

**First Aid:** Do you want or need a First Aid qualification (certificated for 3 years) or need to up-date your current one? Then you will be most welcome to join the one-day *Emergency First Aid* course on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September at The Christian Community Church in Axminster Crescent, Welling, DA16 1HF. The venue is spacious, bright, comfortable and warm. Car park available. The course begins at 9.30am and will finish at 4.30pm. Cost £40. If you are interested or would like further details, please contact Melvyn French by email [melvynfrench7@gmail.com](mailto:melvynfrench7@gmail.com)

**Reflection Day:** The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Celebration of St Faustina Birthday at Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Kent on Monday 26 August from 10am to 4:30pm. The reflection day will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Call Millie on 07957594646 for more information. Coaches from Ealing Broadway and Victoria.

**Pilgrimage to Fatima** 11 – 18 June 2025. Further information and booking form visit [Fatima Pilgrimage – A Day with Mary](#) or tel 020 8641 6418.

**Permanent Diaconate Vocations:** If you are a man between 21 years to 58 years, prayerful, with the desire to love God and God's people, you are involved in services within your parish and community, you have tried many things and still feel drawn to a closer relationship with Christ and His Church you might possibly be called to be a Permanent Deacon? If you require further information about the Permanent Diaconate, please speak to Canon Edward or contact the Diaconate Formation Director via e-mail: [ianblack@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:ianblack@rcaos.org.uk). Lots of information can also be found on the diocesan website: <https://www.rcaos.org.uk/TheDiaconate>

**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.

**Bexley Foodbank:** Donations can be left in the box in the porch. Your support and generosity is much appreciated. A list of wanted items can be found at <https://bexley.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

**Film Night** on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> August at St Lawrence's Church, Sidcup. Come and join us for our next film night, a musical sing-a-long. Arrive from 7pm for social time/refreshments, film starts at 7.30pm. All are welcome. <https://www.stlsidcup.org/> 1 Hamilton Road, Sidcup, Kent. DA15 7HB

**Date for the Diary: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion & Readers 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. See poster for full programme of the day.

**Mind in Bexley** is for anyone struggling with their mental health or supporting someone who is. *Mind* assists people in their recovery, helping them take control of their wellbeing and lead fulfilled, productive lives. There are a variety of leaflets on the table in the porch showing the different services, groups, support and information available—please feel free to take one for details of the services on offer. More info can be found at <https://mindinbexley.org.uk/>

**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.

**Please be aware** of the increasing risk of cybercrime and online fraud. If you ever receive an email stating a change in bank account details purporting to be from the Archdiocese or any of the parishes, we recommend you contact us immediately by telephone on 0208 682 7880 before transferring any funds to the account, in order to verify that the email is genuine and not a scam. Thank you.

**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](mailto: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 Diocesan Church Legacy page: [Leave a Legacy: Archdiocese of Southwark \(rcaos.org.uk\)](#)



# 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](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

## Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

**Saturday 27th July**

**5pm** Reilly Family

**Sunday 28th July**

**9.30am** People of the Parish

**11.30am** Vincent Bonanno (M Harmer)

**Mon 29th** **Sts. Mary, Martha & Lazarus, Memorial**

**10am** Ger & Breda Foley & Family (J Kelly)

**Tues 30th** **Feria**

**10am** Marie McTiernan RIP—anniv (Mc Morrow)

**7pm** **Novena Mass**

**Wed 31st** **St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest**

**10am** Olive & Michael Reilly

**Thurs 1st Aug** **St Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

**10am** John Gillespie RIP (Aidan Molloy & Family)

**Fri 2nd** **Feria**

**10am** Mick Rodgers RIP (P Wall)

**Sat 3rd** **Feria**

**10am** Priest Ints

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday 10.30am—11am & 4pm—4.30pm

## Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

**Saturday 3rd August**

**5pm** Canon Jeremiah McCarthy

**Sunday 4th August**

**9.30am** People of the Parish

**11.30am** Rowena Govia RIP—birthday

**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 during Mass on Saturday evening & Sunday morning is for parishioners who wish to donate with their gift aid envelopes or with loose cash. Other methods to donate are via the digital plate in church, online or by standing order. The collection bag will 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. To set up a standing order to make regular monthly donations see bank details below.

**Support our parish** and make your donations go further by signing a valid Gift Aid Declaration form. Go to [www.rcaos.org.uk/media/xfqfyxyj/welling-planned-giving-and-gift-aid-form.pdf](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/media/xfqfyxyj/welling-planned-giving-and-gift-aid-form.pdf) Paper copies of the form are available on the table at the back of the church. You can also join the gift aid scheme by completing an online form at <https://forms.rcaos.org.uk/giftaid>.

NatWest Bank  
Sort Code: 51-70-14  
Account No. 39013332  
Account Name: RCAS Welling  
Please use your name as a reference. Thank you.

**Digital Collection Plates** are 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. 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 already registered for Gift Aid at St Stephen's.

My dear People

We have been reading from the Gospel of Mark since the end of the Easter season. If we continued reading from Mark, as we have done so far, we would be reading Mark's account of the feeding of the five thousand. However, from today and over the next four weeks we pause for a while and read from the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John.

The miracle of the feeding of the five thousand with five loaves and two fish in which twelve baskets are gathered and which is the Gospel text of today is the only miracle that Jesus worked that is found in all four Gospels. While each evangelist narrates it slightly different from the others, the numbers that are used are the same in all four Gospels.

There are several aspects of the miracle that are exclusive to John and these serve to bring out clearly the meaning as John may have intended. It is only in the Gospel of John that there is a reference to the Passover

and this serves to bring to mind the Exodus. This is made even more explicit when Jesus instructs his disciples to gather up the fragments so that nothing may be lost, much like Moses asked the people not to leave any manna around after they had eaten. While in the Synoptic Gospels Jesus says the blessing over the bread, in John he "gives thanks". This serves to emphasize the Eucharistic element of the miracle and the discourse on the Bread of Life that follows. As we know there is no Last Supper scene in John's Gospel.

But in the gospel we are challenged to see that when we translate our care and compassion into positive action, the little we are able to do is multiplied by God's grace in such a way that it becomes more than sufficient for the need. In whatever crisis or issue we face in life, in whatever trouble may come our way, the power of God's love will provide what we need.

God bless and love you all.  
Canon Edward

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

#### Scripture Insights

The theme of today's texts is apparent in the refrain from the responsorial psalm: "The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs."

In the reading from the Second Book of Kings, the prophet Elisha uses twenty barley loaves to feed a hundred people, despite the doubts of his servant. The prophet knows that it will be more than enough: "For thus says the Lord, 'They shall eat and there shall be some left over.'" Against this background, we read from John of the miracles of the feeding of the five thousand with five barley loaves and two fish.

The disciples Philip and Andrew, like Elisha's servant, are doubtful that the meagre amount will be enough. Still, after everyone eats and is satisfied, twelve baskets are filled with the leftovers. The number twelve signifies the fullness of Israel: God has enough—more than enough—to satisfy the desires of all his people. The miraculous loaves also point beyond themselves to the true bread: Jesus, the bread from heaven, who feeds his people with his body.

Several numbers are prominent in the accounts of the miraculous meals (twenty, five, five thousand, twelve), but only the number one is noted in the Ephesians. We read of one body of Christ, one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God. The oneness of the saints points to the Bread of Life: the Body of Christ is Jesus' flesh and blood, the bread and wine of the

Eucharist, and the united Christians who partake of the bread. The Ephesians have been called to "riches of [God's] glory in his inheritance among the holy ones" (1:18), and the apostle Paul urges them to be worthy of that calling through bearing patiently with one another in love.

#### Reflections

• Both the first reading and the Gospel tell stories about abundance—specifically about abundance of food, when what was available seemed woefully inadequate. What is God communicating with us by showing us this abundance throughout history? What does it tell us about what's possible today?

• The second reading feels a bit disconnected from the other two, but pay attention to the theme of being "one" in the Lord, gathered all together in our baptismal call. Compare this with the Gospel line about gathering up all the leftovers so that nothing is wasted. Nothing is left out. All God's creation can be used as life-giving nourishment. How might we be gathered together so that nothing is wasted?

• It would be unfortunate on these weeks when we speak of such abundance of food and resources to forget about those who are still hungry, those who have nothing, those who ache for the basic necessities of life. Our call is to go out into the world, serving all who need through our gifts and generosity.

LTP Sourcebook 2024

**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/> If you have any questions about SPARK please get in touch by email at [sparkparkbexley@gmail.com](mailto:sparkparkbexley@gmail.com) Many thanks for your donations to SPARK last weekend which came to £231.71.

**Lark in the Park** at Sidcup Place DA14 6BS to Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July. *Free* community event with something for all ages. Go to <http://larksidcup.com/> for full details of all the events on offer and to book your *free* place. This is an outdoor event, recommended for guests to bring chairs/picnic blankets. No dogs allowed on site. More info: phone 0208 309 6056 or email [info@larkinthePark.com](mailto:info@larkinthePark.com).

**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.

**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/> See poster.

#### A Day with Mary:

*Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> August* at St Saviour Church, Lewisham SE13 6AA. Start 9.30am Finish 5pm.  
*Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August* at St George's Cath, Lambeth Road SE1 6HR. Start 10.15am Finish 5.15pm. Please bring a packed lunch. See posters for details of the days or go to [www adaywithmary.org.uk](http://www adaywithmary.org.uk)

**Pilgrimage to Walsingham** in Reparation & Prayer for the Sanctity of Life on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August led by Bishop David Oakley, Bishop of Northampton. For details, please go to <https://prolifepilgrimage.org/> or tel. 01858 571242 / 07779 122365. See poster. Those unable to travel to Walsingham can join the pilgrimage online via these links: [youtube.com/c/WalsinghamCatholicTV](https://youtube.com/c/WalsinghamCatholicTV) or [Walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/](http://Walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/)

**Parish Garden Day:** Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August from 10.30am (weather permitting). *Everyone welcome*. Please bring your own equipment—gloves, kneelers, brushes, hand tools, spades, cutters etc. Families welcomed—jobs for all. Any amount of time you are able to give will be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

**Young Adults' Masses** at St George's Cathedral at 5pm on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August (and the first Sunday of every month), followed by a social gathering (for those aged 18+) in the Amigo Hall. You can find details of this and other young adult events at St George's Cathedral on Facebook and Instagram @stgeorgesya

**Opportunities for Young People** booklet in the porch giving details of some events and activities for our youth (under 18) and young adults (18 to 35) to assist in their faith journey. Please take a copy home.

**Lost Property:** Please check the lost property box on the table in the porch for any items left in church. Any unclaimed items will soon be disposed of.

**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.

**Support our parish** and make your donations go further by signing a valid Gift Aid Declaration form. Go to [www.rcaos.org.uk/media/xfqfyxj/welling-planned-giving-and-gift-aid-form.pdf](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/media/xfqfyxj/welling-planned-giving-and-gift-aid-form.pdf) Paper copies of the form are available on the table at the back of the church. You can also join the gift aid scheme by completing an online form at <https://forms.rcaos.org.uk/giftaid>.

If you have any questions regarding Gift Aid please speak to Maureen Harrison, our parish Gift Aid officer or contact the church office. Please return any completed Gift Aid Declaration forms to the church office via email or posted through the presbytery letterbox. Thank you.

**Cheques:** If you write a cheque for your church collection, hall hire, mass stipends etc. please could you write the payee as **RCAS WELLING** and not 'St Stephen's Church'. This is due to a change of our bank account name. NatWest bank will no longer accept cheques that do not match our account name. Thank you for your cooperation.