

## 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.

**Repository:** Please take the time to visit the Repository after Saturday evening & Sunday morning Masses. A selection of Mother's Day cards & gifts as well as St Patrick's Day cards & badges are on sale now. Easter cards and much more available in the Repository. There is a wide range of cards for all occasions and religious gifts available. First Holy Communion & Confirmation cards and gifts coming soon! Cash only please.

### 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

### Grief in Loss retreat 2026: 20 - 22 March

**2026.** For anyone who has experienced bereavement, either recently or some time ago. Grieve, remember, hope and give thanks for your loved ones in the light of the Resurrection of Jesus. Call 01622 717272 or email [reception@thefriars.org.uk](mailto:reception@thefriars.org.uk) to book and find out more.

**Aspiring to Governance** - Wednesday 25 March, 5.30pm-6.30pm. Join the Education Service for an informative session designed for individuals interested in becoming a Foundation Governor within the Archdiocese. This session is ideal for prospective Foundation Governors, as well as anyone interested in the governance of Archdiocesan schools. To book and view further details please [follow this link](#).

**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/>

**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.

**Spring Tea Party** at St Stephen's Primary School on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am. An opportunity to enjoy a cup of tea and to connect with our local community in a relaxed and friendly setting. We look forward to celebrating the arrival of spring, hopefully! All are welcome to attend.

**Next Weekend** (14th / 15th March) we welcome The Knights of St. Columba, giving out their *Holy Week* posters and taking donations for the Seminary Fund.

**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 27th March. To find out more about the Romero Rosary, [have a look at this book](#) written by Archbishop John Wilson. On the 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 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 9<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> March at 10.45am in the small hall (room attached to the church). Staring 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](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 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](#)



# 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

## 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

### Mon 9th Feria

**10am** Mrs Victoria Eisabor RIP—2nd anniv

### Tues 10th Feria

**10am** Roy Hebben RIP (J Hartley)

**7pm** Novena Mass

### Weds 11th Feria

**10am** Donah Brevelin—Get Well (McMorrow)

### Thurs 12th Feria

**10am** Mike & Jo O'Connell—wellbeing (P Norville)

### Fri 13th Feria

**10am** Jane Aupertin RIP (P Wall)

### Sat 14th Feria

**10am** Priest Ints

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

## Fourth Sunday in Lent (Year A)

### Saturday 14th March

**5pm** Mr Anthony Bong Vu RIP

### Sunday 15th March

**9.30am** Patrick Hartley RIP

**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](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.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

This year we have five young people from our parish to be received into the full communion of the Catholic church through the Sacraments of Initiation—Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist—at Easter. Four of them, who are already baptised, are called candidates. The one to be baptised is called a Catechumen. All five of them were presented to the Archbishop at the Rite of Election, on Saturday before 1st Sunday of Lent at the Cathedral. This year the Archdiocese of Southwark will receive over 590 adult converts.

In his homily, Archbishop John said: “*Somehow, through someone, perhaps through many people, maybe over many years, the Gospel of Christ in His Catholic Church has touched your life and touched your heart. So much so that you’ve come to this point, this threshold of seeking to belong fully to His Church through the sacraments. I can’t tell you how joyful I am to see you all today. The power of your name is so important today, as you are called by name. You’re not a number. You’re not lost in the crowd. You’re not unknown. Today, you are called by name. In the Scriptures, names really matter. A name in the Scriptures will often signify characteristics of the*

*person or their mission, or their prophetic gifts. Your name means something special to Jesus. And today he calls you by name.*”

On this third Sunday of Lent we begin special celebrations called ‘Scrutinies.’ In the early church, Scrutinies—another step in the Rite of Initiation of adults—is a term that is applied to the formal testing of catechumens before their baptism. The Rite included three scrutinies on the third, fourth and fifth Sundays in Lent. These last three Sundays of Lent are highpoints in the preparation for baptism. Each scrutiny invites those to be baptised, to a deeper self-examination of their reasons for seeking baptism.

Today’s gospel offers a map for the journey of faith, and can be called the first of the three great catechetical Gospels in Lent. Today we also remember all those who are journeying to baptism this Easter, and, who have reached a decisive moment in their journey of faith seeking to be called God’s beloved.

God Bless and love you all.  
Canon Edward

### Third Sunday in Lent (Year A)

#### Scripture Insights

The first reading picks up the Exodus story after God’s dramatic rescue of Abraham’s descendants from slavery in Egypt. Now they are in the desert, on their way to the land God promised to Abraham, and they are thirsty. They are so thirsty that they complain that Moses has brought them out of Egypt and into the desert to die of thirst.

In John’s Gospel, Jesus tells a thirsty woman that he has living water that will quench thirst forever. Later in John, we learn that this living water is the Holy Spirit, who will be a river flowing out from all those who believe in Christ and receive the gift of the Spirit. God gives water that quenches all our thirsts, bodily and spiritually. This water is so abundant (rivers of it!) that it overflows from those who have it to all those who are thirsty

#### Reflections

• The Sunday readings from Year A are those that accompany the scrutinies, a time of intense reflection and spiritual examination. Those preparing for baptism at the Easter Vigil undergo a deep purification of their lives and are enlightened to who they are in relation to God. In this time of self-examination, parishioners blessed to have catechumens in their parish are called to confront their own brokenness and need for God’s mercy. We may not be preparing for baptism, but we are all on a journey of conversion and renewal.

• The woman at the well hears God’s voice and recognises her need for healing and forgiveness. She is transformed. During this season, we have the opportunity to be transformed as well, if we are open to it like the Samaritan.

• Lent calls us to the first spiritual discipline of the season: prayer. We are encouraged to set aside more time for prayer, to quiet our hearts and listen to the voice of God. As we pray, let us remember to ask God for the grace to recognise our failings and to seek forgiveness.

#### Introduction to Mass

The Lord is in our midst, offering us the living water of eternal life. If we turn to him in our thirst and drink the gift of himself that he presents to us, we will never be thirsty again. As we prepare to receive his gift, let us come into his presence with thankful and humble hearts, ready to hear his voice speak to us in the liturgy.

#### Liturgy and Life

The Gospel proclaims the powerful response people had to encountering Jesus during his public ministry. The woman at the well experiences the person of Jesus and believes. Have you ever had such a profound moment of transformation?

#### Southwark Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes:

Bishop Paul Hendricks warmly invites everyone to join the pilgrimage on 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August 2026.

A pilgrimage is a great opportunity to refresh and renew our relationship with the Lord Jesus, with the help of Our Lady’s prayers. I have also found it a blessing to be able to accompany and to be inspired by other pilgrims, some of whom are sick, elderly or disabled.

Details for booking travel and accommodation can be found at <https://www.tangney-tours.com/diocese-pilgrimages/diocese-ca/>

We also ask pilgrims to complete a form with details, including medical requirements (if any) at <https://www.catholicassociation.co.uk/join2026>

For more information, please contact Canon Edward Perera ([edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk)) or Deacon John Fogarty ([johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk)) or Bishop Paul Hendricks ([paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk))

**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](#)

**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.

**CAFOD Family Fast Day:** Many thanks for your donations which came to £1,286.32. You can still make a donation by using a CAFOD envelope from the table in the church porch or 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.

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.

**Fire and Accidents:** In the case of a fire in church or in the parish hall please evacuate the building immediately and report to the assembly point in the car park by the school fence (Assembly Point sign on fence facing the church & hall).

There is a First Aid box in church (sacristy) and in the parish hall (kitchen) including an accident report book. Please note that any slips, trips, falls or accidents must be logged in the report book and the parish office must be notified as soon as possible.