

The Passage Annual Garden Party: A spectacular evening on Thursday 7th July 6pm to 9pm in the historic College Garden at Westminster Abbey. Enjoy a delicious barbeque, drinks, raffle and a silent auction. The fabulous *Endurance Steel Orchestra* will be performing live! For tickets visit <https://passage.org.uk/get-involved/events/garden-party/> or email events@passage.org.uk or T: 020 7592 1856. The Passage is a charity that offers a wide range of services, all year round, to meet the needs of homeless and vulnerable people. To find out more about their work go to www.passage.org.uk

CAFOD says a huge thank you for all your support, prayers and donations for the people of Ukraine. Catholics in England and Wales have donated over £3 million, and this is enabling immediate, practical support – such as the provision of food, clothing, shelter and transport. Please keep the people of Ukraine and all our brothers and sisters who face daily suffering, in your prayers. Visit <https://cafod.org.uk/News/International-news/Ukraine-humanitarian-experts> for more information.

CAFOD envelopes are available on the table in the porch which can be placed in the collection basket. If you are a tax payer, please consider gift aiding your donation - Gift Aid could increase the value of your gift by 25% at no extra cost to you! Please continue to pray for peace in Ukraine <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Prayer-resources/A-prayer-for-Ukraine>

Foodbank: Your food donations are absolutely vital to give everyone referred to the Foodbank a balanced and nutritious three day supply of food. Please place your food donations in the bin in the porch. For a list of wanted items go to <https://bexley.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

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.

Please pray for the World Meeting of Families taking place in Rome this weekend. The theme is "*Family Love: A Vocation and a Path to Holiness*" We are all invited spiritually to gather as a world family in Christ to celebrate the joy, love, and glory that is the vocation of family life through the World Meeting of Families.

For more details including the programme of events in Rome visit:

<https://www.romefamily2022.com/en/>
<https://twitter.com/LaityFamilyLife>

The COME HOME initiative, promoted by the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis, seeks to welcome people back to church and to extend an invitation and warm welcome to those interested in attending church for the first time. The Most Reverend John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark invites you to carry out a simple mission: to share a short letter of invitation from him with family members, friends or neighbours who you know have not yet returned to Mass on Sunday. Copies of the letters and invitation cards are available on the table in the porch. Please take a letter and an invitation card to give to someone you know

Your Legacy of Faith: Remember the Church with a gift in your Will. When you move onto the next life, you can make your lifetime of faith live on through a gift in your Will. If you are thinking of putting your affairs in order, the Archdiocese of Southwark can help. If you would like to find out more and receive information on Will writing and estate planning contact the team on legacy@rcaos.org.uk or tel.no. 020 7960 2504. An information leaflet is available on the table in the porch. A copy is also on the parish website / Twitter feed) and on the new Diocesan Church Legacy page: <https://rcaos.org.uk/donate/leave-a-legacy/>

Fire and Accidents : In the case of a fire in church or in the parish hall please evacuate the building immediately and report to the assembly point in the car park by the school fence (Assembly Point sign on fence facing the church & hall). We have installed a First Aid box in church (sacristy) and in the parish hall (kitchen) including an accident report book. Please note that any slips, trips, falls or accidents must be logged in the report book and the parish office must be notified as soon as possible.



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: wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk

School St. Stephen's Primary School, Ruskin Avenue, Welling, Kent. DA16 3QG
Telephone: 020 8303 9738

Thirteenth Sunday (Year C)

Saturday 25th June

5pm Tilum Patel—birthday (G Robinson)

Sunday 26th June

9.30am Marie McTernan RIP—anniv (McMorrow)

11.30am People of the Parish

Mon 27th Feria

10am Bridgitte Mitchell-Wisbey—3rd anniv

Tues 28th St Irenaeus

10am Maria Josephina Da Silva RIP
(John, Antonetta Fernandes & Family)

7pm *Novena Mass*

Wed 29th Sts. Peter and Paul

10am Leo Gomes
7pm Pauline Kovesi (M Harrison)

Thurs 30th The First Martyrs of Holy Roman Church

10am Holy Souls (G Robinson)

Fri 1st July Feria

10am Jose Santana Fernandes RIP

Sat 2nd The Blessed Virgin Mary

10am Priest's Ints

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10.30am—11am and 4pm—4.30pm

Fourteenth Sunday (Year C)

Saturday 2nd July

5pm Rev. Clifford Nevatt's Relatives

Sunday 3rd July

9.30am Cliff & Astrid Wedding Anniv—23yrs

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,

We read from the end of Chapter 9 of Luke's Gospel. One of the great characteristics of Luke's Gospel is that from Chapter 9:51 to 19:41, Luke mentions a long journey of Jesus to Jerusalem. This journey from Galilee to Jerusalem is predominantly concerned with his teachings rather than the journey itself. Between these two chapters we will read about the instructions to the disciples and also discussions with those who oppose him.

Today's text begins with an incident in Samaria, a hostile territory for the Jews. Jews regarded Samaritans as inferiors and outsiders, and the conflicts with them we will hear later on. When Jesus sends the disciples ahead of him to prepare lodgings for them, the Samaritans refused hospitality. For them Jesus was heading towards the wrong place! The response of James and John for this lack of hospitality is to show consuming fire or revenge. But Jesus' response was graciousness, rebuking his own disciples, he moves on to the next village.

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time—(Year C)

In total contrast we then read about three would be followers of Jesus. The first very confidently tells Jesus about his intention. Jesus warns him that following him, the discipleship is a huge challenge and the hardship he has to endure. We do not know whether he followed him or not.

Then to the other two who want to delay following him, so that they can bury dead and bid farewell to the loved ones, Jesus reminds them about life-demands of the Gospel and the demands of the present time.

In response to the would be followers request, Jesus offers them hard and realistic view of what they will face if they were to become his disciples. We are his disciples today. How does the requests of the three would be disciples and Jesus' response effect us in our desire in following Jesus today.

God Bless and love you.
Canon Edward

Scripture Insights

Today's first reading and Gospel show us different reactions to the call to discipleship. When the great prophet, Elijah, designates Elisha to be his successor, the young man asks to see his parents for a farewell, and Elijah is disgusted by his hesitation. Immediately, Elisha severs his ties and follows Elijah. In the Gospel, Jesus invites people to follow him, but they hesitate for one reason or another. Jesus' and Elijah's responses, when taken literally, seem harsh, but they convey a central tenet of discipleship: it must be whole-hearted. No one who is still attached to the world "is fit for the kingdom of God" (Lk 9:26).

Sandwiched between the two call and commitment stories is Paul's teaching about the greater importance of faith over the law. This perspective encountered consistent criticism from his opponents: How would people live in a holy manner without the guidance of the law? After all, if a person could be saved by faith, then what did their actions matter? Paul replies that his message does imply a code of ethics to which believers must adhere, but this code is from the Spirit, who is received at baptism. Baptised Gentile believers should be able to live moral lives because they are guided by God's Spirit, yet they remain free from any confinement of Jewish customs or the law.

But Paul warns that this new-found freedom in the Spirit must not be misused by believers. It should be used to remain free in the Spirit and not allow one to become enslaved to one's own desires of the flesh. With great freedom comes great responsibility. The Spirit guides new believers to live in a manner appropriate for God's people.

This is God's will: their freedom and their continued sanctification.

Reflections

- Jesus stands determined in the face of growing adversity. He knows what his Father commissioned him to do: spread the Gospel of love to the ends of the earth. And he knows this calling will not be easy. Today's Gospel story is neither the first nor the last time Jesus will be rebuked. It's also neither the first nor the last time Jesus chooses to keep going. How do you react in the face of adversity? What support do you need from God and your community to keep going when the going gets tough?
- The disciples pose a natural request to Jesus: let me go home to say goodbye to my family before we set out. Jesus says they cannot turn around— not because he is against families, but because the way of Jesus, the way of the cross, is deeply transformative. We can never go back to the way things were before saying yes to Christ.
- Jesus' demands are difficult. St Paul assures us that by following Christ, we will live freely in the Spirit.

Next Wednesday, 29th June (Sts. Peter and Paul) there will be a second collection for **Peter's Pence**. Your offerings to the Holy Father are destined to church needs, humanitarian initiatives and social promotion projects, as well as to the support of the Holy See. The Pope, being pastor of the whole Church, is attentive to the material needs of the poor diocese, religious institutes and faithful in grave difficulties; the poor, children, the elderly, those marginalized and the victims of war and natural disasters. Concrete aid is accordingly made available to bishops or dioceses in need, to Catholic education, assistance to refugees, and immigrants etc.

New Parish Secretary Email Address: Please note that with immediate effect Lorraine Harris, parish secretary's email address is wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk. Please use this address for all email correspondence.

A Day With Mary on Saturday 16th July at St Joseph's Church, Bromley BR1 2PR 9.30am – 5pm During the day confessions & exposition of the blessed sacrament. 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.

The Archbishop's Certificate (ArchCert) is a two-year online course for all in Southwark who wish to understand their faith in a more profound way and be able to share it with both confidence and joy. The course will commence on 8th October 2022 with an online introduction and the cost will be £365 per year. The full cost of the course, payable over 2 years is £730. In addition, registration must be completed in advance and there is a non-refundable registration fee of £50. All of the details of the course, including how to apply, costs, dates and content are available on the website <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/archcert> If you would like any further information on the ArchCert please contact the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis on 202 8672 7684 or email mail-to:archcert@rcaos.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 | Following Your Faith | Children's Liturgy (rpbooks.co.uk))

NEW: Join our Mailing List and never miss a newsletter or important updates. To receive our weekly newsletter by email directly into your inbox please email wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk to subscribe, include your name and confirm your consent to receive our newsletter. You can unsubscribe at any time by notifying the parish office. Your email address will not be shared and used only to receive our newsletter. If you have any queries please contact the parish office.

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage

The Southwark Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place between 19th and 26th August. We are sad that, like most Lourdes pilgrimages this year, we have not been able to include pilgrims who need medical support. At the same time, we are delighted to be returning to Lourdes after two years of absence. Details are available at www.tangney-tours.com/pilgrimages/lourdes/catholic-association. Southwark contacts: Canon Edward Perera (edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk) and Bishop Paul Hendricks (paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk).

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

Afternoon Tea Party for Senior Citizens at St Catherine's Catholic School on Thursday 7th July 1.30pm – 3pm. RSVP 01322 556333. Watling Street, Bexleyheath, DA6 7QJ. All welcome.

Dates for the Summer Diary 2022:
Spark in the Park 25th – 29th July Danson Park (near the playground) 1pm-4.30pm & 7pm-9pm. Free event <https://www.facebook.com/SPARKBexley>
Lark in the Park 29th July – 2nd August at Sidcup Place & around town. <http://larksidcup.com/>

The Bexley Crisis Cafe is a safe and friendly place that you can come to if you need support and advice in a crisis. It is a place where you can access mental health support and advice from mental health and wellbeing workers. The café is open from 6pm to 10pm everyday at Mind in Bexley 2a Devonshire Road, Bexleyheath DA6 8DS.