May** to mark the fortieth anniversary of the visit. During this celebration, the sacrament of anointing of the sick will be administered. All welcome to attend and the service will be live-streamed – go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VG2jOFWEkS4>

The Friars Summer Fayre is on Sunday 26th June 11am – 4.30pm. Adults £4.50 Under 16s free. Fun for all the family. Birds of prey displays, cream teas, BBQ, beer tent, pimms & prosecco tent, craft & gift stalls, children’s games & rides, live music & more. Mass at 5pm. The Friars, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7BX.

Job Vacancies:
Secretary to Episcopal Vicar for South East London and Commissions for Racial Quality and Education. This is initially a 12 month contract for 3 days per week, based in Blackheath to support the newly created Episcopal Vicar function. To apply please send your CV along with a covering letter to HR@rcaos.org.uk by 27th May 2022.

Diocesan Central Services Administrator
Based in Bowen House, SE1 this is a full time administrative position which will provide support for a variety of functions as well as covering reception duties. To apply please send your CV along with a covering letter to HR@rcaos.org.uk by 27th May 2022

Parish Secretary, Barnes Parish. The role is to provide comprehensive support to the Parish Priest for all administrative matters within the parish. To apply please email your CV to barnes@rcaos.org.uk by 7th June 2022. For a full job description, please contact the parish office at barnes@rcaos.org.uk.

Full details of job vacancies are available on the Diocesan website: [Vacancies: Archdiocese of South-wark \(rcsouthwark.co.uk\)](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk)



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

Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year C)		
Saturday 21st May		
5pm	Cecilia Corbett RIP—anniv	
Sunday 22nd May		
9.30am	People of the Parish	
11.30am	Niall Murphy	(Chardi Family)
Mon 23rd Feria		
10am	Brian Vine (recovery)	
Tues 24th Feria		
10am	Holy Souls	(G Robinson)
Wed 25th St Bede the Venerable		
10am	Siobhan Mythen RIP	
Thurs 26th The Ascension of The Lord		
10am	Repose of the Soul of Tina Borland	
Fri 27th St Augustine of Canterbury		
10am	Anna Nguyen	
Sat 28th Feria		
10am	Priest's Ints	
Sacrament of Reconciliation		
Saturday 10.30am—11am & 4pm—4.30pm		
Seventh Sunday of Easter (Year C)		
Saturday 28th May		
5pm	Maria Josephina Da Silva RIP (John, Antonetta Fernandes & family)	
Sunday 29th May		
9.30am	Peter Newitt RIP & Tom McCormack RIP	
11.30am	People of the Parish	
Please remember in your prayers the sick and housebound; at home, in hospital or in residential care.		

DONATIONS
All donations are greatly appreciated to help support our church & parish. Thank you.
The offertory collection after the Liturgy of the Word during Mass on Saturday evening & Sunday morning is for parishioners who wish to donate with their gift aid envelopes or with loose cash. If you choose to donate via the digital plate in church, online or by standing order, please continue to do so—there is no need to change your chosen method of giving. The collection bag will also be circulated for second collections.
Donate online at https://portal.mydona.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=236 or https://justgiving.com/campaign/parishsupport —please include parish name and location or click on the PayPal donate button on www.saintstephens.co.uk . To set up a standing order to make regular monthly donations see bank details below. Please consider signing up to our Gift Aid scheme. Contact the church office for more details.
NatWest Bank Sort Code: 51-70-14 Account No. 39013332 Account Name: RCAS Welling Please use your name as a reference (gift aiders please add your envelope number). Thank you.
Digital Collection Plates are situated at the back of the church. Making a donation is simple and quick. Press one of the donation values or Other Amount. Tap your card or phone on the card reader. For donations greater than £45, the card must be inserted. Your donation can be gift aided by completing a digital Gift Aid Declaration on the Digital Collection Plate screen (name, address and email address required) and all future donations you make using this card will automatically be recorded as a gift aid donation. 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.

My dear people,	
As mentioned last week we continue to hear from the farewell discourse of Jesus in the Gospel of John. Today's text is a kind of a series of one-liner sayings so that the disciples will be able to remember—for e.g. 'whoever loves me will keep my word,'; 'peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you,'; 'do not let your hearts be troubled,'. However looking at the gospel reading the overall teaching of Jesus is to allow God to dwell with them by imitating or putting into practice the pattern of divine love. As Jesus prepares to take leave of his disciples he makes it clear to them that he is not abandoning them but rather he will lead them home.	On Thursday we will celebrate the feast of the Ascension of Jesus. Luke has two accounts of the Ascension of Jesus and we hear both in the first reading from the Acts and in the gospel. The first part of the gospel for the day is his last words to the disciples. Over the last few weeks we have seen how John places the farewell speech of Jesus around the Last Supper. For Luke it is at a simple meal. The second part is the actual ascension itself. As Jesus blesses the disciples he is taken up to heaven from their sight and the disciples return to Jerusalem with great joy praising God.
It is important to remember that this peace Jesus is leaving with his disciples will be experienced by them only from the other side of the grave. The greeting of the risen Lord is always "Peace be with you." This is the peace that cannot be destroyed but lives for eternity.	The Gospel of Luke begins in the temple in Jerusalem with the appearance of Angel Gabriel to Zachariah and the gospel ends too in the Temple in Jerusalem as the church begins to continue its mission of Jesus. We are part of that mission today.
	God Bless and love you. Canon Edward
Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year C)	

Scripture Insights

In the light of today's tensions and conflicts, it is tempting to think that early Christian life was far more peaceful. In fact, Jesus' disciples faced differences and conflict from the beginning.

Today's reading from Acts immediately follows that of last Sunday, which described Paul and his co-workers rejoicing that God had "opened the door of faith to the Gentiles" (Acts 14:27). But some Judean Christians insisted that Gentile Christians must follow all Jewish religious practices, including circumcision. Debate ensued between Paul and the disciples in Jerusalem, resulting in the decision we find here that required Gentiles to follow only some Jewish practices.

The most important aspect of this ruling is its source: "the Holy Spirit and ... us" (Acts 15:28). Apparently, the early Christian community deeply believed that Christ, crucified and raised, continued to guide them in the presence of the Spirit.

Continuing its apocalyptic vision, the second reading expresses this conviction in another way. Old Testament Judaism believed that God dwelled in the Jerusalem Temple. But in the new age of salvation, God's presence is available everywhere and always in the risen Christ, our new Temple.

In the Gospel, Jesus identifies love with obedience, something we are empowered to do by the Spirit sent by the Father in Jesus' name. God's Spirit is our "Advocate," *parakletos* in Greek, meaning "one called to the side of" another. At the Last supper, Jesus promised the disciples that although he would

soon leave them, he would ask the Father to send "another Advocate to be with [them] always" (Jn 14:16). The Spirit as Paraclete remains with disciples in every age, continuing Jesus' teaching (see Jn 14:26).

Reflections

- The letter delivered by Judas and Silas acknowledges that some of the apostolic teachings may have "upset" the people in Antioch and "disturbed [their] peace of mind" (Acts 15:24). This is not always a bad thing. In fact, the radical message of Christ demands radical honesty, which can make many uncomfortable or even angry. As the saying goes, sometimes our job is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. What issues facing our parish community might upset or disturb people yet still demand our attention?
- The glory of the Lord will shine through the holy city, a place of deep encounter with our living God. We need not wait for the Kingdom to come. It is already here within God's marvellous creation.
- Jesus promises the disciples that the Holy Spirit will teach them everything and remind them of the teachings they already know. The Holy Spirit offers the same support to us today. What do you hope to learn from the Holy Spirit this week?

Next week there will be a second collection for ***World Communications***. This collection supports the work of the Catholic Communications Network (CCN) and the media office of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. The CNN seeks to be of service both to the Church and the world in offering professional channels of communication, and provide support to the Bishops of England and Wales and the wider Church in promoting the Gospel through the media on current issues. Its office is the focus for media enquiries on national matters, and seeks to develop the public profile of the Church and its teaching. The CNN provides up-to-date news releases, features and podcasts, information from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, and trains spokesmen and women.

Vocations Webinar: Have you ever considered you may be called to the priesthood or the religious life? Southwark Vocations will be hosting a 60 minute webinar on **Tuesday 24th May at 7pm** entitled '*Here I am, send me*' where different presenters will speak about discovering God's plan for each one of us. Our presenters will be Sr Aelred OSB of Minster Abbey, Fr Stephen Morrison O Praem of St Philip's Priory, Chelmsford, Deacon Joseph Gulliford and Stephen Trafford, Seminarian. Please join us by registering for the event in advance by following the link: <https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/84384912807?pwd=UWJzSzVsY2VTaGl3c09FaotNbVWZz09>

Retreat: Summer Silence at The Friars on Monday 15th – Friday 19th August with Felicity Young OSM, Trish Murphy & Francis Kemsley O Carm. A time to listen to the voice of God in silence. This is a personally guided retreat which involves a daily meeting with a director who has experience in spiritual accompaniment. Cost £385 single, £350 shared. Contact The Friars to book your place tel: 01622 717272 or email: retreat@thefriars.org.uk. The Friars, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7BX. www.thefriars.org.uk

Children's Liturgy: Video of the week's Gospel reading, a reflection and a final prayer. Go to [Celebrate | Following Your Faith | Children's Liturgy \(rpbooks.co.uk\)](http://Celebrate|FollowingYourFaith|Children'sLiturgy(rpbooks.co.uk))

Celebration of Mass: At St Stephen's, we will continue to offer some socially distanced seating in church for those who wish to maintain a space around them. We encourage face coverings to be worn by everyone in church and hand sanitisers should be used entering and leaving church. Any person displaying symptoms of Covid-19 should stay at home and not participate in acts of worship in church.

Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage on Saturday 9th July at St. George's Cathedral. If you are celebrating your 1st /10th / 25th / 40th / 50th /60th + wedding anniversary this year, please email mfise@rcaos.org.uk by 31st May so you can receive an invitation from Archbishop John to attend this special Mass. Spaces are limited. Please provide the title of your parish location e.g. Welling, your names, home address and the anniversary you are celebrating.

THE SPIRIT THAT GIVES US LIFE' JOHN 6;63
The All Nations Catholic Charismatic Group invites all the people of the parish for the celebration of the feast of the Pentecost at St Andrews Church, Thornton Heath, Croydon on Sunday 5th June from 1pm to 7pm. The feast of Pentecost is an integral part of our Christian life. The main celebrant will be His Grace Most Rev Archbishop Emeritus Kevin McDonald. In attendance as well are Rev Fr Francis Utotu and Rev Fr Mark Binang. Let us come together to celebrate the birthday of our church. Food and drinks will be provided after the Eucharistic celebration. Please see the poster on the notice board for more information.

Marriage Enrichment Weekend: Covid has caused many issues within our society, isolation, loneliness, and conflict between couples. *Marriage Enrichment* provides the opportunity for couples to bring joy, romance and excitement back into their relationships. Join us at **St. Joseph's Pastoral Centre – Hendon, London** on Saturday 16th July starting at 9am and Sunday 17th July finishing at 4pm for a non-residential weekend. £50 per couple. For further information please go to [ME weekendHendon 16th to 17th July 2022 - World Wide Marriage Encounter England and Wales \(wwme.org.uk\)](http://MEweekendHendon16thto17thJuly2022-WorldWideMarriageEncounterEnglandandWales(wwme.org.uk))