

**Next weekend** there will be a second collection for **Day for Life** (15th / 16th 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](#).

**Churches Together in Welling AGM** will be held at St Michael's Church, Upper Wickham Lane, Welling on Sunday 30th June at 5.30pm. The short meeting will be followed by light refreshments and Evening Worship at 6.30pm. This will be a chance to pay tribute to Rev Adam Foot of St John's and his wife Kate who have worked tirelessly for CTiW over the last 20+ years, and will be retiring in the autumn. There are some agendas, along with the minutes of last year's meeting, available on the table in the porch.

**Government Consultation: Removal of the 50% Cap on new faith schools:** HMG Department for Education is currently running a consultation on ending the 50% Cap on admissions for new free schools. This has been a longstanding objective of the Catholic Education Service since the changes were introduced in 2010. The consultation is running until 20 June and, notwithstanding the calling of the General Election for 4 July, it is essential that the Department for Education receives more positive responses than negative ones to have any chance of the Cap being removed in the future. There is now a section on the Bishops' Conference website which has a short form people can fill in, which will submit a positive response to the consultation. Please participate in this campaign – go to <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/lifting-the-faith-schools-cap/>

**No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** on Tuesday 11th June.

**Altar Servers' Trip** 29 July–1 August for youngsters aged 11-16. This annual trip now takes place in the Westminster Diocese Youth Centre in Pinner. A well organised, fun, educational and prayerful four days for altar servers or teenagers who regularly attend Mass at the weekend. A great opportunity to experience a packed programme, with faith-based activities plus sport and a visit to Thorpe Park. Cost £189 (includes coach ride to & from site, all food & accommodation & Thorpe Park ticket). For more details contact Fr Stephen Boyle: [dartford@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:dartford@rcaos.org.uk), telephone: 01322 220075. See poster.

**CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal:** Many thanks for your generous donations which came to £697.52. You can still give to CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal 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. 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 your mobile phone camera.



**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.

**Living Water** blog on St Stephen's website includes an article from Fr Andrew Bishop about his priestly ordination. Please click on the link to read. [My Priestly Ordination – Living Water online \(saintstephens.co.uk\)](https://www.saintstephens.co.uk/my-priestly-ordination-living-water-online)

**Synergy Network Youth Event** is on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June at London City Mission, London Bridge, 4pm -7pm. An opportunity to find out how young people can obtain the necessary support to deal with the trauma of serious youth violence & for them to share their experiences and concerns about street violence. In the last hour, there will be time to network and socialise with a free meal provided. To register your attendance and for details of this *free* event please go to [YOUTH EVENT ON TRAUMA Tickets, Sat, Jun 29, 2024 at 4:00 PM | Eventbrite](#) Under 18's must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. We do hope you will attend and support the event. See poster. *Caritas Archdiocese of Southwark* is part of the Synergy Network which is coalition of faith groups working together. Knife crime and serious youth violence affects our communities and collectively, including hearing the voices of the youth, we can try to devise plans to eradicate this problem.



# ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

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School: St. Stephen's Primary School, Ruskin Avenue, Welling, Kent. DA16 3QG  
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## Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

- Saturday 8th June**  
**5pm** Olive & Michael Reilly
- Sunday 9th June**  
**9.30am** Anthony D'Silva—birthday  
**11.30am** People of the Parish
- Mon 10th Feria**  
**10am** Tess (Teresa) Quinlivan RIP (J Kelly)
- Tues 11th St Barnabas, Apostle**  
**10am** Jason Rodrigues—birthday  
**7pm Novena Mass**
- Wed 12th Feria**  
**10am** Elizabeth Murphy
- Thurs 13th St Anthony of Padua, Priest & Doctor of the Church**  
**10am** Mary-Lou Lobo—birthday
- Fri 14th Feria**  
**10am** Romaldina Fernandes RIP—birthday  
**7pm Feast of St Anthony**
- Sat 15th The Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**10am First Holy Communion Mass**
- Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
**Saturday 4pm–4.30pm**
- Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)**
- Saturday 15th June**  
**5pm** Sister Cecilia Truc Ngo RIP
- Sunday 16th June**  
**9.30am** People of the Parish  
**11.30am** Mrs Vanda Crook RIP (M Harmer)

**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.

My dear People

Beginning today, till the end of the present liturgical year, we resume readings from the Gospel of Mark. However, in a few weeks time— from the 17th to the 21st Sunday of Ordinary time—readings from Mark will be interrupted with readings from the Gospel of John reflecting on the 6th Chapter

What we have today is a ‘Markan sandwich.’ Mark uses a technique by which he tells two stories at the same time. He takes a story and divides it into two parts and then inserts another story in between.

Our text is known as Beelzebul controversy. This is the ‘filling of the sandwich.’ The confrontation of Beelzebul is inserted into the story of Jesus family.

Scribes have come from Jerusalem to Galilee and they are hostile to Jesus. On top of that his family thinks he is insane and scribes think he is possessed by demon Beelzebul. The only explanation the Scribes can offer to Jesus’ ability to drive away demons is that he is possessed by Beelzebul. In a stinging reply Jesus asks if

Satan can drive out Satan. Jesus defeats the demons by God’s power and not by the power of Satan.

Coming to the issue of the family of Jesus, Mark tells us that the family of Jesus are also hostile to Jesus. Mark places them ‘outside’ while Jesus is ‘inside’ the house. This indicates that they are not disciples.

Jesus then defines family in terms of those who do the will of God. The conditions for belonging to this new family are a positive response to Jesus’ teaching by doing God’s will, openness to the presence of God’s Kingdom and radical conversion. It is the living out of the baptismal promises in our lives.

It is this new family of disciples that replaces his blood family. We are challenged today to become members of his new family of disciples by doing God’s will.

God bless and love you all.  
Canon Edward

### Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – (Year B)

#### Scripture Insights

Today’s Genesis narrative begins the consequences of humankind’s disobedience to God. God presented his covenantal promises to all humankind through Adam: he may dwell in and nurture Eden, but he must obey the one prohibition of eating from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God then creates Adam’s partner. The woman was led to forsake the covenant by the cunning serpent, and Adam has participated. God now comes to spend time with creation during the breezy time of day to find humankind in shame and hiding due to their new knowledge.

That God is omniscient Creator has been established, so God’s questions about what happened must be understood as a way to allow Adam to take responsibility for his actions. Adam fails: he blames the serpent. As the consequences continue, we learn of the world we inhabit. Relationships with one another and with creation have been disordered by these early choices.

In Mark, Jesus’s early ministry conflicts with those who think they know him. He teaches by telling stories through metaphor to get them thinking beyond what they think they know. He is then forced to look beyond his biological family for advocates and understanding. It is living and doing the will of God that now creates family and facilitates the kingdom of God.

#### Reflection

• As we jump back into the numbered weeks of Ordinary Time, we hear our familiar origin story. Even young children can recite most aspects of the tale of Adam and Eve. Sometimes, hearing the moral of the story as told through the eyes of the little ones seems so simple: without cynicism or prejudice or undue blame, the answer seems clear—the pair in paradise should have obeyed God’s will. But as time marches on for us who have heard this story for decades, the line between right and wrong can seem so obscured by nuance, context, and trickery. What things make this story more complex for you?

• Today’s Gospel speaks about a community divided. Perhaps you recognise this type of discord in your own families, making it nearly impossible to bring up religion or politics at the dinner table. Our nation and Church knows this division all too well: and we are weaker because of it. There is a common thread of Satan, evil, division that weaves its way through the readings today: how do we name it in our world today? What commonalities, values, and principles might we direct our energy toward, in order to better unite us?

LTP Sourcebook 2024

**Baptism Preparation Classes** for parents wishing to baptise their child(ren) at St Stephen’s on Wednesday 3rd July and Wednesday 24th July at *7.30pm in church*. Please note that parents must attend **both** classes.

**First Holy Communion 2025:** Registration and information parents meeting on Wednesday 12th June at *7.30pm in the parish hall* for parents of children who worship at St Stephen’s Church and wish to enroll on the FHC course.

**General Election:** As you know, the Prime Minister has called a General Election for 4 July 2024. A special page on the CBCEW website has been created with information about the issues of importance. Please go to <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/election24/>

**Date for the Diary: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion & Lectors Formation Day—**  
9.30am -3pm  
**Saturday 19th October** ~ at St Stephen’s Church Hall 26 Deepdene Road, Welling, DA16 3QL. OR  
**Saturday 26th October** at Thomas Grant School, Belltrees Grove, Streatham SW16 2HY.

**Spark in the Park** 29<sup>th</sup> July – 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024 1pm – 4.30pm. Each day will feature a range of *free* activities for children of all ages. Evening Events (aimed at families with older children and adults) 7pm – 9pm. Please note: children remain the responsibility of parents or carers at all times. See posters for details or go to <https://www.sparkinthepark.org.uk/>  
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

**Archbishop John** warmly invites you to join him as he leads the Southwark Archdiocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024. Details of can be found on the Archdiocesan website: <https://rcaos.org.uk/news-events/news/archbishop-john-to-lead-pilgrimage-to-lourdes/>  
Experience the unique spirituality of Lourdes, along with people from parishes around the Archdiocese. See poster.

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

**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.

**A Day with Mary** on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July at St Mary of the Crays, Crayford DA1 4DN 10am – 5.30pm. See poster for details of the day or go to [www adaywithmary.org.uk](http://www adaywithmary.org.uk)

**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>.

**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.

**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.

**St Ursula's Convent School:** 70 Crooms Hill, London SE10 8HN. **Teacher Vacancies:** *Head of Religious Education* and a *Teacher of RE* Full details of the roles including application forms can be found on the school website [www.stursulas.com](http://www.stursulas.com) Completed applications and/or any enquires should be sent to [recruitment@stursulas.com](mailto:recruitment@stursulas.com) The closing date for applications is 30th June at midday.