

Mission Appeal by The Spiritans (Holy Ghost Fathers) will be on 25th / 26th May. We welcome Fr Godwin Alkali to St Stephen's.

No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday 28th May.

RCIA: Our Monday RCIA course comes to an end on May 20th, the day after Pentecost Sunday. We will not meet on May 27th as it is a bank holiday. However, on Monday 3rd June we are planning to hold a social gathering, by way of a celebration, to which all former members of RCIA are invited, **and** we also extend a warm welcome to anyone who is thinking of joining the group which starts in September.

Formation Fayre - 8th June. The [Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis](#) (AEC) is running a Formation Fayre at Amigo Hall at 10.30am. It is a day for all those interested in receiving formation and growing their faith and all those involved or interested in Adult Formation. Archbishop John will deliver a keynote. Details, including booking, [available here](#).

Many thanks for your contributions to the **World Communications Day** collection which came to £314.09.

Online Parish Gift Aid Declaration Sign-up: Support our parish and make your donations go further by signing a valid Gift Aid Declaration form. Go to <https://forms.rcaos.org.uk/giftaid>.

Archbishop John is encouraging people to pray the Rosary to journey with Mary to Christ. In a recorded message to the Archdiocese, Archbishop John said Mary is the "perfect disciple" who in perfect obedience to God gave a resounding yes in her fiat – a yes that changed not only her life but the lives of all of us. To hear the full message go to <https://rcaos.org.uk/news-events/news/archbishop-john-calls-us-to-journey-with-mary-to-christ/>

The Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis has [Rosary resources](#), which you can download for free.

Saint Jude Summer Celebration on 1st June starting at 11am at The Shrine of St Jude, 34 Tanners Street, Faversham ME13 7JW. Mass celebrated outside followed by a procession past the Shrine of St Jude. Opportunity for pilgrims to be anointed with Saint Jude oil. Refreshments and piety stall available. See poster for full itinerary or go to <https://www.stjudeshrine.org.uk/news/summer-celebration-1-june-2024>

Day for Life - 16 June. The focus for this year's [Day for Life](#) will be opposition to assisted suicide. With the intention of praying and advocating for the establishment of a culture of care at the end of life, the theme for the Day for Life is: *'The Lord is my Shepherd – Compassion and Hope at the End of Life'* More info [visit CBCEW](#).

Caritas: If you're interested in social action and justice, you may want to consider becoming a Caritas representative in our parish. [Register to join a zoom](#) to find out more about how you can get involved on 28 May 6.30pm-7.30pm. Contact johncoleby@rcaos.org.uk if you have any questions.

CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal: There will be a collection on the weekend 1st / 2nd June. Millions of families in Sudan, forced to flee their homes amid conflict, now face yet another urgent crisis – extreme hunger. Please give to CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal in church or at <https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/sudan-crisis-appeal> Your donation will help CAFOD's partners to support more families with food packages and emergency cash payments as well as rebuilding water pipelines so clean water can reach communities who need it. Thank you for your generosity and prayers. You can text **CAFODSUDAN** to **70450** to donate £10. *Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network rate message, and you'll be opting into hearing more from us. If you would like to donate but don't wish to hear more from us, please text CAFODSUDANNOINFO instead.* CAFOD emergency envelopes are available on the table at the back of church. Scan QR code below using telephone camera.



CAFOD: The Big Pilgrimage: Saturday 1st June 12noon – 5pm at St George's Cathedral, Southwark. Come along, pray & walk. 2 routes available with refreshments and a warm welcome. <https://cafod.org.uk/news/events/the-big-pilgrimage>

CARJ 40th Anniversary. As part of its 40th anniversary celebration, Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ) is launching *'The Agenda for Change'* to bring about greater equality and create a racially just society. This [free event](#) takes place on Saturday 25 May at 10.30am in Amigo Hall, followed by a 3pm Mass. All welcome to attend.



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

Pentecost Sunday (Year B)

Saturday 18th May

5pm Peter Khang & Theresa Nguyet RIP

Sunday 19th May

9.30am Lauren D'Costa—thanksgiving birthday

11.30am People of the Parish

Mon 20th **Mary, Mother of the Church**

10am Lee Abreo—birthday

Tues 21st **Feria**

10am Cecilia Corbett RIP—anniv

7pm **Novena Mass**

Wed 22nd **Feria**

10am John Branch RIP (M Rush)

Thurs 23rd **Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest**

10am Marie Herity RIP (Joan Mythen)

Fri 24th **Feria**

10am The Repose of the Soul of the Late Chief Gabriel Ozoami (A Onyejeli)

Sat 25th **St Bede the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

10am Priest Ints

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10.30am—11am & 4pm—4.30pm

The Most Holy Trinity (Year B)

Saturday 25th May

5pm Siobhan Mythen RIP—anniv (Joan Mythen)

Sunday 26th May

9.30am Czesio Szychowski (A O'Hare)

11.30am People of the Parish

Mass Times & Intentions

Mon 27th **St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop, Apostle of England**

10am Olive and Michael Reilly

Tues 28th **Feria**

10am Fr David Standley RIP (M Rush)

7pm **Novena Mass**

Wed 29th **Feria**

10am Ellen Kelly RIP (J Kelly)

Thurs 30th **Feria**

10am Lorraine & Paul Harris—wedding anniv thanksgiving

Fri 31st **The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

10am Nora Clancy RIP

Sat 1st June **St Justin, Martyr**

10am Priest Ints

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10.30am—11am & 4pm—4.30pm

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) (Year B)

Saturday 1st June

5pm Ellen Kelly RIP (J Kelly)

Sunday 2nd June

9.30am Peter Newitt RIP & Tom McCormack RIP - annivs

11.30am People of the Parish

Please remember in your prayers the sick and housebound; at home, in hospital or in residential care.

My dear People

As we celebrate the feast of Pentecost this weekend we bring the Easter season to an end. Pentecost was, and still is, a Jewish feast.

The word ‘Pentecost’ come from the Greek word ‘Pentecoste’ which means fiftieth, referring to the great feast celebrated fifty days after Easter Sunday. At the time of Jesus, the feast was known as Pentecost by Greek speaking Jews, while it was also known by its Hebrew name ‘Shavuot’, a word that means ‘weeks.’

During the months of Spring cereal crops of barley and wheat were harvested. Barley matured faster than wheat and therefore harvested earlier. The harvesting of barley was known as the feast of Unleavened Bread, and at the same time the feast of Passover was celebrated. Eventually both festivals became one single celebration. The wheat crop was harvested seven weeks later and was known as the festival of Shavuot.’

Passover was originally a rite practiced by the shepherds—sacrifice of a young animal—for a prosperous flock. At the time of exodus this ritual took on a different meaning and eventually these two feasts became one single feast celebrating Israel’s freedom from slavery in Egypt.

As time went by the feast of Shavuot or Pentecost was associated with Moses receiving the ten commandments on Mount Sinai. So, Passover celebrated the end of slavery in Egypt and Pentecost celebrated the reception of the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai and the birth of Israel as the people of God.

Pentecost falls fifty days after Easter Sunday. Easter celebrates God’s deliverance of humanity from the death and resurrection of Jesus, while Pentecost celebrates God’s gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of new Israel, namely the Church.

God bless and love you all.
Canon Edward

Solemnity of Pentecost—(Year B)

About Today’s Solemnity

Today is the Solemnity of Pentecost, when we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and their sharing of the Good News of Jesus Christ with the world. This day is acknowledged as the birth of the Church, since it is the day when the frightened and confused disciples emerged from the upper room, boldly proclaiming the mighty acts of God through the crucified and risen Lord.

Scripture Insights

In these readings, the Holy Spirit is the actor, the subject, the doer of all the verbs. The hymn “*Veni Sancte Spiritus*” asks the Spirit to shine, fill, heal, renew, wash, bend, melt, warm, guide and give joy. In Acts 2, the disciples are first passive recipients of the Spirit’s power; the tongues of fire were perceived by them, and they were filled. Only after the Spirit empowers them do they begin to speak. Paul declares that the Galatians are led by either the Spirit or the law. In John 15 and 16, the Spirit is the active subject of all the verbs: testify, guide, speak, glorify, take, declare. The disciples’ role? To listen and to be led.

Letting ourselves be led isn’t easy. We’re taught to forge our own paths. These readings call us to learn to be led, to become sensitive to the guiding nudges of the Spirit. This does not mean that Christians remain passive. In Acts, as in John, the disciples of Jesus are commissioned to bear witness to the Good News in their preaching, healing, and teaching. But the Spirit’s power is the source of ours.

The Spirit’s work is primary, and ours is secondary. The Christian’s job is to bear fruit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These virtues may not come naturally to us; some of them might take hard work. As Paul graphically says, we must crucify our sinful desires first. Pentecost teaches that the fruit of the Spirit is finally the result of the Spirit’s cultivation of the soil of our hearts rather than our striving. We prepare the soil; the Spirit grows the seed.

Reflection

• While there are options for the second reading and the Gospel today, the first reading is always proclaimed. It is a message of diversity of peoples and languages. Who is in your community? What languages and ethnicities are represented? How do we honour this representation and celebrate our unity in the midst of so much diversity? Who is still missing from our table?

• Those who have received the sacrament of confirmation recently may remember well their discourse about the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. How are those gifts made manifest in our communities today? What are the gifts we still need to ask God to send us, so that together with our Advocate we might learn to love as Christ loved us?

LTP Sourcebook 2024

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.

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.

Spark in the Park 29th July – 2nd August 2024 1pm – 4.30pm. Each day will feature a range of *free* activities for children of all ages and family events – sports, crafts, inflatables, games, stories, SEN zone, under 5’s area and more. Evening Events (aimed at families with older children and adults) 7pm – 9pm in Danson Park. Family Fun Night (complimentary hot dog included) on 30th July, Family Quiz Night on 31st July and *SPARKextra* on 1st August. Please note: children remain the responsibility of parents or carers at all times. Refreshments available at low prices. See poster for more details or go to <https://www.sparkinthepark.org.uk/>

Volunteers Needed for SPARK in the Park: Please consider giving some time to help the team provide this much loved and enjoyable community event in Danson Park. Any assistance you are able to give will be much appreciated. Go to [Volunteer | SPARK in the Park](#) for more details or contact Paul Harris 07825 934694 who will be able to tell you more about volunteering at SPARK. **SPARK in the Park Volunteer Form** <https://www.sparkinthepark.org.uk/volunteer/apply>

On Monday 1st and Tuesday 16th July there will be a **Cake & Cut Evening** 6:30-8:30pm at St John’s Church Hall, Danson Lane, DA16 2BQ when craft will be prepared ready for SPARK week. It is a fun get together with cake! Please come along to help. Items listed below are needed for the SPARK craft activities. Please could you collect items at home and bring them all to church *at the end of June* (date to be confirmed). A box will be available to put your items in (please do not bring items to church before end of June – thank you).
Toilet Roll Tubes
Kitchen Roll Tubes
Jam Jars with Lids
Milk Container Lids
Drink Bottle Lids
CDs
Cereal boxes / Amazon packaging

Parish Garden Day: Saturday 1st June, from 10.30am (weather permitting). Everyone welcome. Please bring your own equipment. Families welcomed – jobs for all. Any amount of time you are able to give to help make the church grounds look tidy and cared for will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Join Archbishop John and Bishop Paul on a pilgrimage to Lourdes from 23 to 30 August 2024. Details on the pilgrimage, including volunteering and accommodation options can be found on [our website](#). Experience the unique spirituality of Lourdes, along with people from parishes around the Archdiocese. Please pick up an information and booking form from the table in the porch. For more information and / or to register your interest please email [con-tact@catholicassociation.co.uk](mailto:contact@catholicassociation.co.uk). More details at www.tangney-tours.com/CA see poster.

Bexley Foodbank: Donations can be left in the box in the porch. Many thanks.

Introduction to the Gregorian Chant: Jonathan Schranz, the Archdiocese of Southwark Director of Music, is running a [free online introduction](#) to Gregorian Chant on 25 June at 8pm. The session will include learning to read and sing from its notation and understanding its liturgical function. This session is designed for those with little experience of singing Gregorian Chant (plainsong) but some musical or singing experience. All are welcome.

Migrants’ Mass. Archbishop John thanked migrants for the immense contribution they have made to the UK at the annual Migrants’ Mass. You can read his homily in full and see photos on [our website](#).

Day for Celebration - Sharing in the Gift of People with Disabilities on 7 July. Bishop Paul will celebrate Mass at Aylesford Priory. Creative prayer and art activities, along with an Edith Stein retreat available on the day. All are welcome. More [details here](#). See poster.

Join our Mailing List: To receive our weekly newsletter by email 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.

SVP & Ink Cartridges: Recycle your old ink cartridges and raise funds for the *St Vincent de Paul Society* by placing them in the box on the table in the porch. Many thanks.