

Repository: New Items available: Please take the time to visit the Repository after Saturday evening & Sunday morning Masses to browse the wide range of cards for *every occasion*, plus a lovely section of religious gifts available. Baptism, First Holy Communion & Confirmation cards and gifts are on sale now! Father's Day cards available now. Cash only please.

No First Saturday (of the month) Devotions in church on 6th June due to First Holy Communion rehearsals.

Many thanks for your generous donations to the collection last weekend for the Catholic Communications Network which came to £287.45.

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.

Summer Stillness Retreat at The Friars, Aylesford on 10th to 14th August 2026 with Fr Ged Walsh O.Carm and Angela Black. £582pp single/£542pp shared, all meals included. £30 deposit to book. Call 01622 717272 or email reception@thefriars.org.uk

Could You Become a Governor? Governors work together as a team to ensure a good standard of education is being achieved across the schools within the Archdiocese. You do not need to be a parent or work in the education sector, and it is an opportunity to develop the skills you have and to improve the futures of children today. Register your interest by visiting rcaoseducation.org.uk/could-you-be-a-governor.

Vacancies: Latest job opportunities: Trust Relationship Officer, Education Service. We are seeking a Trust Relationship Officer to build and sustain relationships with Catholic trusts and schools. Full details at rcaoseducation.org.uk/trust-relationship-officer-education-service.

Catholic Schools Inspections Co-ordinator, Education Service. We are seeking a Co-ordinator to oversee Catholic Schools Inspections across the Archdiocese. Experience of inspections in Catholic schools or academies is essential. Full details at rcaoseducation.org.uk/csi-co-ordinator-education-service

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

On the Feast of Corpus Christi (6th / 7th June) all *Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist* will have the opportunity to renew their commitment to their important ministry during the Mass. Ministers will be invited to come and stand at the front of the sanctuary by Canon Edward to renew your commitment. Many thanks for continuing this important Ministry in the life of our parish.

World Youth Day Korea 2027: Join Archbishop John for the Archdiocesan pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Korea from 2 to 9 August 2027 for young adults aged 18 to 35. World Youth Day is a unique opportunity to deepen your faith, meet young Catholics from across the world, and experience the joy of the universal Church. The expected cost is approximately £3,000. A £200 commitment deposit is requested by 31 May 2026 to secure priority access to booking. For full details, fundraising information, and to register your interest using the booking link, please visit www.tinyurl.com/wydhme1

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.

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. <https://bexley.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>



ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

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 Parish Priest: Canon Edward Perera
 website: www.saintstephens.co.uk Email: welling@rcaos.org.uk
 Secretary: Mrs. Lorraine Harris. email: wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk
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The Most Holy Trinity (Year A)	
Saturday 30th May	
5pm	Cypriano Joseph Castanha RIP
Sunday 31st May	
9.30am	Peter Newitt RIP & Tom McCormack RIP - anniv
11.30am	People of the Parish
Mon 1st June	St Justin, Martyr,
10am	Repose of the Soul of M.J Anthony
Tues 2nd	Feria
10am	Mr Kibuuka Raphael & Ms Namuganyi Christine—for full recovery from illness
	7pm Novena Mass
Weds 3rd	St Charles Lwanga & Companions, Martyrs
10am	Ezra—birthday & Evelyn & Amante—wedding anniv
Thurs 4th	Feria
10am	Vivian Nakabuubi's Job—find favour at work
Fri 5th	St Boniface, Bishop & Martyr
10am	Derek Pollard RIP (P Wall)
Sat 6th	Feria
	No Morning Mass
	Sacrament of Reconciliation
	4pm—4.30pm
The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)	
Saturday 7th June	
5pm	Olive & Michael Reilly
Sunday 8th June	
9.30am	Peter Ward RIP (Ward Family)
11.30am	People of the Parish
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Please remember in your prayers the sick and housebound; at home, in hospital or in residential care. </div>	

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,

The Easter season has come to an end. But, before we return to the Ordinary Sundays of the year, we have two great feasts to celebrate. They are great signs of God's love for us. Today we celebrate the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity and next Sunday we will celebrate the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, better known to many of us as Corpus Christi.

The feast of the Holy Trinity is a special Sunday in the liturgical year. It has been celebrated since 1334, when Pope John XXII fixed it as the Sunday after Pentecost. It is a Sunday which is not tied to any special event. We do not have to remember any special events or rituals. Instead, it is a day when we celebrate God, remember God, the mystery and the reality that God is. Perhaps we can say it is like a birthday when we celebrate a special person and his or her presence with us.

The Most Holy Trinity can sometimes appear like a complicated mathematical puzzle fitting three persons into one God. We believe in one God. But the God Jesus revealed to us is an infinitely rich God, who has drawn near to us in human form of Jesus his Son and Word and continues to be present to us through his Spirit. In the

words of St. Paul, in his address to the people of Athens, 'in Him we move and live and have our being.' (Acts 17/-)

The secret mystery of the Trinity is that God is Love. The Cross is the sign of how deep that love goes. When we make the sign of the cross, we do so in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit.

An old Irish religious poem tells us how the mystery of the Trinity is revealed is in the ordinary moments of grace in everyday life, such as offering hospitality to a passing stranger.

"I saw a stranger today, I put food for him in the eating-place and drink in the drinking-place. In the holy name of the Trinity, he blessed myself and my family. And the lark said in the warble, 'Often, often, often goes Christ in the strangers guise. O, oft and oft and oft, goes Christ in the strangers guise.'"

May we discover the mysterious presence of the Trinity in the ordinary things of life today and always.

God Bless and love you all.
Canon Edward

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity

Today's Solemnity

Although God is one, God is not solitary. Each of the Diving Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—is distinct from the others and exists eternally with them as a communion of persons in love. Baptised in the name of our Triune God, we are called to share in the divine life and to shape our families and our communities to reflect the unity and love found in the relationship among the Father, Son and Spirit.

Scripture Insights

The Church worships one God that believers encounter in three ways. God the Father is complete mystery, as this Sunday's responsorial psalm declares. Throughout the psalm, the prophet declares that God is greater than human artifacts, natural phenomena, or a cosmic power. God created these things and is praiseworthy and exalted about all of them.

God's presence comes into the world as Jesus Christ. In one important way Jesus is distinct from the God of Israel: the Son is really human. In other important ways the Son is identical to the God that Israel knows. He is similarly mysterious, confounding his opponents and sometimes perplexing even his disciples. Also like the God of Israel, Jesus is merciful and faithful, joining humanity to share the love God has for us.

Within the mysterious God of Israel lay the seeds to understand the incarnate Son. Those who encountered the Son found in his loving presence the clues that they needed to understand the Spirit. Those who live in the Spirit discover the infinite depths of the mysterious Father. At the heart of reality and of our faith is a community of love.

Reflections

- People sometimes attempt to portray God as an angry, vengeful being. Today's Gospel, however, clearly shows a God who is nothing but love. God loves the world so much that he gives the world his only Son so that all may live and have life.
- Sometimes people might also claim that God's love is reserved only for those whom God specifically chooses. God does not love any particular country or ethnicity, and God does not love people who are good any more than he loves people who choose to turn away from him. John makes this quite clear: God loves the world.
- Too often we are the ones who create these false images of God. We are the ones who build the divisions and distinctions that God does not. We must each recommit ourselves to the true image of God and work to dispel any images or ideas of God that are not love.

LTP Sourcebook 2026

New Sanctuary Furniture: The Diocesan Arts & Architecture Committee have given the parish permission to purchase a new altar, lectern, baptismal font and a tabernacle stand. We hope to take delivery of new items in June. Our thanks to Canon Edward for sourcing the new items and the negotiations & meetings with the committee to secure our new sanctuary furniture. Once we have the items in place we can begin to plan the consecration of our church—which opened in December 1935. It is long overdue! If you and/or your family would like to make a donation to the cost of the new sanctuary items, which come to over £15,000, there are many ways in which you can contribute.

* Cash or cheque (made payable to 'RCAS Welling') in a sealed envelope with *Sanctuary Furniture* written on the front or use one of the Gift Aid Envelopes on the table at the back of the church.

* Card Readers at the back of the church or use the online link <https://portal.mydona.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=236>

* Bank Transfer—please use the church bank details on the front page of the newsletter & please reference your donation with '*Sanctuary*' Your donation can be anonymous if preferred but if you are eligible, please consider gift aiding your donation to the church, which will increase your donation value by 25% at no cost to you. Your kindness and generosity is much appreciated. If you have any questions regarding a donation to church for our new sanctuary items please speak to Canon Edward or contact the church office.

Capital Ring Rosary: Thank you to all who joined in the walk last Saturday, we are delighted to share that 116 people registered for the walk — and many more joined on the day! The feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive and it is hoped that the event will be repeated in 2027. If you would like to share your thoughts & comments of the walk please complete the [Feedback Form – Fill in form](#)

Southwark Catholic Youth Service has a [number of upcoming activities](#) for youth and young adults. For regular updates on forthcoming events, sign up for its network at tinyurl.com/scysnetwork. For queries on youth activities, email youth@rcaos.org.uk

Sidcup Debt Advice: If you are struggling with debt or money worries Sidcup Debt Advice may be able to help. For a *free* confidential conversation contact us on 0208 269 8621 or email at sidcupda@gmail.com Leaflets available on the table in the porch—please take a copy home to read.

The Parish Patronal Feast, celebrating the Feast of St Stephen, will be held on Sunday 12th July. Following the pattern of last year's happy gathering, there will be just one Mass in the morning at 10.30am, followed by a shared meal and community activities. All parishioners will be warmly encouraged to participate. Last year about 180 joined the event and it would be good to have even more this year. There will be no charge for any of the food, drinks and entertainment: everything will be provided free. We will be relying on the generosity of our parish community once again, to contribute their own time and talents, and items such as tableware, dishes of food and drinks. More details will follow soon regarding donations and help required.

Please keep Sunday 12th July in your diary!

SPARK in the Park: On Tuesday 16 June and Tuesday 23 June there will be **Cake & Cut Evenings** at 7:30pm at St John's Church Hall, Danson Lane, DA16 2BQ when craft will be prepared ready for SPARK week. It is a fun get together with cake! Please come along to help. Items listed below are needed for the SPARK craft activities. Please could you collect items at home and bring them all to St Stephen's church *on 13/14 June*. A box will be available in the church porch to put your items in (please do not bring items to church before the collection date of 13/14 June – thank you). Or you can drop off items at St John's Church ahead of the Cake and Cut evenings: Items required are:

Toilet roll tubes
Jam jars
Off cuts of felt
Clear yoghurt pots
Balls of wool
Thin cardboard

SPARK in the Park runs from 17th to 21st August in Danson Park. A *free* community event for all the family. <https://www.sparkinthepark.org.uk/> If you feel you can contribute financial help please follow the link <https://bexleylife.churchsuite.com/donate/fund/vdlbgo8n> to donate or scan the QR code on the poster on the noticeboard. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this community blessing.

Tablet / New Hall Festival at New Hall, Boreham House, Chelmsford on 10–11 July 2026. With a stellar line-up of speakers and contributors, the festival promises to be a powerful and hope-filled gathering, to pray, reflect and act for justice, peace and human dignity. It will be a joyful and welcoming space for worship, dialogue and renewal. For more details visit <https://www.thetablet.co.uk/events/the-tablet-new-hall-festival-2026/> Tickets & enquiries please email: adyoung@thetablet.co.uk See poster.