

Sacrament of Confirmation 2027 will take place on Saturday 27th February at 5pm Mass. Introductory meeting for Parents and Candidates will take place either late September or early October, 2026. Please look out for the meeting date in our weekly newsletter. Classes for candidates, from Year 9 or age 13 and above, are usually on Sundays at 09:20. Start date will be announced at the introductory meeting.

Second Collection *next weekend (12th / 13th Sep)* for the **Catholic Education Services** who acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference to support Catholic education. They have a strong and positive working relationship with the British and Welsh Governments sharing the aims of high academic standards for all and increased parental choice. The CES is the chief negotiating and advisory body on matters affecting all aspects of Catholic education. Donations can be made by cash, gift aid envelope (found in your box), card reader in church or donate online at <https://portal.mydona.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=236>

Grief in Loss Weekend 9 - 11 October. Guided by Liz Taylor, Barbara Salamonczyk and Father Ged Walsh O Carm, this weekend is for anyone who has experienced bereavement, whether recently or some time ago. The weekends provide a sense of shared comfort, through grieving, remembering, hoping and giving thanks for loved ones in the light of the Resurrection of Jesus. Cost: £280pp (single) / £250pp (shared). For more information or to book a place please contact 01622 717 272 or email reception@thefriars.org.uk

Missio Magazine and Prayer Cards are available in the porch. Please feel free to take one of each, especially if you are a Red Box holder.

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.

Line Dancing Classes resume after the summer break on 8th September. The class is held every Tuesday, 1pm-2pm in the church hall, suitable for beginner/ intermediate level. First class half price (£3), thereafter £6. Come and join our friendly, sociable class - a chance to keep fit whilst having fun! For further details contact Angela on 07989 821306.

Parish Coffee Morning on Sunday after the 9.30am Mass in the meeting room attached to the church. Please join us for a cuppa & chat. Donations welcomed.

Adoremus is the Bishop’s invitation to renew our devotion to the Eucharistic Lord. There will be a Eucharistic Procession between St George's Cathedral and Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 10th October. There will be space to watch the start of the Procession at St George’s, to follow online, to watch the Procession as it passes (Stop & Pray) and to join for Benediction either in the Cathedral or the grounds of the Cathedral for which a live sound stream will be provided. More information on the programme for the day and the booking link to be a part of the 'representative group' inside the Cathedrals is found here: <https://aecsouthwark.churchsuite.com/events/7ehv6onh> We encourage booking early. See poster for details.

Right to Life: Support not Suicide is the campaign to stop assisted suicide. On Friday 11 September 2026, Kim Leadbeater’s revived assisted suicide Bill, which has been brought back to Parliament by Lauren Edwards MP, will have its pivotal Second Reading vote in the House of Commons. Join people across the country in asking MPs to vote NO. To find out who is your MP go to [Write to MP to vote NO on the new assisted suicide Bill on 11 Sept – Easy tool](#) **Demo Against Assisted Suicide Bill** on Friday 11th September from 9am outside Parliament. Placards will be provided. See leaflets on table in the porch.

Statement on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. Ahead of the Bill's Second Reading on 11 September, Archbishop John Sherrington has issued a statement opposing it, citing inadequate safeguards and risks to palliative care. Parishioners are urged to contact their MP via [Right to Life UK](#). More info on the [Catholic Bishops’ Conference website](#).

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.



ST. STEPHEN’S CHURCH

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Secretary: Mrs. Lorraine Harris. email: wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk
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Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)		
Saturday 5th September		
5pm	Angela Edwards RIP	(M Rush)
Sunday 6th September		
9.30am	Josie Pace RIP	(choir)
11.30am	People of the Parish	
Mon 7th	Feria	
10am	Nick Mythen RIP	
Tues 8th	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
10am	Special Intentions Paguntanlan Family	
7pm	Novena Mass	
Weds 9th	Feria	
10am	Deceased Relatives of Giorgio Chiosso	
Thurs 10th	Feria	
10am	Stephen Cowling—wellbeing	
Fri 11th	Feria	
10am	Maggie McMannus—birthday thanksgiving	
Sat 12th	The Most Holy Name of Mary	
10am	Priest Ints	
Sacrament of Reconciliation 10.30am –11am & 4pm–4.30pm		
Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)		
Saturday 12th September		
5pm	Michael Reilly—anniv	
Sunday 13th September		
9.30am	Amanda Coutinho RIP—birthday	
11.30am	People of the Parish	
Please remember in your prayers the sick and housebound; at home, in hospital or in		

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 Please gift aid your donation, if possible, by completing a digital Gift Aid Declaration—name, address and email address required.
To set up a standing order to make regular monthly donations please contact the office via email for the church bank details— wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk
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. If you have any questions please contact the church office.

My dear People, As I have mentioned before, Matthew arranges the teachings of Jesus into five main discourses, and each of them ends with words like, ‘when Jesus had finished saying this...’ or words similar to that. Chapter 18 of Matthew, from which we read today, is the fourth discourse which is known as the community discourse. The chapter concentrates and focuses on life within the Christian community with the emphasis on humility, reconciliation and forgiveness. Community is very central to Christian life. The first major constitution to be promulgated at the Second Vatican Council was, Sacrosanctum Concilium or The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy. It was promulgated on the 4th December 1963. In that, the Council identifies four principal ways in which Christ is present in the liturgy. Christ is present in the person of his minister. Christ is present in the Eucharistic species. In receiving the Eucharist we receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Christ is present in his word. It is Christ himself who speaks when the scriptures are read in the Church. Finally, Christ is present in the community that has come together in his name. As Jesus assures us in	today’s Gospel, ‘where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them.’ So, Christ is present among us in the person of his minister, in the Eucharist, in His Word and in the community gathered together in his name. In the light of it, the question we can ask ourselves is what sort of a community are we today in which Christ is present. St. Paul in his writings reminds us that we are the body of Christ and each member as part of the whole. He continues to say, just as the body is one and has many members, and all members of the body though many are but one body, it is so with Christ. We are all baptised into one body in the Spirit. I recall the old Irish song, ‘the land of saints and scholars.’ Every Christian community is a gathering of saints and sinners, or it is more appropriate to say that each one of us is a mixture of saint and sinner. The gospel offers us guidelines to help us achieve reconciliation and in it we experience a tension between judgement and forgiveness. God Bless and love you all. Canon Edward
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	

Scripture Insights

A friend once had a terrible drug problem, and I feared for his life. When I tried to talk to him about it, he believed I was being manipulative. I had failed to communicate my compassion, and only spoke of my frustration and fear. As a result, he felt justified to ignore my intervention.

Because it is easy to fall into this trap, many people are hesitant to challenge another even when there is good reason to do so. Jesus expects this of his followers, however. Jesus was effective because he wanted nothing from the people he encountered. His compassion and generosity were obvious to the most hardened sinners. He knew how to find their hidden dignity and how to speak to it with respect and hope. Their hardened hearts beat anew in his compassionate presence.

We are responsible for each other. Correcting each other is non-negotiable. Jesus teaches us how to correct another properly. The command to “treat him as you would a Gentile or tax collector” is not harsh when one remembers that Jesus tirelessly proclaimed divine love to exactly such individuals. As Christians, we too recognise the love God has for everyone. Just as that love motivated Jesus to find the greatest sinners and treat them with compassion, so we too must address each other out of the love God has taught us.

In this Sunday’s second reading, Paul summarises the Gospel in one sentence: “Love is the fulfilment of the law.” A humanity that lovingly challenges each other to love more deeply is God’s dream. With each act of compassion, we bring it to fulfilment.

Reflection

- When someone sins, we are to help the sinner by letting them know that what they have done is harmful to their relationship with God and others.
- We are encouraged to be discreet at first –to keep it between us and them, initially. This makes sense because no one enjoys being called out by their friends in front of others.
- Jesus reassures us that he is always with us when we confront others about sinful behaviours and that the community is also there to support us. It is important to address these issues so that your relationships will be strong and good. By holding each other accountable, we help each other follow Christ more closely.

Introduction to Mass

As we prepare for the liturgy to begin, let us pray that God may grant us the humility and courage to be peace-makers, seeking reconciliation in the relationships where it is most needed.

LTP Sourcebook 2026

RCIA: Anyone seeking to learn more about the Catholic Faith is invited to join the RCIA group which meet on Monday evenings in the small hall (attached to the church) from 7pm to 8.30pm. Our first session is on *Monday 28th September*. Former members are most welcome to join us and share their thoughts and experiences. Please make contact with one of the catechists if you intend coming so we have your name: Eileen at 5pm (Saturday) and 11.30am Sunday Masses. Peter & Maureen at 9.30am Sunday Mass and Canon Edward.

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

It is with great sadness to announce the recent death of Philip Harrison, a well loved member of our parish for many years. Please keep his wife, Maureen, in your prayers & thoughts at this sad time. Phil’s funeral will be at St Stephen’s Church on Monday 21st September at 11am.

The Archdiocese of Southwark will be holding their annual service for those that have been harmed by abuse on the 30th September at 6.30pm at St George’s Cathedral. The service will be led by Archbishop John Wilson and is an opportunity for the archdiocese community to express their solidarity and compassion to those that have been hurt by abuse and our commitment to building safe environments for all. Please attend if you are able. See poster.

Teach me to Pray is a five-part experiential programme on how to open ourselves to God through prayer starting on Tuesday 6th October. All are welcome to sign up and new Catholics are especially encouraged to join. To book your place and for more information on the programme, including dates and cost please see poster on the noticeboard & scan QR code or go to <https://aecsouthwark.churchsuite.com/events/tnpn4hqd>

The Archdiocese of Southwark Education Service warmly invites you to an inspiring evening exploring the rewarding and varied opportunities available within Catholic education. This event is open to graduates, career changers, teachers, support staff, retired professionals, parishioners and anyone interested in supporting the mission of Catholic education on Tuesday 15 September, 6:30–8:30pm at St John Fisher Catholic Comprehensive School, Rochester ME1 2FA. Tea, coffee & light refreshments will be available. Details and booking at rcaoseducation.org.uk/actr

Day for Catechists is on Saturday 3 October at the Amigo Hall and St George’s Cathedral, SE1 6HU. This event is for all the catechists of the diocese. Booking and further details here - <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/day-for-catechists-2026>, or scan the QR code below. The theme this year is: *Truth and Beauty in Catechesis in the Age of AI*. We expect this event to be fully booked once again so please book early to avoid disappointment. If you require any help with booking your place please contact the church office.



Lectors’ & Eucharistic Ministers’ Formation Day Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar for the South East Area, warmly invites all Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to a Formation Day on the theme “*Nourished by the Word, Sent with the Eucharist.*” The day will include Holy Mass, formation, discussion and Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. **Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich & Woolwich Deaneries:** Saturday 31st October, 10am–2pm at the Capuchin Franciscan Friary, Erith DA8 1DN. **Camberwell, Lambeth & Lewisham Deaneries:** Saturday 24th October, 10am–2pm at Bishop Thomas Grant School, SW16 2HY. Participants are asked to arrive by 9:45 a.m. and to bring a packed lunch. All Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are warmly encouraged to attend.

Bereavement Ministry Training on Saturday 19 September. This training day at Aylesford Priory, Kent, (9am–5pm) equips parishioners to offer sensitive, empathetic support to the bereaved. Contact Barbara Salamonczyk to book: mflbereavement@rcaos.org.uk

The Archbishop’s Certificate (ArchCert) is a two-year online course for all in Southwark who wish to understand their faith in a more profound way and be able to share it with both confidence and joy. The course begins online on 10 October 2026 from 2pm to 4pm. The total cost of the 2-year course is £800, £400 is payable before the start of each academic year. Registration must be completed in advance and there is a non-refundable registration fee of £50. Would you like to know more? Join our ‘*Come and See*’ evening on Monday 14 September at 7pm. A link to register can be found here - <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/archcert>