

**Clergy Support Fund** Second Collection this weekend. The clergy in our Archdiocese have given us so much. They have been there for us in our happiest moments and comforted us when we have lost loved ones. Supporting priests in their retirement is one way to show your appreciation for all they have done for parishes. You make supporting our clergy in retirement possible.

Donate to the *Clergy Support Fund* at [www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF) or scan QR code below. You can also donate via telephone office hours Mon-Fri 020 7960 2504 or by using the Clergy Support Fund envelopes available today at the back of church—if you are able to gift aid your donation please complete the gift aid declaration. Donate using the DCP at the back of church. Parish gift aiders please use the pink envelope in your box. Please continue to keep our Priests in your prayers.



**Stations of the Cross During Lent:**

Wednesdays at 10.30am—after 10am Mass (NOT Ash Wednesday 18th February)  
(NOT Wednesdays 25th Feb or 25th March)  
Fridays at 7pm (NOT Good Friday 3rd April)  
Saturdays after 5pm Mass  
Sundays after 11.30am Mass

**A Day With Mary** on Saturday 7 March at St Mary of the Crays, Crayford DA1 4DN Starting at 10am, finish at 5.30pm. During the day: Confession & Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament. See poster for the full details of the day or go to [www.adaywithmary.org.uk](http://www.adaywithmary.org.uk). Please bring a packed lunch.

**Bexley Winter Shelter Drop-In Centre** at the Sea Cadet Hall in Trinity Place on a Monday and Tuesday from 10am-2pm. This is to help homeless or those at risk of homelessness. Volunteers are needed to help support and run BWS:

Trustees  
Accountants  
Web Champion  
Assistance case worker  
Fund Raisers  
Volunteers to staff the drop-in centre

Please contact Melvyn French (trustee) via email [melvynfrench7@gmail.com](mailto:melvynfrench7@gmail.com) to volunteer or to find out more.

Thank you for donations of shower gel & shampoo last weekend which have been passed on to BWS guests.

**Lenten Prayer Service** led by Canon Edward on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in church. All welcome.

**World Day of Prayer:** to be held at St Stephen's on Friday 6th March at 1.45pm. This year the service is prepared by Christian women of Nigeria, with the theme: “*I will give you rest, come*” (Matthew 11:28-30). The service will last less than an hour, and is followed by refreshments. Please support this global prayer venture. For more details go to: <http://www.saintstephens.co.uk/blog/world-day-of-prayer-2026/>

**Pray the Romero Rosary at St George's Cathedral.** Join Archbishop John Wilson and the Cathedral clergy in praying the rosary every Friday at 5pm throughout Lent. This is a beautiful opportunity to draw closer to the Lord Jesus in prayer. Archbishop John will personally lead the devotion at the National Shrine of St Oscar Romero at St George's Cathedral (SE1 6HR) on Ash Wednesday (18th February) at 5pm, and again on Friday 6th and Friday 27th March. On all other Fridays during Lent, the Cathedral clergy will lead the rosary, followed by the Stations of the Cross at 6pm. Let the rosary connect you to the Lord Jesus this Lenten season. Find out more at: [rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary](http://rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary). See poster on notice board.

**Lent Activities 2026:** A leaflet has been prepared with a variety of interesting activities taking place at different churches in Welling. Please take one from the back table or you can find the link here: [www.saintstephens.co.uk/blog/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Lent-leaflet-2026-2.pdf](http://www.saintstephens.co.uk/blog/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Lent-leaflet-2026-2.pdf).

**Film Showing: *The Robe*** on Mondays 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> March at 10.40am in the small hall (room attached to the church). *The Robe* is a 1953 American Biblical epic film that tells the story of a Roman military tribune who commands the unit that is responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus. All welcome.

**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. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

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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 A)**

**Saturday 14th February**

**5pm** Peadan M<sup>c</sup>Connell RIP (M Rush)

**Sunday 15th February**

**9.30am** Dayna D'Costa—Thanksgiving Birthday

**11.30am** People of the Parish

**Mon 16th Feria**

**10am** Ricco Rodrigues—birthday

**Tues 17th Feria**

**10am** Peter Ward RIP (T Vertanness)

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

**Weds 18th Ash Wednesday**

**10am** Family Malavski

**7pm** Private Intentions

**Thurs 19th Feria**

**10am** Family Gladysz, Weronika, Stankslau

**Fri 20th Feria**

**10am** Chistina Donovan

**Sat 21st Feria**

**No Morning Mass**

**No Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**First Sunday in Lent (Year A)**

**Saturday 21st February**

**5pm** George Mizon & Dennis Cocklin

**Sunday 22nd February**

**9.30am** People of the Parish

**11.30am** Thanksgiving Hayley Fernandes 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 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](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>.  
**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

We have been following the reading from the Gospel of Matthew for the last three weeks. On this sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time of the liturgical year we read from Matthew for the last time, before we are interrupted with Lent and Easter readings. We will come back to read from Matthew continuously in June on the 11th Sunday of Ordinary time.

Whenever we listen to the Scriptures proclaimed or for that matter when we read the Scriptures, we need to keep in mind that there are three groups of people in the scriptures. Otherwise, we could have a lopsided or an unbalanced understanding of the scriptures. The first group can be described as those who are in front of the scripture text, that is us, who read the text in the 21st century, a text written almost two thousand years ago to people who lived in a completely different culture, different world view and written in Greek, the language spoken at that time. The second group are those in the text, namely those present in the gospel stories—Jesus, the disciples, the crowds, those who are opposed and hostile to Jesus. The third group refers to those behind the text, and they are the community for whom the Gospel was

written.

They are separated from the people who lived at the time of Jesus with the destruction of the great Temple in 70AD.

With the destruction of the Temple, Matthew's community made up of Jews who come to believe Jesus is the Messiah, who prayed the Psalms, honoured the Torah, find themselves under pressure. Judaism is rebuilding around a renewed movement led by the Pharisees which emphasised the need to observe the Torah strictly. Matthew's community at this time included Gentiles, who didn't observe all the purity or dietary laws. To many fellow Jews this was a relaxing of the Torah.

Matthew writes to assure them that following Jesus is not abandoning the Torah, but rather discovering its heart. It means seeing the Torah through the eyes of the Messiah.

It is in this context we need to understand the gospel text of today— 'You have heard, but I say.....'

God Bless and love you all.  
Canon Edward

### Sunday 15th February - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

#### Scripture Insights

Jesus told his disciples in the clearest possible terms that his mission was not to do away with God's law but to fulfil it. In a series of sayings often called the "antitheses," Jesus first states an Old Testament law ("You have heard that it was said"), which he assumes they should continue keeping—and he shows them how ("But I say to you"). Don't just refrain from killing, says Jesus; root out the anger in your heart that leads to murder. Don't merely refrain from making false promises; make your word so true and your integrity so trustworthy that you do not have to swear oaths at all.

In the reading from 1 Corinthians, Paul continues to meditate on the difference between worldly and divine wisdom. In God's mysterious wisdom, salvation was accomplished through a mighty act not of power but of weakness: the execution of a criminal condemned by the state.

#### Reflections

• Complacency seems commonplace in our world today. We ask questions like, "What is the lowest score I can get on my final exam and still earn an A?" or, "How many practices can I miss before I lose my starting position on the team?" It is often easier to simply meet the minimum requirements for something than to risk extra time and effort to exceed expectations. While this is not intrinsically evil, we are called to use our gifts to

the best of our ability. Jesus reiterates this point in today's Gospel.

• Jesus reminds his followers of the commandments they have heard, such as do not kill, do not commit adultery, and do not bear false witness. In each instance, though, Jesus says that simply meeting the minimum requirements are not enough. Instead, Jesus speaks of the importance of a conversion of mind and heart, as well. We must work to eliminate all forms of hatred from our hearts. We must grow in gratitude instead of jealousy. We must fill our minds with truth instead of hearsay and gossip.

#### Introduction to Mass

The Lord sets before us life and death, good and evil, and he offers us his laws and statutes to guide us in his ways of wisdom. As we enter into our celebration of the sacred mysteries, let us recall the times when we have not followed the commandments of the Lord, and ask for his forgiveness and mercy.

#### Liturgy and Life

Today Jesus calls us to reconcile with one another. Apologise to someone you have hurt. Consider promises you have made. Has your yes meant yes?

LTP Sourcebook 2026

**Eucharistic Adoration** in church will be on Mondays to Fridays 9am to 9.30am.

**Parish Coffee Morning** on Sunday in the meeting room attached to the church (while the Confirmation classes are taking place in the main parish hall). Please join us for a cuppa & chat. Donations welcomed

**Lent reflections 2026:** Sign up to the *Spirituality Commission* Lent reflections. Each day during Lent, the [Southwark Spirituality Commission](#) will be sending a reflection to help you draw closer to the Lord Jesus. The email will arrive in your inbox each morning, featuring thoughts, Scripture and prayer. These reflections will allow us to hear the readings anew, looking at where they resonate in our own lives and how they can draw us nearer to God. Sign up at [Southwark Spirituality Commission](#)

**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.

**CAFOD's Big Lent Walk 2026:** Take on this challenge! Walk 200km throughout the 40 days of Lent anytime and anywhere to raise funds for life-saving water. Go to [CAFOD's Big Lent Walk for 2026](#) for more details & to sign up.

**The National Novena to St Joseph** will take place from 10<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead. Every year, the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St Joseph, their Society's Patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work. Masses are at 10am every day of the Novena except Sunday, when it is at 11am. These Masses will be available to follow on Zoom, via the Mill Hill website <https://millhillmissionaries.com/novena/>. The Novena Prayer Booklet is available on request for a suggested donation of £1 per booklet to cover costs. You are welcome to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena Prayer booklet. Please write to the Novena Director at 6 Colby Gardens, Maidenhead SL6 7GZ or email [novenamhm@gmail.com](mailto:novenamhm@gmail.com). See poster for details and to scan QR code for the Novena page of Mill Hill Missionaries website.

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

**CAFOD Family Fast Day** is on *Friday 27th February*. It is a day when we are asked to pray and make a Lenten sacrifice by eating simply and giving generously.

This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought. We will hold a second collection on 28th Feb/1st March. Collect a CAFOD envelope from the table at the back of church to bless others with your support, donate online at <https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/parishes/virtual-envelope> or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10. Scan the QR code below to donate.



**Next weekend** we will hear how your donations can help families, like Shorai's in Zimbabwe and Rejoice's in South Sudan. Together with CAFOD's local partners remarkable solutions are developed to enable crops to grow despite drought and floods. To read more how your donations can help please go to <https://cafod.org.uk/give/appeals/lent-appeal>

**CAFOD Ash Wednesday** bookmarks are available from the table in the porch. Please take one home.

**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 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.