Sacrament of Confirmation 2027: Registration has started for Candidates (Year 9 and above or age 13—17), wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation which will take place on Saturday 27th February 2027 at 5pm Mass. Please see the Catechists to register at the end of every Saturday/Sunday Mass. Classes will begin on Sunday 8th November at 9:20am in the parish hall.

Bexley Deanery Young Adult Group: For Young adults and professionals (18 - 35) to create a community where you can build each other up in faith and friendship. Come join us for the next meeting in the Angelus Centre, Bexley Rd, Erith DA8 1DN on 5th November at 6:30pm.

Southwark Catholic Youth Service: ***Youth Retreat Day*** on Saturday 7 November, 11am to 3pm at St. John Fisher School, Chatham, ME1 2FA for young people aged13-17yrs old. Join for a day of faith, fun and friendship led by our Mission Team. The day will include talks, testimonies, small groups, Adoration, confessions and pizza. Book at www.tinyurl.com/yday7nov .
Please contact youth@rcaos.org.uk if you would like transport.
For other dates and details of other events go to www.tinyurl.com/scys1

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.

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.

Many thanks for your contributions to the *World Mission Sunday* collection which came to £571.60.

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/

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.

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.

Archbishop's Appeal is a Diocesan second collection that funds three key areas of ministry: Youth & Evangelisation, Our Faith in Action (Caritas) and Clergy Care & Formation. Your support will enable the Archdiocese of Southwark to support innovative projects taking place within Catholic parishes and schools throughout South London and Kent that seek to invest Faith, Hope and Love into the communities they serve. Please be generous to the Archbishop's Appeal 2026 next weekend (7th / 8th November). Every gift is welcome. Thank you for your generosity of heart.
Find out more, or donate online at https://rcaos.org.uk/archbishops-appeal
• Scan QR Code on poster using telephone camera
• Telephone weekdays 9am – 5pm: 020 7960 250
• Cash / Cheque – please use the *Archbishop's Appeal* envelopes at the back of church. Please gift aid your donation if possible. Thank you.

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.

World Apostolate of Fatima (WAF) Symposium: Fatima & First Saturdays Devotion. Join Sr Angela de Fátima Coelho and Fr Lawrence Lew OP at Belmont Abbey (21 Nov) or London (22 Nov) for Mass, Rosary, and talks on the Fatima message. Free; register via worldfatima-englandwales.org.uk.

Dartford Choral Society: *Come & Sing* event on Saturday 7 November 2026 at St Michael & All Angels Church, Wilmington, DA2 7EH. Further details at www.dartfordchoral.org.uk and the link for booking is www.trybooking.com/uk/event/117595. See poster.
Christmas Concert on Thursday 17 December at St Anselm's Church, Dartford DA1 2HJ, as well as carols for everyone to join in, we will be performing Benjamin Brittens Ceremony of Carols, accompanied by the harp. Further details can be found on our website. All are very welcome.

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

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

Mon 2nd **Commemoration of All The Faithful Departed**
10am James Kelly
7pm Holy Souls

Tues 3rd **Feria**
10am Priest Intentions
7pm Living & Deceased Benefactors of the Parish
Novena Prayers

Weds 4th **St Charles Borromeo, Bishop**
10am Trudy Coutinho—birthday thanksgiving

Thurs 5th **Feria**
10am Deceased Members of the Rodrigues Family

Fri 6th **Feria**
Mass for the Deceased Clergy of Bexley Deanery at St Thomas More Church, Bostall Park at 12noon

Sat 7th **Dedication of the Cathedral of St George**
No Morning Mass
No Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Saturday 7th November
5pm Terry Rush RIP—14th anniv

Sunday 8th November
9.30am Roy Hebben RIP—1st anniv
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.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,

Today we celebrate the Feast of All Saints. The feast began to be celebrated universally from the 9th century. We celebrate the memory of the lives of those virtuous men and women who have been recognised officially as saints by the Church. We can look at the feast as a remembrance of all the wonderful, courageous and brave men and women who lived lives of selfless love serving God and one another. But it is also a reminder and an invitation to each one of us to imitate those brave men and women in our daily lives.

Sanctity is not an accumulation of merits or brownie points. We all know of many people whose lives were full of genuine holiness, though not officially recognised as saints. We remember the unselfish love and the sacrifices of our parents, the patience of those who suffered deeply. Our lives are blessed by the holiness of others. We remember and celebrate their lives too. In today's Gospel we are given an example of what it means to live lives of holiness. We are all called to be Saints through our baptism. As newly beatified Bishop Fulton Sheen beautifully reminded us, there is only one sadness in the world. And that is not becoming saints.

Tomorrow we celebrate the Commemoration of all the faithful departed better known to us as Feast of All Souls. The feast of All Souls is not a feast of sadness—although we are sad and miss all our loved ones—but one of great hope. As we pray in the first preface for the Masses for the dead, 'for those who have gone before us life is changed, not ended.' The commemoration of All Souls invites us to hold with great love all our loved ones gone before us.

The feast of All Souls is not a feast of sadness but one of great hope and confidence. We entrust those gone before us into the hands of the merciful God. We have loved them and still love them. God has loved them much more and they are in his care and God will lead them to eternal peace.

In the words of an old Irish song— "*We have shed our tears and have said our last goodbyes….Their souls were blessed and laid to rest….We will never forget them, for they made us what we are…Though they may be gone, memories linger on and we miss them.*"

God Bless and love you all.
Canon Edward

Solemnity of All Saints

Introduction to Mass
We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, the holy ones who have gone before us in death. Today the Church remembers all the saints—those Christian who have lived as meek, merciful peacemakers, who have fulfilled the earthly mission of their baptismal call, and who have inherited the kingdom of heaven. Lives of holiness begin at baptism, and all of us are called to holiness—all of us are called to become saints.

About Today's Solemnity
Today we celebrate all those who have died and now live with God. We honour those that the Church has formally recognised as saints as well as those unnamed women and men. Today's solemnity reminds us of the holiness to which we are all called. By reflecting on the example of the saints, we receive strength to live more fully in union with Christ so that we may one day join their ranks.

Scripture Insights
John's vision of seven trumpets presents an escalating tension, with cries and calamities coming from the four horsemen, martyrdom, and cosmic challenges. Just before the seventh and last trumpet blows, John gives us an interlude between Revelation 6 and 8 that feels like a catharsis or a release of the building tension. It tells of 144,000 being sealed for God out of the twelve tribes as well as a great multitude, in white robes, from every nation worshipping and praising. In many cultures, white is the colour of purity. John assumes the same in his vison of the faithful who have survived the ordeal. Like the Lamb and because of the Lamb, they have been washed in blood; the Lamb's blood also works ironically to wash and purify this great multitude.

Using the metaphor of clean hands and pure hearts, Psalm 24 declares that God will bless and vindicate those who stay away from falsehood. In the Beatitudes that begin the Sermon on the Mount, experiences often deemed to be undesirable (such as mourning, persecution, and being falsely accused) turn out to be marks of blessing. In addition to having a place in God's kingdom, for example, these individuals will come face to face with God.

We also find in 1 John 3 a promise of hope and vindication. Though unrecognised by the world as God's children, we are loved by God. Besides emphasising this current and abiding love, 1 John continues with the metaphor of children and suggests that we will not only witness God's full self-revelation but also grow to be like God. If being like God is the goal, 1 John encourages taking an active role in pursuing purity since God is pure.

Reflection
God creates us out of love to be in intimate relationship, inviting us to respond in love. As children of God, we are called to cultivate that intimacy always by becoming more like Jesus, God-with-us. Saints are those who continually strive to take on more fully the mind and heart of Christ. As saints of God, our hope is to be other Christs both in this world and always.

LTP Sourcebook 2026

Parish Liturgy Meeting on Tuesday 17th November at 7.30pm in the small hall (attached to the church) where we will discuss the implementation of the Final Document of the Synod in our parish. Please join us.

Parish Christmas Carol Service on *Saturday 19th December at 3pm* in church followed by refreshments in the parish hall. This is always a very joyful occasion. Please mark the date in your calendar & come along. There will be a collection for *Friends of the Holy Land*. https://www.friendsoftheholyland.org.uk/
If you would like to join the choirs for this merry event, the first practice will be in the small hall on Wednesday 4th November at 7pm. There will also be practices on most Saturday mornings. Please speak to one of the choir leaders for more information.

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/

Missio Red Boxes: If you are a red box holder, please bring your box to church during the month of November and leave it in the sacristy. If you find yourself collecting less change these days, please consider putting a note (or even 2!) in your box. There are some booklets about the work of *Missio* in the porch. Many thanks.

National Conference on Migration, Integration and Human Dignity. Saturday 21 November 9.30am –4pm, Our Lady of the Rosary, Blackfen. Inspired by Pope Leo XIV's teaching, this conference explores migration as a profoundly human and theological reality. Register at local.magnicharity.org.

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.

All Saints' Day Celebration: Join us for the celebration of All Saints' Day at the 11:30am Mass this 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!

November Remembrance – A bowl will be in front of the altar for the month of November in which you can put names of the departed to be prayed for.

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.
Church address: 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 catalogues are available on the table in the porch & at the back of the church. This Christmas, share the joy of Christmas with a CAFOD World Gift—from safe water to school meals! A meaningful way to bless loved ones while putting faith into action in solidarity with families around the world. To order and discover the full range of gifts visit https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/ or call 0300 777 0030. Please take a catalogue home.