

Holy Father’s Prayer Intention for November:
For collaboration between different religious traditions. Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice and human fraternity.

World Youth Sunday: There will be a second collection this weekend to support the work of the Southwark Catholic Youth Service, which provides a wide range of opportunities and activities for youth and young adults across the Archdiocese. For more information, visit www.tinyurl.com/scys1 or join the Southwark Catholic Youth Network for regular updates at www.tinyurl.com/scysnetwork or scan the QR code below.
Please take a leaflet from the table in the porch with activities for Youth & Young Adults.



Volunteers Needed to help decorate the church for Christmas on Friday 19th December from 4pm. Please come along to lend a hand.

Christmas Carol Service on *Saturday 20th December at 3pm* in church followed by refreshments in the parish hall. This is always a very joyful occasion. Please mark the date in your calendar. Please feel free to speak to the Sunday Mass choir leaders for more information.
Choir practice on Saturdays at 10.45am in the small hall.

St George’s Cathedral Carol Service on 9th December at 7.30pm. Join Archbishop John and the beautiful St George’s Cathedral Choir. All are welcome so please invite family and friends to join us.

CAFOD Advent Carol Service: Dr Christine Allen, CAFOD Director, invites you to CAFOD's annual Advent Carol Service at St George’s Cathedral on Wednesday 10th December followed by drinks and mince pies. All welcome.

Ecumenical pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi 2026. Join Bishop Paul Hendricks, Canon Michael Branch and Anglican Bishop Christopher Chessun on a joyful 8 day pilgrimage from 2 March - 9 March 2026 to Rome and Assisi. [Click here](#) for more details, including costs and how to book your place.

Mass to Celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Knights of St Columba Welling Council 294 on Sunday 30th November at 11:30am. We will remember all passed and present Knight's of Welling Council 294. Followed by refreshments in the parish hall. All are welcome.

Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament weekdays from 9am. Please join us.

Advent Prayer Service in church on Monday 1st December at 7.30pm. A spiritual preparation for the Feast of Christmas. All welcome.

Rooted in Love is a programme for married and engaged couples to meet online monthly, where we share friendship, reflect on real-life topics, and pray together as we grow in love rooted in Christ. Dates: 27 November at 8.30pm, 11 December at 8.30pm. Further dates will be available in January 2026.
Email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk to sign up or receive more information.

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.

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.

Bexley Foodbank: Donations can be left in the box in the porch. Your support and generosity is much appreciated. A list of [urgently wanted items](https://bexley.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/) can be found at <https://bexley.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/> as well as a list of not needed items—thank you. Donations of strong ‘bags for life’ are wanted—please put any spare bags you have in the donation box. Thank you.

Job Vacancy - Group Secretary. Canon Victor Darlington and Canon Gerard Bradley are currently recruiting for a Group Secretary. This is a full-time role with a salary of £30,000-£33,000. Find out more on the [Archdiocese of Southwark website](#).



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

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
(Year C)

Saturday 22nd November

5pm Mary Daly RIP—30th anniv (S Daly)

Sunday 23rd November

9.30am Teresa Carolan (A&J Carolan)

11.30am People of the Parish

Mon 24th **St Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, & Companions, Martyrs**
No Mass

Tues 25th **Feria**
No Morning Mass
7pm Robert Lobo RIP—birthday
Novena Prayers

Wed 26th **Feria**
10am Errol Vertanness RIP (Rodgers)

Thurs 27th **Feria**
10am Santana Demello RIP

Fri 28th **Feria**
10am Savio Rodrigues—birthday

Sat 29th **Feria**
10am Priest Ints

Sacrament of Reconciliation
10.30am—11am & 4pm—4.30pm

First Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Saturday 29th November

5pm Robert & Julie Fernandes

Sunday 30th November

9.30am People of the Parish

11.30am 90th Anniversary Knights of St Columba Welling Council 294

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.
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 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 . 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.
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 situated at the back of the church. 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	
Today we come to the end of our liturgical year as we celebrate the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.	
The Feast of Christ the King is a fairly new addition to the liturgical calendar, and in fact, this year marks the centenary of the introduction of the feast. Pope Pius XI through the encyclical Quas Primas (In the first) on the 11 th December 1925 introduced this feast to all of us. One main purpose of the encyclical was to communicate hope to the world, at a time when the world seemed to be giving into despair. He developed the idea that the most effective weapon against the destructive forces of the age is the acknowledgement of the Kingship of Christ.	
After the end of the first world war there was a growing secularism and nationalism. Pope Pius XI observed that “the evil present in the world is due to the fact that the majority of people had thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law out of their lives.... As long as individuals and States refused to submit to the rule of our Saviour, there would	
be no really hopeful prospect of a lasting peace among the nations.” The feast was meant to remind the faithful and the world, that true peace and order could only be found under the rule of Christ the King. Therefore, another purpose for the encyclical was to give to the world a whole new idea of Kingship, dominion and authority.	
The year 1925 was also the year of the Ecumenical Council of Nicaea, which taught us that Christ was consubstantial (or one in being) with the Father, thus providing the basis for Christ’s kingly rule.	
This week Pope Leo XIV will embark on his first overseas visit as the Pope. He will be travelling to Turkey and Lebanon, and with the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew will make a joint pilgrimage to the Turkish city of Iznik (ancient Nicaea) to commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea.	
We remember them in our prayers.	
God Bless you and love you all. Canon Edward	

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (C)

About Today’s Solemnity We end the liturgical year with the celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King. While our prayers on this day speak in praise of his majesty and glory, we also remember that we serve a humble king who reigns through service and self-emptying love. Today’s solemnity invites us to embrace his vision of justice and truth.	Reflections • By our baptism, we share in the royalty of Christ. Even the man crucified by his side was promised admittance to this royal line. By embracing this posture, how does our care for ourselves and others change? • Through his death on the cross, Jesus—whose own power surpasses that of any kingdom or government—lays bare the cruelty we are capable of. Let us embrace the kingdom of God, reject structures of cruelty, and build structures that honour universal human dignity.
Scripture Insights In the selection from the Second Book of Samuel, we hear that David was both recognised by the people and appointed by God to be king of Israel. The responsorial psalm emphasises the great delight that Israel had in visiting their holy city, Jerusalem, the home of both the united monarchy, established with King David, and the temple, built by the son of David, King Solomon.	Introduction to Mass When Jesus is king of someone’s heart, mind and soul, his presence changes everything about a person. We celebrate the reign of Christ over the hearts of people and nations that strive for making peace and justice real in today’s world—a kingdom of justice, mercy and love.
Luke’s Gospel text for today’s feast invites us to consider what it means for Jesus to be king. He is on the cross. He has been crucified. While Jesus hangs there, the rulers and the soldiers sneer at him, and above his head the inscription reads, “This is the King of the Jews.” The scene is filled with irony. Those who use this title for Jesus do so to mock him. Yet all the while, we and one of the criminals know the truth. Jesus is, indeed, the King of Jews. This is no ordinary kingship. The kingship of Jesus, the Christ, is made known not in extravagant robes and ceremonies but in the embrace and humiliation of the cross.	Liturgy of Life In his crucifixion, Jesus shows that the supreme act of charity is forgiveness. Our call to charity lies in recognising, as did the thief, that we are responsible for the condition of our brothers and sisters, that we have failed in our duty to serve and build God’s reign, and we stand in need of forgiveness. And so, we must forgive generously those who have sinned against us, lest we fail to receive forgiveness for our own failures. In this act of charity, the forgiver and the forgiven benefit greatly.



Repository: Christmas cards, calendars, advent calendars, children’s Christmas books, candles and Christmas Mass Bouquet cards on sale now in the Repository. Please take time to visit after weekend Masses. (cash only please).

Reception 2026: Open Meetings and Tours at St Stephen’s Catholic Primary School for parents/carers of children due to start school in September 2026 (*children born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022*) on: Tuesday 25th November 9:30am
There will be a talk from the Headteacher and the opportunity to tour the school.
School Address: Ruskin Avenue, Welling DA16 3QG.
<https://www.st-stephens.bexley.sch.uk/>

Archbishop John’s Advent 2025 reflection. This Advent, Archbishop John is calling us on to reflect on the “astonishing truth” that the “Lord Jesus is, and always will be, Emmanuel: God with us, God beside us, God within us”. In a [video reflection](#), Archbishop John said that: “to say God is with us is not poetry but power. It means that the Lord Jesus stepped into our humanity so that we might step into his divinity. It means that God is no distant deity, but one who draws near; who shares our joys and carries our sorrows; who opens heaven to earth, and earth to heaven”. You can watch his full reflection at [rcaos.org.uk/advent2025](#).

Southwark Spirituality Commission Advent reflections. The [Southwark Spirituality Commission](#) will be sending daily reflections during Advent featuring Scripture, thoughts and prayers. Sign-up to receive them directly into your inbox each morning via tinyurl.com/SSCAdvent2025. These reflections are a great way to keep your mind focused on the Lord Jesus during the busy Advent season.

Mass Intentions: If you would like to offer a Mass for an intention, please use the Mass Intention Envelopes available at the back of the church and post it through the presbytery letterbox. Please ensure you include your contact number. The recommended stipend (donation) advised by the Archdiocese for a Mass Intention is £10. Please give plenty of notice to avoid disappointment if you would like specific date for your intention as we may not always be able to accommodate your request at short notice (at least 6 months notice is recommended). If you are a UK tax payer please complete the Gift Aid declaration on the reverse of the envelope. Cheques made payable to ‘RCAS Welling’. Thank you.

November Remembrance – A bowl is in front of the altar for the month of November in which you can put names of the departed to be prayed for.

Parish Coffee Morning on Sunday in the parish hall between the 2 morning Masses. Please join us for a cuppa & chat. Donations welcomed.

The Jubilee Year concludes in just six weeks. There is still time to visit the designated shrines and churches across the archdiocese and to receive the plenary indulgence. For a full list of places: <https://rcaos.org.uk/faith/jubilee-2025/designated-jubilee-churches-and-shrines/>

Church Decoration: If you would like to make a financial contribution towards the cost of the recent decoration work in church, the meeting room and new hall doors please contact the parish office. Cash / cheque donations can be posted through the presbytery letterbox in a sealed envelope with ‘Church Decoration’ written on the front (cheques made payable to ‘RCAS Welling’). Donations can also be made on the Digital Collection Plates at the back of the church and online at <https://portal.mydona.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=236> or use the church bank account details on the front page of the newsletter (use reference: Church Decs). Your support is important and deeply appreciated. If you are able, please gift aid your donation. Thank you. 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>.

Called to Bear Fruit consultation response published. Thank you to the thousands of people who took part in the Called to Bear Fruit consultation. We are grateful to you all for sharing so openly your hopes for the life of the Church in our Archdiocese. The consultation response, which includes 15 actions points for renewal, is available at [rcaos.org.uk/calledtobearfruit](#) and hardcopies will be sent to every parish. The consultation revealed a burning desire within our parishes to be missionary and evangelising disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, who work together to help people encounter His love. So, as we move forward on the next steps together, let’s build up the Body of Christ in Southwark with faith and confidence, becoming ever more a community of missionary disciples filled with joy and hope for the future. As an Archdiocese, we will continue to discern the process of renewal, and further updates will be provided in due course.