

Sacrament of Confirmation 2027: Introductory meeting for Parents and Candidates (Year 9 or age 13–17) is on **Saturday 17th October at 10.30am** in the parish hall. Details of the registration process and course dates will be shared at the meeting. All candidates wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation should please see the Catechists to register their Mass attendance at the end of every Saturday/Sunday Mass from now until the Confirmation Mass which will take place on Saturday 27th February 2027 at 5pm Mass.

Feast of Saint Jude on 24th, 25th & 28th October. The programme of activities during the feast includes regular celebrations of the Eucharist, blessings with the oil of Saint Jude, and other devotions. Please see poster for the full programme of events and times. All are welcome. More info call 01795 539214 or visit <https://stjudeshrine.org.uk/events/feast-of-saint-jude-2026/> The Shrine of Saint Jude is at 34 Tanners Street, Faversham ME13 7JW. See poster.

Many Thanks for your contributions to the **Prisoners' Sunday** collection which came to £395. To find out more about the work of *Pact* and to donate online please go to <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/faiht/events/prisoners-sunday/>

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.

Many Thanks for your contributions to the **CAFOD Family Fast Day Harvest Appeal** which came to £1,127.27. Donations can still be made by using a CAFOD envelope available on the table in the church porch—please gift aid your donation by completing the GA declaration on the back of the envelope or donate online at <https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/parishes/virtual-envelope>.

Bexley Foodbank: Donations can be left in the box in the porch. Your support and generosity is much appreciated. A list of urgently wanted items can be found at <https://bexley.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/> as well as a list of not needed items—thank you. Donations of strong ‘bags for life’ are wanted—please put any spare bags you have in the donation box. Thank you.

World Mission Sunday is on 18th October. The Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio—his charity for world mission—through a special collection. This day of prayer, solidarity and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God’s love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world. To donate, use the Missio envelopes, call 020 7821 9755 (office hours), donate via the DCP’s in church—please note you cannot gift aid your donation via this method so gift aiders please use the World Mission Sunday envelopes on the table at the back of the church or visit <https://missio.org.uk/> to give a gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation if possible. Join us for tea / coffee, cake & biscuits in the small hall after the 11.30am Sunday Mass—proceeds to Missio. All welcome.

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.

A Day with Mary on Saturday 7 November at Westminster Cathedral with Archbishop Richard Moth. Starting at 9.45am, finishing at 5pm, followed by tea & coffee. During the day: Confession & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. See poster for the full programme of the day or go to <https://adaywithmary.org/>

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.

Southwark Catholic Youth Services (SCYS): Faith, friendship, formation and unforgettable experiences. There’s plenty happening across SCYS, with opportunities for young people, young adults and parish youth leaders. Take a look at what’s coming up and start planning for the year ahead. Go to [home - Southwark Catholic Youth Service](#)

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

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

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)		
Saturday 17th October		
5pm	Mrs Anna Hang Ngo RIP	
Sunday 18th October		
9.30am	Pat Murphy RIP	(T Vertanness)
11.30am	People of the Parish	
Mon 19th	Feria	
10am	Philip Harrison RIP	(P Norville)
Tues 20th	Feria	
10am	Phil Harrison RIP	(M Rush)
7pm	Novena Mass	
Weds 21st	St Margaret Clitherow, Martyr	
10am	Aidan Molloy RIP	(L McCartney)
Thurs 22nd	St John Paul II, Pope	
10am	Phil Harrison RIP	(M Sloan)
Fri 23rd	Feria	
10am	Theodore & Conceicao Zuzarte	
Sat 24th	The Blessed Virgin Mary	
10am	Priest Ints	
<u>Sacrament of Reconciliation</u> 10.30am –11am & 4pm–4.30pm		
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)		
Saturday 24th October		
5pm	Deceased Members of the Reilly Family	
Sunday 25th October		
9.30am	Living & Deceased Pupils & Staff of St Joseph's Convent, Abbey Wood	
11.30am	People of the Parish	

Mass Times and Intentions		
Mon 26th	Feria	
10am	Leo Gomes	
Tues 27th	Feria	
10am	Phil Harrison RIP	(Harris)
7pm	Novena Mass	
Weds 28th	Sts. Simon & Jude, Apostles	
10am	Gary & Michelle—wedding anniv	thanksgiving
Thurs 29th	Feria	
10am	Rosy RIP	
Fri 30th	Feria	
10am	Patrick Donovan	
Sat 31st	The Blessed Virgin Mary	
	No Morning Mass	
	<u>Sacrament of Reconciliation</u>	
	4pm—4.30pm	
	Solemnity of All Saints	
	(Year A)	
Saturday 31st October		
5pm	Aidan Molloy RIP	(M Rush)
Sunday 1st November		
9.30am	People of the Parish	
11.30am	Maria Josephine Da Silva RIP—birthday	
Please remember in your prayers the sick and housebound; at home, in hospital or in residential care.		

My dear People,

The next few weeks in our Gospel readings we will hear stories of conflict between Jesus and religious authorities and other leaders. Over the last few weeks we heard how having entered Jerusalem, the chief priests and elders challenged Jesus’ authority. They questioned, ‘by what authority are you doing these things?’ But rather than answering their challenge directly, Jesus responded with three parables—The father and the two sons, the Wicked Tenants and the Wedding Banquet. The religious leaders now realise that direct confrontation does not get them anywhere. So now they try a different approach. They try to trap Jesus with carefully planned questions, hoping that Jesus will give an answer that will provide information to arrest him. So today and over the next few weeks we will hear conflict stories, attempts to trap Jesus. The opponents of Jesus in today’s Gospel are Pharisees and Herodians. They are a highly unusual coalition. The Pharisees were mainly concerned with the faithful observance of the Jewish Law, while the Herodians were close supporters of the unpopular royal family that controlled much of the Holy Land and whose power mainly depended upon Rome.

The question put to Jesus is set up as a well-intentioned request for guidance on taxation. It only needed a very simple ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer. A ‘no’ answer would make Jesus a revolutionary encouraging people to go against the Roman authorities. A ‘yes’ answer would make Jesus a supporter of the Roman authority for Jews had a deep resentment towards Roman occupation and taxation. Jesus however refuses to answer their question directly on their terms. Asking them to show a coin used to pay tax which had the image and the inscription of the emperor, tells them to ‘give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God. Jesus lifts the question put to him onto a higher level and now it takes on a completely new and deeper meaning. The coin belongs to Caesar because it bears his image. But we belong to God because we are created in the image and likeness of God. So, the real question is not whether Caesar receives his tax, but rather whether we who bear the image and likeness of God are being faithful to him.

God Bless and love you all.
Canon Edward

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Insights

Roman coins carried an image of the emperor and inscription dedicated to Roman gods. Many Jews considered these coins blasphemous and tried to avoid their use. Roman taxes, however, had to be paid in Roman coins, and the penalties for evasion included the selling of whole families into debt slavery. Thus, even pious Jews had to compromise with their conscience to protect their families from such a fate. The use of Roman coins also had subtler corrosive effects. Imperial governors paid collaborators with Roman coins. As the Roman Empire assimilated Israel’s economy, foreign landowners and employers moved in and paid wages in Roman coins. Coins were also propaganda. As people spent them, they subconsciously associated images of Roman gods and emperors with necessary goods like food, rent, and clothing. Even as they piously thanked God for their daily bread, they had to acknowledge that the meal was on the table because of coins bearing the emperor’s face and prayers to foreign gods. Israel had a long tradition of seeing past the pretensions and religious claims of foreign rulers. This Sunday’s first reading and psalm both address Jesus’ ancestors who lived under foreign rule. In each case, the Scriptures reminded God’s people to look beyond appearances and recognise that power and all material possessions are gifts from God for the benefit of humanity. These might

come through foreigners, but they originate in heaven, and those who thank God for them and use them as God intends practice justice and righteousness. Jesus drew on this tradition. He does not forbid the use of Roman coins. He simply counsels his listeners to be at least as attentive to “what belongs to God” as to “what belongs to Caesar.”

Introduction to Mass

The Pharisees try to trap Jesus with a question that tests his allegiance. Instead, Jesus exposes their hypocrisy and ill intent. He tells them that while items imprinted with the image of Caesar can be given to Caesar, things imprinted with the image of our Lord and Creator, especially each of us, who were made in the image and likeness of God.

Liturgy and Life

What belongs to God? Christians believe that all things belong to God and that all we have is given to us by God. How, then, does the Christian live in a world of commercial and civic accountability? After all, the Church abides within the economic and political systems of a given time and place, to which it necessarily conforms much of the time. But it cannot serve two masters, and it cannot deny its identity and mission. This means that Christian life is about seeking balance so that the Church will be what it should be: the light of the world.

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. 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.

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. 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.

Reception 2027: Open Meetings and Tours at St Stephen's Catholic Primary School

for parents/carers of children due to start school in September 2027 (*children born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023*) on: Friday 6th November 9:30am & 1.15pm Monday 16th November 9.30am & 1:15pm Monday 30th November 9:30am & 1.15pm There will be a talk from the Headteacher and the opportunity to tour the school. Booking is not required, please attend your chosen session. School Address: Ruskin Avenue, Welling DA16 3QG. <https://www.st-stephens.bexley.sch.uk/>

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.

All Saints’ Day Celebration: Join us for the celebration of All Saints’ Day at the 11:30am Mass on Sunday, 1 November. Children are encouraged to come dressed as their favourite saint or bring a picture of their patron saint or any saint they admire. A special blessing will be given to all the children as we celebrate the lives of the saints and their wonderful examples of faith and holiness. We look forward to celebrating this special day together as a parish community!

Repository: Advent candles and calendars, Christmas cards, calendars, candles, children’s Christmas books and Christmas Mass Bouquet cards on sale now in the Repository. Please take time to visit after weekend Masses. (cash only please).

Blessing of Graves

- *Plumstead Cemetery* - Saturday 7th November, 12noon.
- *St Paulinus Cemetery, Crayford* - Sunday 8th November, 12:30pm.
- *Bexleyheath Cemetery* - Sunday 8th November, 2pm.
- *Kemnal Park Cemetery, Sidcup* - Sunday 8th November, 2pm.
- *Brook Street Cemetery, Erith* - Sunday 8th November, 3pm.
- *Sidcup Cemetery* - Sunday 15th November, 2pm.
- *Hillview Cemetery, Welling* - Saturday 21st November, 11am.

Mass for Deceased Clergy of Bexley will be at St Thomas More Church, Bostall Park on Friday 6th November at 12noon. Please join the other parishes to remember and pray for our past clergy, who built and served our communities. All welcome. 420a Long Lane, Bexleyheath DA7 5JW. Please note there will not be a morning Mass at St Stephen’s on 6th November.

CAFOD’s World Gifts leaflets are available on the table in the porch. Every purchase helps families overcome poverty, build brighter futures and celebrate Christmas with dignity. To order and discover the full range of gifts visit <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> or call 0300 777 0030. Please take a leaflet home.

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.