

This Weekend (20th / 21st June) there will be a second collection for **Day for Life**. This is the day in the Church's life dedicated to celebrating the sacredness of life. The proceeds from the *Day for Life* collection provide core funding to assist other life-related activities supported by the Church.

Next Weekend (27th/28th June) there will be a second collection for **Peter's Pence**. Your donations to the Holy Father are destined to church needs, humanitarian initiatives and social promotion projects, as well as to support of the Holy See. The Pope, being pastor of the whole Church, is attentive to the material needs of the poor dioceses, religious institutes and faithful in grave difficulties: the poor, children, the elderly, those marginalized and victims of war and natural disasters. Concrete aid is thus made available to bishops or dioceses in need, to Catholic education, assistance, to refugees and immigrants.

Repository: 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!** Cash only please.

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.

Youth Day at St. John Fisher School, Chatham on Saturday 11th July 11am – 5.30pm. Cost £5. For 10–14 year olds. This great day organised by the Southwark Youth Service and is a day of prayer, activities including sport, as well as lunch. To book a place go to the diocesan website: <https://rcaos.org.uk/mission/southwark-catholic-youth-service/event-booking/> There is a free coach from St. Anselm's Dartford, leaving at 10am. Please contact Fr. Stephen by email to book a coach place and for more details about the day: dartford@rcaos.org.uk

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.

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

World Youth Day Korea 2027: Join Archbishop John Wilson for the Archdiocese of Southwark's pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Seoul, South Korea, from 2 to 9 August 2027 for young adults aged 18-35. World Youth Day brings together over one million young Catholics from across the world with Pope Leo XIV for prayer, catechesis, pilgrimage, and celebration of the faith. It is a unique opportunity to deepen your faith and experience the joy of the universal Church. Package prices:

- Full package including flights: £3,270
- Ground package only: £1,870

A £400 deposit is required by close on Monday 29 June.

For full details, fundraising information, and booking, please visit: www.tinyurl.com/wydhome1

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

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

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

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Saturday 20th June

5pm Sister Cecilia Truc Ngo RIP

Sunday 21st June

9.30am Zoe Pereira RIP—anniv & birthday

11.30am People of the Parish

Mon 22nd **Sts. John Fisher, Bishop & Thomas More, Martyrs**
10am Peter Ward RIP (Ward Family)

Tues 23rd **Feria**
10am Fiona Miley RIP (I Youngs)
7pm **Novena Mass**

Weds 24th **The Nativity of St John the Baptist**
10am John Fernandes Thanksgiving Birthday

Thurs 25th **Feria**
10am Repose of the Soul of Annie McLea (M Harrison)

Fri 26th **Feria**
10am Josie Pace RIP (Vine)

Sat 27th **The Blessed Virgin Mary**
10am Priest Ints

Sacrament of Reconciliation
10.30am—11am & 4pm—4.3pm

Saints Peter and Paul (Year A)

Saturday 27th June

5pm Tony Fernandes RIP—25th anniv

Sunday 28th June

9.30am Leo Gomes

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,

We continue reading this weekend from chapter ten of Matthew, the Mission discourse, which is the second of the five sermons in Matthew's gospel.

After commissioning his disciples, Jesus instructs them for Mission. In the earlier part of the discourse, Jesus has warned the disciples of the opposition they will meet, not just from their own people in their synagogues, but from the governors and kings who rule the Gentiles.

Jesus reassures the disciple three times, telling them, 'do not be afraid.' 'Do not be afraid to be open about faith, do not be afraid of powerful opponents, and do not be afraid about what future holds in store. All three lay in the hands of God.' The message therefore is this—Confidence in God's presence and promise even in the midst of persecution. The gospel can be summarised with the expression, 'Do not be afraid to stand up and be counted because God is on the side of those who fight for justice and the truth.' However, the disciples are not promised success. They have to remember that, though Jesus is with them, there is plenty of opposition. They are in conflict with the powers of evil and misinformation.

As disciples of Christ, we too are sent on the Mission, and, like the first disciples to walk this way, continues to be difficult today when fears of all kinds continue to dominate our lives and take control of us, not allowing us to be the kind of person we are meant to be. There are many who will, or will try to shut down the voices of those who protest against discrimination, violence and false information.

When St. Francis of Assisi sent out his first disciples as preachers of the good news, he told them, 'Preach the Gospel to every creature, using words, if necessary,' Francis appreciated the importance of the witness of life. That witness can be very costly, just as costly as the preached message.

In the recent world events, I think Pope Leo showed us the way, as he was a prime example of how to stand for truth, justice and witness to the Gospel values.

God Bless and love you all.
Canon Edward

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Insights

For the good of our souls, we must speak God's Word. This is not just a moral requirement, of some ideal behaviour for which we must strive. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus equates eternal life with the words we speak in the light, from housetops, and before others.

In the languages that Jesus and other Jews would have used, the word for soul was the same as the word for throat. The throat was the seat of life, the passage that allowed both breath and bread to feed the body. More importantly, the throat was the home of the voice. One's speech revealed the state of one's soul.

The connection between soul and speech is especially clear in this week's first reading and responsorial psalm. An unshakable commitment to God had made the prophet Jeremiah and the psalmist targets of hostility. While acknowledging their current disgrace, both demonstrate their belief that a commitment to speaking God's Word would lead deliverance. Their souls' faith in God's promises inspired them to speak words of praise even before God acted to deliver them.

But this was not the usual case, as Paul notes in the second reading. Until Christ's work of salvation, sin and death abounded. Sin consists, at least in part, in lies, boasting, murmuring against God. In fact, throughout

the Scriptures, sins of speech are more common than sins of lust or violence. But now, Christ's Gospel gave humanity a new chance to speak God's Word, and Christ's spirit flowed into all who did so.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus promises eternal life to those who speak his words with courage even when the message is rejected. Christ's words of love bind us to all that is eternal.

Reflections

• In the movie *The Mission*, the Jesuit priest Fr Gabriel is told that he needs to abandon his mission and the people he has been serving because of a treaty between Portugal and Spain. Despite pressure from his superiors and imminent violence at the hands of the military, Gabriel and several of his brother priests refuse to abandon the native people.

• This is the call to integrity that Jesus makes in today's Gospel. While most of us are not facing possible martyrdom, we do face choices.

Liturgy and Life

Jesus seeks to draw his followers out of fear and spur them to trust and hope in him. Hope is found in everyday seemingly inconsequential acts. This week, take time to identify and become more deliberate about any hopeful actions you complete automatically, without realising it.

LTP Sourcebook 2026

New Sanctuary Furniture: Our new altar has been delivered and we are waiting the delivery of all the items before we place them on the sanctuary—we expect delivery by the end of the month. 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.

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

Churches Together in Welling AGM on Sunday 28th June will be held at the Methodist Church, 191 Bellegrave Road, Welling at 5.30pm. The meeting will be followed by light refreshments then Evening Worship at 6.30pm. The agenda for this meeting & minutes from the last meeting are available from the table in the church porch.

Canterbury Cathedral: Tuesday 7th July Mass at 7.30pm—9pm, which will be celebrated by Canon Anthony Charlton of the Catholic Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury. All are welcomed for the Translation of St. Thomas Solemn Evensong and Procession at 5.30pm—6.15pm. *Fifty years after Becket's martyrdom, his remains were carefully removed from his tomb in the Canterbury Cathedral crypt and transferred (or 'translated') to a bejewelled, encrusted, golden casket in a purpose-built chapel behind the high altar, now known as the Trinity Chapel. For many centuries, the anniversary of this 'translation' — of Becket's bones to his shrine — was the most important and well-attended pilgrimage feast in England: more than 5000 pilgrims a week made the pilgrimage.*

Parish Of St Stephen, Welling: Patronal Feast Celebration on Sunday 12th July: The 9.30am and 11.30am Masses will be replaced with a single Mass (of St Stephen) at **10.30am**. Lunch and recreation activities to follow in the parish hall and outside garden areas (weather permitting) until around 3pm.

To help with the planning and organisation of the day we are asking parishioners to use the lists at the back of the church. Donations of equipment, food & drink are needed. Please write on the lists at the back of the church your contribution(s) to our *Bring & Share Lunch*—food, drinks and/or equipment. We hope it will be another great, sunny (hopefully!) day when the parish comes together to celebrate St Stephen and our parish community. All are welcome! If you have any questions regarding the celebration please speak to Canon Edward, Simon Heywood or contact the church office.

SPARK in the Park runs from 17th to 21st August in Danson Park from 1pm to 4.30pm. A *free* community event for all the family. Each day will feature a range of free activities for children of all ages.

- Games & Stories
- Craft
- Under 5s Area
- SEN Quiet Area
- Bouncy Castles
- Sports

There will also be 3 family focused evening events on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, details to be confirmed.

<https://www.sparkinthepark.org.uk/>

To contribute financial help please go to <https://bexleylife.churchsuite.com/donate/fund/vdlbgo8n> to donate or scan the QR code on the poster on the notice board. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this community blessing.

The Friars Summer Fayre 11am-4.30pm on Saturday 11th July. Join us for our annual fundraising fayre. Filled with entertainment - acrobatic shows from Above & Beyond, live music from Side-by-Side Jazz Duo, exotic animal encounters with Animal Club. We also have local performance groups showcasing their talents. There will be, cream teas, beer, Pimm's, Prosecco, cake and all the usual fun our fayres provide! More details at <https://www.thefriars.org.uk/Whats+On/Events/Summer%20Fayre%202026/> The Friars, Aylesford, Kent See poster (use ME20 7BY for SATNAV)