

Awakening – Eucharistic Adoration Initiative

Our parish will be hosting a time of Eucharistic Adoration on Saturday 21st March, from 10:30am to 4:30pm as part of *Awakening*, a nationwide initiative led by the Jesus Youth and taking place across many parishes in the UK during the Lenten–Easter season. All parishioners are warmly invited to join us for a moment or for as long as you wish for prayer, reflection, and quiet time before the Lord.

Stations of the Cross During Lent:

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

Archbishop John is calling on all in the Archdiocese to join him in prayer and contemplation before the crucified Lord Jesus during Lent. Throughout Lent, alongside the Archbishop's Lenten message, the Archdiocese of Southwark will publish prayers and reflections to help you contemplate the distressing majesty of the cross and give thanks to the Lord Jesus for his redeeming sacrifice. You can find the prayers and reflections across the diocesan social media channels, including [YouTube](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#) and [Facebook](#).

St George's Cathedral: The schedule for Masses, liturgies and events for Lent at the cathedral can be found at [Lent 2026 at St George's Cathedral: Archdiocese of Southwark](#)

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](#). Please bring a packed lunch.

Refugees at Home is the UK's largest independent hosting charity, matching refugees and people seeking asylum with people willing to open their home and help them rebuild their lives. This year, they're celebrating their 10th anniversary and in that time they've placed 7,500 guests with hosts across the UK. If you're interested in hosting, or want to find out more, [visit their website here](#).

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/](#)

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 Friday 6th and Friday 27th March. To find out more about the Romero Rosary, [have a look at this book](#) written by Archbishop John Wilson. 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. See the poster on the 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 table in the porch.

Film Showing: *The Robe* shown in two parts on Mondays 9th & 16th March at 10.45am in the small hall (room attached to the church). Starring Richard Burton as the Roman centurion charged with overseeing the crucifixion of Jesus. But when he wins Christ's robe in a gambling game at the foot of the cross, his life is changed forever. All welcome.

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 (no large cartridges). Many thanks.



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

Second Sunday in Lent (Year A)

Saturday 28th February

5pm Joe Quinn RIP (M & S Baker)

Sunday 1st March

9.30am Seamas & Josephine McMorow (J Hartley)

11.30am People of the Parish

Mon 2nd Feria

10am Maria Joaquina & Jacob John Fernandes

Tues 3rd Feria

10am John Colaco RIP (J Hartley)

7pm Novena Mass

Weds 4th Feria

10am For the Souls of Jacob & Helen Fernandes

11.30am Funeral: Caroline Olwa

Thurs 5th Feria

10am Betty Doherty RIP (Doherty Family)

Fri 6th Feria

10am Julio Desouza RIP—8th anniv

1.45pm World Day of Prayer Service

Sat 7th Feria

10am Priest Ints

Sacrament of Reconciliation

10.30am—11am & 4pm—4.30pm

Third Sunday in Lent (Year A)

Saturday 7th March

5pm Brenda Hoyle RIP—1st anniv

Sunday 8th March

9.30am Cecil Dias RIP (J Hartley)

11.30am People of the Parish

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.myдона.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

Last Sunday we accompanied Jesus into the desert as he was led by the Spirit, where he was tested. As our Lenten journey continues, instead of meeting a hungry Jesus, we meet a Jesus through whom God's glory shines for a while as he is revealed as the beloved son of God. Today we accompany Jesus and his 'inner cabinet', - Peter, James and John—as they go high up the mountain.

Matthew's account of testing of Jesus in the desert was just before Jesus began his public ministry. The transfiguration of Jesus, Matthew places towards the end of the public ministry of Jesus. In order to appreciate Matthew's account of the transfiguration we need to look at the text just before the transfiguration.

One of the phrases we do not find in the present text we read is 'six days later'. Just before this Matthew has told us how Peter acknowledged Jesus as 'the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.' Then Jesus made the first of his passion and death predictions that awaited him, of the kind of death he will undergo and that he will rise on the third day.

The word transfiguration means that the appearance of Jesus was changed so that his face shone like the sun and his clothing became as white as the light. We can recall that something similar happened to Moses when he met God on the mount of Sinai when he received the Law. For Matthew, Jesus is the new Moses. Just as Moses taught Israel the Law, we saw how Jesus interpreted the Law in a new way— "You have heard.... but I say to you"

Today's readings invite us to pause and reflect. Our Lenten journey will take us through the darkness of Holy week. What is revealed to us on the mount of transfiguration and the hill of Calvary is only Jesus.

During Lent a favourite devotion is Stations of the Cross. Its beauty is that there are many stages and many ways of doing them. Perhaps we can think of all the moments in our lives where there has been darkness of Gethsemane and the shining light of the transfiguration when we have met Jesus along the way.

God Bless and love you all.
Canon Edward

Second Sunday in Lent (Year A)

Scripture Insights

Jesus and his three closest disciples go up onto "a high mountain" Mt 17:1). The summits of mountains are places of special spiritual encounters in Matthew's Gospel. The first time Jesus is on a high mountain, he is tested by the devil. The next time, he delivers the Sermon on the Mount. This time, he is in the company of Peter, James, and John, his inner circle. For just a moment, the curtain is pulled back and the disciples see Jesus as he really is, in his true glory as Son of God, shining like the sun. As he is transfigured, he is accompanied by Moses and Elijah. In other words, Jesus stands in the company of the law (Moses) and the prophets (Elijah).

Reflections

• How do you feel when you are totally surprised by something? Sometimes we enjoy the excitement of the moment of surprise, revealing in the newfound energy. Other times we may feel unsettled or startled by what we were not expecting. Either way, surprises give us the opportunity to encounter the ordinary in a new way.

• Although Peter, James, and John had known Jesus for quite some time, they must have been utterly surprised at the Transfiguration. What started off as an ordinary hike up a mountain ended in a way that could not have been imagined.

• This voice from heaven, in addition to revealing the nature of Jesus to the disciples, also reaffirms Jesus and the path Jesus is walking. If we are mindful, we notice God says the same thing to each of us every day. God affirms God's love for us and celebrates all we are and all we are called to be.

Introduction to Mass

God reveals the divine nature of his Son when he transfigures him before his disciples. We too are called to recognise that Jesus is the beloved Son of God, to listen to his Word, and to trust in his plan for us. As we prepare to receive Christ in his Word and sacrament, let us open our hearts to his divine revelation.

Liturgy and Life

The transfiguration of Jesus, proclaimed early in Lent, offers a glimmer of hope during our season in the desert. It was the same for Peter, James, and John. They had just heard Jesus predict his passion for the first time. When we are in the thick of our struggles, it can be nearly impossible to remember that God makes all things new. Like the apostles, we need consolation. Do you think they were better able to endure what was to come because they had seen Christ glorified? What moments of consolation and hope have you experienced in your life? What can you do to help someone who is struggling?

LTP Sourcebook 2026

First Saturday (of the month) Devotions

including praying the Rosary together at 9.20am in church. Please join us on 7th March.

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](https://southwarkspirituality.com)

Bishop Gerard Bradley: In a Lenten reflection, Bishop Gerard reminds us that the cross is not merely a symbol but "a way of life". In his reflection, Bishop Gerard guides us through what it means to prayerfully surrender before the cross. You can watch his full message at rcaos.org.uk/cross2026.

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.

The National Novena to St Joseph will take place from 10th to 18th 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 See poster for details and to scan QR code for the Novena page of Mill Hill Missionaries website.

CAFOD Family Fast Day : This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. 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.

There will be a **second collection this weekend**. 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. Donate via the Digital Collection Plates (DCP) at the back of the church.



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

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

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.

The Archdiocese of Southwark is hiring a *Videographer & Social Media Officer*. If you feel called to proclaim Jesus Christ and help others encounter his love, please visit [VACANCY: Videographer & Social Media Officer: Archdiocese of Southwark](https://vacancy.videographerandsocialmediaofficer.archdioceseofsouthwark.org)