

### Lent Lectures with Rev Mark Tariq

These are a series of talks on 'An Introduction to the Crusades' to be held at Bishop Ridley Church, Falconwood.

Wednesday evenings during Lent, starting on 21st February 7pm—7.30pm.

### Stations of the Cross

Every Friday during Lent, at 7pm (30-40 minutes) to be held at St Michael's Church, Upper Wickham Lane.

### Lenten Prayer Service

Monday 19 February, 7pm at St Stephen's RC Church, Deepdene Road.

### Bring your Sewing or Knitting Projects

Help or advice may be available, or just enjoy sewing with others. Monday 19 February, 7pm - 9pm at St John's Vicarage, Danson Lane. Contact Kate on 07712 364962 or feel free to just come along.

### Knitting for the Salvation Army

If you enjoy knitting, come along and make some chick covers for cream Easter eggs as part of a SA outreach programme. Bring along size 9 knitting needles and a ball of yellow double knitting wool. Felt for eyes and beaks will be provided. Wednesday 21 February, 2pm-4pm. Venue will depend on numbers. Let Sandy know if you are coming on 020 8855 4129.

### Prayer Walk

Saturday 24 February, 10.30am: Jenny and Mike (St John's) will lead a prayer walk around Danson Park. Meet outside Danson Stables. If the weather is doubtful, ring Mike on 07376 908162.

### Share Your Favourite Poems

If you have a poem or two that are special to you, here is your chance to share them with others in a friendly atmosphere. Monday 26 February, 2.30pm—4pm, in Wordsworth Road. Contact Mavis (St Mary's) on 020 8854 3917 to reserve your place.

### Christian Meditation using a Bible

First session: Tuesday 27 February, 10-11.30am.

Second session: Tuesday 12 March, 10-11.30am.

Led by Sandy (Methodist) in Dovedale Close. Phone 020 8855 4129 to book your place. Bring your own Bible.

### Share Your Favourite Music

Wednesday 28 February, 7.30-9.00pm and

Thursday 7 March, 2pm -3.30pm

Led by Andrew (St. Michael's) at Dovedale Close. Please contact Sandy (020 8855 4129) if you would like to come. This is an opportunity for you to bring a CD to share a short piece of music that is special to you.

**Film: "The Way"** about a man (played by Martin Sheen) who walks *The Camino de Santiago* or *The Way of St James* (a popular pilgrimage route) to honour the death of his son (Emilio Estevez). To be shown in two parts: Monday 4 March and Monday 11 March at 10.40am in the Small Hall of St Stephen's RC Church, Deepdene Road.

### Quiet Morning

Led by Sister Ursula Eberhardt. Join us for a time of peace and guided prayer for a short time out of our busy lives. Tea and coffee provided. Saturday 16 March, 9.50am-12.30pm. St John's Church, Danson Lane, and grounds.

### Jesus Shaped People

Explore what were the key factors in Jesus' ministry on earth and how we can strive to become more like Him.

Wednesday 20 March, 1-3pm at St John's Church, Danson Lane.

Contact Kate tel 07712 364962 or email [kate.foot24@gmail.com](mailto:kate.foot24@gmail.com) to reserve your place.

Depending on numbers, it will be held at the Vicarage or in the Prayer Room.



# ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

26 DEEPPDENE 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: [wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk)

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

Telephone: 020 8303 9738

### Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

#### Saturday 10th February

5pm Mrs Maria Nguyen RIP

#### Sunday 11th February

9.30am Malcolm Ireland RIP (McMorrows)

11.30am People of the Parish

#### Mon 12th Feria

10am Malcolm Ireland RIP (Ives Family)

#### Tues 13th Feria

10am Our Lady of Fatima (Cosme)

7pm Novena Mass

#### Wed 14th Ash Wednesday

10am Maureen Oray RIP

7pm Private Intentions

#### Thurs 15th Feria

10am Dayna D'Costa—thanksgiving birthday

#### Fri 16th Feria

10am Tina Nibbs RIP

#### Sat 17th Feria

10am Priest's Intentions

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

10.30am—11am & 4pm—4.30pm

#### First Sunday in Lent (Year B)

#### Saturday 17th February

5pm George Mizon (M Cocklin)

#### Sunday 18th February

9.30am People of the Parish

11.30am Shaun Guwresunvar

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](http://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.

## LENT ACTIVITIES 2024



My dear people

As we celebrate the sixth Sunday of Ordinary time, we realise that on Wednesday we begin the season of Lent. So, with today's liturgy we bid farewell to Sundays of Ordinary time until the 9th of June.

We continue to read from the first chapter of Mark. Jesus has called his first disciples, cast out an unclean spirit from a man in the synagogue at Capernaum, healed Simon Peter's mother-in-law of a fever. Today he heals a leper.

We're told that a leper approaches Jesus. Jesus feels sorry for him, stretches out his hand and touches him. Such a person was considered ritually unclean and isolated from the community until cured. The leper in today's reading has faith in Jesus. He breaks out of his social and religious isolation to come to Jesus because he believes Jesus can cure him if Jesus chose to do so.

The reaction of Jesus is interesting. Most of the scholars agree with the expression 'Jesus was moved with pity', but there are others who would like to use

read as 'Jesus was moved with anger.' If so, why is Jesus angry at this man who has broken the Jewish law and approached him, or questioning the willingness of Jesus to heal him? Could it be that the result of the healing for Jesus meant 'celebrity status' as just a healer. No wonder Jesus warned him not to tell anyone. But that didn't happen either.

The leper experience both social and religious isolation. Today it is easy to isolate people in so many ways—colour, ethnicity, creed, social status etc. What is happening here is quite clear: Jesus is welcoming an outsider and thereby restoring him to family and friends. Today's gospel invites us to reflect upon other barriers in our world that must also crumble. In Fratelli Tutti, an encyclical letter on fraternity and social friendship, Pope Francis makes this observation: "Once more we encounter the temptation to build a culture of walls, to raise walls, walls in the heart, walls on the land, in order to prevent this encounter with other cultures, with other people (59).

God Bless and love you all. Canon Edward

### Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

#### Scripture Insights

Today's readings from the Book of Leviticus and the Gospel of Mark give attention to a disease identified as leprosy. A bit of background can be quite helpful in understanding these texts.

First, what the Scriptures refer to as leprosy' (*tzaraat* in the Old Testament and *lepra* in the New Testament) should not be understood as synonymous with the illness of this name today. The word leprosy (Hansen's disease). Second, specific laws were designated for the purpose restricting the spread of communicable illnesses, with skin diseases being among them. While these laws may sound harsh to us today, they are best understood as safeguarding the well-being of the community. Third, in addition to making a person unclean, which resulted in isolation from the community, leprosy was often associated with sin.

In our passage from Mark, we hear that a leper approached Jesus and said: "If you wish, you can make me clean." Jesus wasted no time in responding. He touched a leper! Jesus then said to the leper, "I do will it. Be made clean." And immediately the leprosy left the man. Jesus then instructs the man to follow the prescriptions of the Law. Interestingly, within the

next thirty-four verses of Mark, in five episodes, some consider Jesus as one who does not uphold the Law but violates it.

#### Reflections

- Being an imitator of Christ means reaching out to the peripheries. This can be uncomfortable and inconvenient, but there is no way around the reality that our baptismal call insists that we claim this as our mission. Who is on the margins around us? Who is not yet at the table? Who is sitting right in front of us, begging to be seen? Seeing these least among us and journeying alongside them is what gives the greatest glory to God.

- Each of us carries a burden. Some big, some small. Have we created a safe space in our communities for people to come as they are, to bring their worries and struggles to find healing here?

LTP Sourcebook 2023

## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WELLING

### LENT ACTIVITIES 2024

Welcome to this year's Lenten Activities brought to you by the Churches of Welling. There is a good variety of activities on offer, on different days of the week and at different hours of the day. Hopefully you can find something to inspire you on your journey through Lent.

When we Christians of Welling know one another better, we will grow and work together more meaningfully for God's Kingdom—so come and make new friends.

Contact details are given for most activities, so please feel free to phone in order to find out more and to register your interest as appropriate. Where the name of the road is given, these are held in private homes.

#### Healing Service at Wellspring

Are you sick? Do you know someone who is suffering? Do you need a miracle in your life? All are welcome to a Healing Meeting on Friday 22 March, 7.30-9.30pm at Wellspring Pentecostal Church, New Road. Contact Christina on 07540 425427 if you wish to know more.

#### Online Prayer

Compline—service of Night Prayer, led by Rev Adam Foot (St John's) each Monday to Thursday 9pm—9.15pm.

Zoom 715 685 8747 Password: prayer

or use the link

[https://us05web.zoom.us/j/7156858747?](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/7156858747?pwd=anBEUWF6elpKQmdCNlIFL05TSDIGUT09)

[pwd=anBEUWF6elpKQmd CNlIFL05TSDIGUT09](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/7156858747?pwd=anBEUWF6elpKQmdCNlIFL05TSDIGUT09)

#### Holy Week Meditations

Monday 25th, Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th March 7pm at Bishop Ridley Church, Falconwood.

#### Good Friday Walk of Witness

Gathering outside St Mary's Church, Wickham Street, at 11.15 for 11.30am departure. Join Christians from other churches in Welling as we walk, sing and pray along Bellegrove Road and Welling High Street, followed by a simple lunch at St John's Church, Danson Lane. Donations to Christian Aid.





**CAFOD:** Next weekend we welcoming Sarah Cadwallader to update us on the work of CAFOD and thank you for your kind donations and prayers. CAFOD would love for you to join their volunteer team and you are warmly invited to email CAFOD [southwark@cafod.org.uk](mailto:southwark@cafod.org.uk). If you have any questions or want to know more about volunteering, please do chat to Sarah after Mass. Sarah will also be speaking to us about the CAFOD *Family Fast Day* appeal.

**Funeral Mass for Ellen Kelly** will be on Tuesday 20th February at 10am. Please keep John and family in your prayers.

**Funeral Mass for Malcolm Ireland** will be on Friday 23rd February at 12noon followed by committal at Eltham Crematorium at 2.30pm. Reception into church on Thursday 22nd February at 7pm. Please keep Geraldine and family in your prayers.

**The Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis** has produced a card giving dates of key events for catechists and parishioners during the year at St George's Cathedral and Amigo Hall. Please take a card home and put the dates in your diary. More info at <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk>

**The Bexley Winter Shelter (BWS):** Many thanks for your donations of coats, hats, gloves etc. BWS have distributed the items to the guests who have been very grateful. No more clothing items are needed (except new items of men's underwear). Donations of toiletries—men's deodorant, toothpaste & brushes, razors, new lip balms and shaving foam can be left in the box in the porch. Thank you for your support.

**Prayer Group** meets every Tuesday after the morning Mass in the small hall. Everyone welcome.

**Divine Mercy Afternoon Reflection:** Led by Marian Fathers from the Divine Mercy Apostolate on Saturday 24 February 1:30pm - 4:30pm at St. Lawrence Church, Sidcup DA15 7HB. All welcome.

**Devotional Programme:**

1:30pm Worship & Enthronement of Image of Merciful Jesus

1:45pm Talk on Divine Mercy

2:15pm. Stations of the Cross

3pm Hour of Mercy Benediction & Chaplet

3:30pm Holy Mass

4:15pm Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus and Relic of St Faustina

4:30pm Depart.

**Clergy Support Fund Second Collection**

Next week we will be holding the *Clergy Support Fund* second collection.

The Clergy Support Fund enables the Archdiocese of Southwark to care for priests in their retirement, old age, and at their time of ill health, after their lifetime of service and devotion to Christ, His Church and His People. As you enter / leave Mass today please take a Clergy Support Fund envelope. A donation to this fund will ensure a dignified retirement for all of our priests. I kindly ask you to continue praying for our sick and elderly priests, and consider donating to this worthy fund. Thank you

Donate Online: <https://rcaos.org.uk/donate/csf>

· QR Code (see below)

· Telephone Mon-Fri 9am-5pm: 020 7960 2504

· Cash / Cheque – please use the *Clergy Support Fund* envelopes at the back of church.



**Passing on the Faith:** How do we start? How do we continue? What works well for children at different stages? Four online sessions for parents starting Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, 8pm – 9:30pm. And for grandparents, focusing specifically on the conversations which can help to anchor faith, four online sessions starting Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 7:30 – 9pm. Email Lisette on [mflse@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflse@rcaos.org.uk)

**Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage: Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 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, please let us know by **31<sup>st</sup> May**, providing the following details: your names in the format John and Mary Smith, your home address, the anniversary you are celebrating, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Spaces are limited. Email us at [mflse@rcaos.org](mailto:mflse@rcaos.org) As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Welling.

**Vacancy: Fundraising & Supporter Care Assistant** – Archdiocese of Southwark Located: Bowen House, near Waterloo. 4 days a week (£25k pro rata) office based. Seeking an enthusiastic individual to provide administrative support within the Diocesan Fundraising & Gift Aid Team. Deadline: 23 February 2024. Interviews: w/c 25 February 2024. Apply: <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/get-involved/vacancies/vacancies-in-southwark/>

**Bexley Deanery: Day for Catechists: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2024** at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Blackfen. Starting with Holy Mass at 10am. Speakers: Rev. Doug Bull and Canon Edward Perera. All are welcome. Finish 3.30pm.

**St Vincent de Paul Society: Turn Your Concern into Action**

More than 6 million adults live in absolute poverty in Britain. This means that they are destitute and are deprived of basic human needs such as food, sanitation, health or shelter. But poverty isn't the only sort of deprivation; chronic loneliness and isolation is a significant and growing problem. According to the Office of National Statistics, Britain has become the loneliest country in Europe.

*In our parish poverty and isolation are prevalent but what can we do about it? This weekend members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will talk to us about how we can work together to help tackle these problems. And on **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February** the SVP will hold a meeting at **7pm** in the Small Hall attached to the Church - all are welcome.*

**St Vincent de Paul Society:** The SVP exists to provide direct practical assistance to anyone in need who may be vulnerable, lonely or requiring financial or other support. If you know of anybody in Welling (and they do not need to be Catholic or even Christian) who might benefit from a visit from our members please give John a ring on 07582 588468. While our motivation stems from our religious belief we do not try to "convert" people or to impose our faith on them. Anything notified to us will be treated in strict confidence.

**Prayer Intentions Book:** Parishioners are invited to write any prayer intentions in our Parish Prayer Intentions book which is placed on the table at the back of the church. Please take time to read the intentions and include them in your prayers.

**A Day With Mary** on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February at Our Lady Help of Christians, Mottingham SE9 4ST starting at 9.30am & finishing at 5pm. Confession and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. See the poster or go to [www adaywithmary.org](http://www adaywithmary.org). All welcome. Please bring a packed lunch.

**Mass Intentions:** If you would like to offer a Mass for an intention, please use the Mass Intention Envelopes available on the table at the back of the church and post it through the presbytery letterbox. Please ensure you include your contact number. The recommended stipend (donation) by the Archdiocese for a Mass Intention is £10.

**Lenten Prayer Service** led by Canon Edward on Monday 19th February at 7pm in church. All welcome.

**Lenten Talks:**

**Introduction to the Old Testament**

Saturday 24th February 10am – 3pm

**Introduction to the New Testament**

Saturday 9th March 10am – 3pm

St John Fisher Church, 48 Thanet Road, Bexley DA5 1AP. Please bring a packed lunch, tea / coffee provided.

**Stations of the Cross During Lent:**

Wednesdays at 10.30am (after morning 10am Mass)

Saturdays after 5pm Mass

Sundays after 11.30am Mass

*Volunteers are needed to lead the prayers. If you can help please contact the church office or speak to Canon Edward.*

**Baptism Preparation Classes** for parents wishing to baptise their child(ren) at St Stephen's on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 7pm in church. Please note that parents must attend **both** classes.

**World Day of Prayer 2024** on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March at Bishop Ridley Church, The Green, Welling DA16 2PG at 1.45pm. Focusing on *World Peace and Reconciliation*. This years' service has been prepared by The Christian Women of Palestine. All are very welcome. Refreshments served after the service. Parking available in nearby roads. Bus route B16. Please note no creche facilities. Please come along and support this Prayer Service – your prayers are very much needed. Go to <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/> for more information. See poster.

**Lenten Activities** brought to you by the *Churches of Welling*. There is a variety of activities on offer, on different days of the week and times of the day. Contact details are included so please feel free to find out more and to register your interest as appropriate. Please see details included in this newsletter. Leaflets available on the table in the porch for you to take home.

**Join our Mailing List:** To receive our weekly newsletter by email please email [wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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. Any queries, please contact the parish office.