



# ST. STEPHEN’S CHURCH

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Parish Priest: Canon Edward Perera

website: [www.saintstephens.co.uk](http://www.saintstephens.co.uk). Email: [welling@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:welling@rcaos.org.uk)

Secretary: Mrs. Lorraine Harris. email: [adminparish@saintstephens.co.uk](mailto:adminparish@saintstephens.co.uk)

School St. Stephen’s Primary School, Ruskin Avenue, Welling. Kent. DA16 3QG

Telephone: 020 8303 9738

## 17th Sunday (Year B)

### Saturday 24th July

**5pm** Daniel McElroy RIP

### Sunday 25th July

**9.30am** Lorna & Danzel 40th Wedding Anniv

**11.30am** People of the Parish

### Mon 26th Sts. Joachim & Anne Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**7pm** Gerald Duggan RIP—anniv

### Tues 27th Feria

**10am** Isabelle Fernandes RIP

### Wed 28th Feria

**7pm** Vincent Harty RIP (Mythen)

### Thurs 29th St Martha

**10am** Enid King RIP (Harrison)

### Fri 30th Feria

**10am** Cyril Fernandes RIP

## 18th Sunday (Year B)

### Saturday 31st July

**5pm** Fr Peter Ryman RIP—anniv  
(Tambyapin Family)

### Sunday 1st August

**9.30am** People of the Parish

**11.30am** Lilian Thornton—Thanksgiving

**Please remember in your prayers the sick and  
housebound; at home, in hospital or in  
residential care.**

## DONATIONS

As the sharing of a collection bag is not permitted during Mass there will be a collection basket at the entrance and exit doors of the church to put your donation in. Any donation you are able to make will be greatly appreciated at this time to help support our church & parish. Thank you.

You can post your donation in a sealed envelope through the presbytery letterbox at anytime, place your donation in the basket in church or you can make an online donation—as a ‘one-off’ payment or set up a standing order to make regular weekly or monthly donations. Please consider signing up to our Gift Aid scheme. Contact the church office for more details.

Our bank details are as follows;

NatWest Bank

Sort Code: 51-70-14

Account No. 39013332

Account Name: RC Archdiocese of Southwark St

Stephens Catholic Church Welling

Please use your name as a reference (gift aiders please add your envelope number). Thank you.

**To give online** using your debit / credit card go to <https://portal.mydona.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=236> Making a donation here is simple and quick. Enter the amount you would like to give and enter your card debit / credit details—you also have the option to gift aid your donation & any future donations you make using this card online or in church will also be gift aided (if eligible).

**PayPal Donate Button** on St Stephen’s website—go to [www.saintstephens.co.uk](http://www.saintstephens.co.uk) and click on the PayPal donate button on the left of the page. Donations can be made as a ‘one off’ or regular monthly payments and will go directly to St Stephen’s Church.

**JustGiving:** Parishioners who wish to support the parish may also do so online via [justgiving.com/campaign/parishsupport](http://justgiving.com/campaign/parishsupport). Please note that parishioners need to reference their donation with the full parish name and location.

My Dear People

If we had continued reading the Gospel from where we left, we would be reading from Mark’s version of the feeding the five thousand (6/35 ff.) However beginning today and for the next four Sundays we read from chapter six of John’s Gospel. This chapter is known as the ‘Bread of Life’ discourse of John’s Gospel.

Our First Readings too support the ‘Bread of Life’ discourse. Of the five First Readings we will hear four of the readings are accounts of extraordinary feedings both in the time of Elisha and during the wandering of the people of God in the wilderness. The reading on the fifth Sunday is an invitation for the people to choose which god they want to serve.

In the Gospel Jesus reveals his true identity as the bread of life. And invites the hearers to a life of union with him. He reminds us that unless we feed on his flesh and blood we will not have life. He is very forthright in saying that ‘unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood

you will not have life in you (6/53). The responsibility is on us whether to accept or reject. In verse 65 we see how some of the disciples stopped following him.

In today’s text Jesus asks Philip where they could buy food to feed the multitude. Jesus knew what he was going to do. But both Philip and Andrew fail to understand. For Philip there is not enough money to buy food and for Andrew what was available was an impossibility to feed the crowd.

The people who saw the miracle failed to recognise the real sign Jesus gave. They tried to make Jesus a king to satisfy their own needs. Similarly the challenge for us is to ask ourselves who is Jesus for me and like Peter whether we can say ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.’ v68-70)

God Bless and love you.  
United in prayer.  
Canon Edward

Seventeenth Sunday of the Year - (Year B)

Scripture Insights

John’s account of the Gospel often gives a different version of stories told in the Synoptic accounts, Matthew, Mark, and Luke. His account of the Last Supper, for example, is remarkably different. In the Synoptics, we hear the familiar story of breaking bread and blessing wine that is part of our liturgy. But John recalls how Jesus washed feet at the Lost Supper. Eucharistic references are plentiful in John’s account, however, especially in chapter 6. In the middle of Ordinary Time, the Church takes the time to read John 6 and savour the words and actions of Jesus as he talks about the bread of life and the hunger of humankind.

The chapter opens with the multiplication of five loaves and two fish. This is one of only two stories that all four Gospels relate. Jesus seems to be following in the footsteps of the great prophets like Elisha who multiplied loaves and grain, but two things set Jesus’ action apart from the Old Testament prophets. First, he takes the bread and fish and gives thanks and then distributes them. Second, he has the disciples gather up what’s left over. Twelve baskets of fragments are left, one for each of the disciples who doubted they could feed the multitude.

Some commentators refer to this passage as an institution of the Eucharist because of what Jesus does with the bread and the fish. There is no cup of wine, no table ceremony, no transforming

words. Nevertheless, the ritual of giving thanks and giving to others to eat is highly symbolic. Later in the chapter, Jesus uses bread as a metaphor for himself.

The crowd follows Jesus because they see the signs he does. Believing only because of outward signs is the most tenuous form of faith. At the end of the passage, the crowd wants to make Jesus king because of what they have seen. They have misunderstood Jesus’ person and message. He is forced into hiding because earthly kingship is not what Jesus came for.

Thoughts for Reflection

- The Greek word *eucharisteo* refers to “giving thanks.” Our Lord gave thanks for the bread, as the people gave thanks for food and the presence of Christ. This breaking of bread is Eucharistic and miraculous.
- We are called to “bear.....with one another through love,” so that we may live in the love and peace that Christ has given his people.
- The feeding of the thousands is a Eucharistic story; thousands of people gave thanks and broke bread with our Lord.

<div>NHS TRACK AND TRACE</div> <div>“To manage the risk of the virus re-emerging.”</div> <div>Attending public worship in the Archdiocese of Southwark</div>	
NAME:	
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<div>This information is being collected at the direction of the UK Government. It will be kept secure and will be destroyed 21 days after the act of public worship.</div>	

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**Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage** on Saturday 9th October at St George's Cathedral. If you are celebrating your 1<sup>st</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>/40<sup>th</sup>/50<sup>th</sup>/60<sup>th</sup> + wedding anniversary this year (2020 anniversaries are welcome), please email [mflse@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflse@rcaos.org.uk) so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop to attend this special Mass. Please write the location of your parish in the title of your email, e.g. Welling. Please provide your names in the format *John and Mary Smith*, your home address and the anniversary you are celebrating. Please apply as soon as possible—the last day to apply is 1<sup>st</sup> August. Spaces are limited.

***Celebrate: Summer*** is a magazine for Catholic kids, full of cool activities, fun quizzes, puzzles and facts. Perfect for 7–12-year-olds it will encourage children to think about and grow in their faith whilst having fun with 22 jam-packed pages. *Celebrate: Summer* comes with a six-week summer calendar and activity sheet for even more things to do through the school holidays. This year enjoy the school holidays knowing that God is with us every day as we *Celebrate: Summer*. £1.95 from Redemptorist Publications. [www.rpbooks.co.uk](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk)  
Tel: [01420 592974](tel:01420592974)  
Email: [customercare@rpbooks.co.uk](mailto:customercare@rpbooks.co.uk)

### Live Catholic Mass Online

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/online-mass-directory/>  
Use the online directory of churches in England and Wales streaming Catholic Mass live online (web address above). This directory aims to provide links to Live Catholic Masses online. Narrow down your search results by selecting the Mass Type (Daily, Vigil or Sunday). You can also select from the available languages (including signed).

**Redemptorist Publications** is pleased to introduce ***Celebrate:*** a *free* initiative designed to help children grow in their faith. Each week we will provide a **Children's Liturgy** in the form of a video of the week's Gospel reading, a reflection and a final prayer. [Celebrate | Following Your Faith | Children's Liturgy \(rpbooks.co.uk\)](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk)

**Ordinations to the Priesthood:** Southwark Diocese is blessed to have two gentlemen offering their lives in the service to the Lord through the vocation of Priesthood. Please pray for Matthew Donnelly and David Hunter, who were ordained by Archbishop John Wilson in St George's Cathedral on Saturday 17th July 2021. May God bless their future ministries.  
Go to [www.rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk) to read a *Reflection on Priestly Ordination* by Deacon David Hunter.

**Redemptorist Publications** is delighted to bring the Holy Mass, celebrated by Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R. into your home every Sunday. Go to [Holy Mass Online | Every Sunday | RP Books](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk)

**Church Flowers:** If you would like to join a rota to look after the flowers in church please contact Velia Dobinson. Everyone welcome—no floral experience needed. Velia 07789 673747.

**Bexley Foodbank** needs strong carrier bags or bags for life please. Food donations welcomed and needed too. Donations in box in porch please.

**Summertime 2021:** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday 6<sup>th</sup> August: Southwark is pleased to announce that this annual activity for young people is back, and commend it to boy and girl altar servers aged 10 - 15 years within Southwark Diocese.  
*The Summertime 2021 Altar Servers' Summer break* will take place at the Oratory School in Reading and will open with Mass celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson. Activities will include talks, discussions, prayer, daily Mass, as well as sport, Thorpe Park and swimming. A coach will be provided from St Anselm's, Dartford and the cost of £165 covers all board and lodging, a visit to Thorpe Park and swimming. For more details please contact Fr Stephen Boyle, Chaplain to the Guild of St. Stephen. Email: [dartford@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:dartford@rcaos.org.uk)  
[Summertime 2021 Application Form](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk)

**Young Minds:** If you are worried about the emotional health and wellbeing of a young person *Young Minds* offer good resources, including support for young people and parents. Go to <https://youngminds.org.uk/> for more details.

### Celebration of Mass:

At St Stephen's, we will continue to celebrate Mass socially distanced and face coverings are to be worn. Hand sanitisers should be used entering and leaving church and the 'one-way' in and out system will be in use. As long as the *NHS Test, Track and Trace* system is in operation, we will continue to make available the means for people to sign in when attending Mass using the NHS app and scanning the QR code or completing a *Track & Trace* card. It will be kept secure and will be destroyed 21 days after the Mass you have attended. A copy of the card is attached to this newsletter which you can print and complete at home to bring with you when you come to Mass. One card per individual or household group. Cards will be available in the porch at each Mass (please bring your own pen) and must be completed. *Please note a card is required to be completed for each Mass you attend.* There will be no toilet facilities open in church or the hall.

We ask everyone to respect and follow the guidance for the celebration of Mass in our church and for your cooperation and understanding so we can keep the church a safe environment for all. Many thanks to all our stewards.

### Guidance for the Celebration of Mass.

This guidance has been issued by the Bishops Conference of England and Wales for the celebration of Mass.

*On 19th July, the current legislative powers which assist the mitigations against the covid-19 virus transmission will be rescinded by HM Government. Even without this legislation in place, the Church in England and Wales will be adopting a cautious approach to capacity and activity within our churches. All places of worship will have to consider the prevailing local conditions for the virus. Special consideration is to be given to rates at which people are being vaccinated in the locality, the prevalence of new variants of the virus, the local rates of hospital admissions and any local public health advice.*

### The Communion Rite:

The priest shows to the congregation the Host and says audibly – “The Body of Christ” and the “Blood of Christ” – and the people respond –Amen. The priest will receive Holy Communion under both kinds using his own Host and Chalice. The priest will hold a reverent silence before the Prayer after Communion, giving the Blessing and dismissal. As the people have already acclaimed the presence of the Lord, at the Priest's Communion, the distribution to the congregation of Holy Communion will be in silence with no dialogue between minister and communicant. Communion must be given in the hand only, with the communicant standing, avoiding any physical contact. People should wait in their pews until instructed to move forward in an orderly manner pew by pew by the steward, aware of the social distancing. Once you have received communion please leave the church via the side door (through the small hall) as directed by the steward. Do not return to the pew. Please use the hand sanitiser. At the end of the celebration the priest should return to the Sacristy. The Church should be closed immediately after Mass in order to clean the space and parishioners encouraged to return home.

**Catholic Voices Pandemic Survey** - Catholic Voices was involved in a very successful survey and report during the first lockdown in May-July 2020. Over 2,500 Catholics in England and Wales and Scotland were surveyed, which has given us important insights into how people responded to the arrival of the pandemic. Since then a lot has changed and *Catholic Voices* would like to hear again from people about their current experiences and, crucially, what they feel about that future, so the survey is being relaunched. Repeating the survey now provides a good comparison moment. The link is <https://www.catholicvoices.org.uk/survey>



## Donations to St Stephen's Church: Online, Contactless and Chip & Pin

In an increasingly cashless society, we are able to respond to new ways in which people can donate to St Stephen's.

We are pleased to announce that we have installed **2 Digital Collection Plates** situated at the back of the church which parishioners can use whenever you come into church. Making a donation is simple and quick. Press one of the donation values e.g. £5, £10, £15, £20, £50 or Other Amount. Tap your card or phone on the card reader. For donations greater than £45, the card must be inserted at the top of the card reader with the chip facing downwards, enter your pin number and press the green arrow to confirm your donation. After tapping / inserting your card, the card reader will beep, and a blue light will show up, and screen will read payment approved. Your donation can be gift aided. The donor can complete a digital Gift Aid Declaration on the Digital Collection Plate screen and all future donations you make using this card will automatically be recorded—online and/ or in church. 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. Once you have registered for Gift Aid you will receive a 'thank you' email with a copy of your Gift Aid Declaration.

You will also be able to contribute to 2nd Collections. Just choose the fund you wish to donate to and the amount you wish to donate.

To give online go to <https://portal.mydona.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=236> or go the parish website [www.saintstephens.co.uk](http://www.saintstephens.co.uk) and click on the **Donate with Dona** button on the home page. Making a donation here is also simple and quick. Enter the amount you would like to give and enter your card details. If you would like to gift aid your donation please click on the 'yes' button and enter your name, address and email address. Any future donations you make using this card online or in church will also be gift aided (if eligible).

**Reminder:** To enable the church to claim the gift aid on your donation when using your debit / credit card (online or in church) you must register by entering your name, address and email address. Once registered, all future online and in church

card payments will be gift aided (as long as you use the same payment card). *A suggestion to save you time in church* – you can make a small donation online (eg £1) and register your details so that when you tap your card in church you are already registered and therefore do not have to enter your details again. If you do not have an email address but would like to use the contactless / online donation device please contact the church office.



All major payment methods accepted:

Please note that gift aid envelopes (past dated and current), loose cash, standing orders, 'one off' or regular online payments, cheques (payable to *St Stephen's RC Church*), PayPal and Justgiving donations are all welcomed at St Stephen's.

If you have any questions regarding online, contactless and Chip & Pin payments please speak to Canon Edward or contact the church office.

**NEW: One-Off Gift Aid Envelope:** Please find at the back of church one-off Gift Aid envelopes. These envelopes can be used for different funds / options and can be used for both Gift Aid and Non-Gift Aid donations. You can choose to make the gift a one-off Gift Aid donation or sign up to on-going Gift Aid. Mass intention details can be included on the envelope. Visitors / guests to St Stephen's are encouraged to use an envelope if they wish to make a donation.

Please take an envelope to make a donation to;

*Parish Offertory*

*Poor Box*

*General Church Income*

*Church Building Fund*

*Clergy Support Fund*

*Priest Training Fund*

*Christmas / Easter Offering*

*Mass Offering* - If you wish to use the envelope for a Mass Offering, please do not tick a box but write the intention or name of the person on the lines provided so we can clearly identify the intent of your gift.

**Baptism Preparation Class** for parents wishing to baptise their child(ren) at St Stephen's on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30am in church.

**The Archbishop's Certificate (ArchCert)** is an online course for all in Southwark who wish to know their Catholic faith more deeply and to develop the skills to share this faith with others. The certificate is in accord with Archbishop John Wilson's vision for a missionary diocese and is open to all who work towards this in our diocese whether in parishes, chaplaincy work, schools and in their families. We encourage those who volunteer in the parish to speak to Canon Edward about participation on the Archbishop's Certificate.

Participants will take a two-year journey through the Church's teaching to understand their faith in a more profound way and be able to share it with both confidence and joy. Students are supported with 9 online study sessions throughout the course, together with a tutor who will accompany them for the duration of the course and also with attendance at three study days (on Saturdays) at the Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral, in Southwark. The study days combine a balance of teaching, liturgy, social time and prayer.

The course will commence in October 2021 and the cost will be £365 per year. Registration must be completed in advance. All of the details of the course, including how to apply, dates and content are available on the website: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/archcert> If you would like any further information on the Certificate please contact the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis on 020 8672 7684 or email [archcert@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:archcert@rcaos.org.uk).

Please speak to Canon Edward in confidence regarding the course fee if it is a financial concern. We wish the course to be open for all.

**The Guild of St Stephen** will be holding its *Annual Rally* for Altar Servers this year on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September at Aylesford Priory. Registration at 10am. Holy Mass at 11.30am. 12:30pm Lunch (picnic or local refreshments) 1:45pm Football. Everyone welcome. A full programme of the day is available at [http://rcsouthwark.co.uk/future\\_events.html](http://rcsouthwark.co.uk/future_events.html)

**Bishop Paul - Fundraising for Lourdes:** Last summer, my cat went missing for a fortnight. During that time, my prayer had new urgency and I realised that, until then, my prayer for others hadn't been anything like as intense! From then, I made a special effort to say the whole Rosary each morning, while I was out walking before breakfast, saying each of the 20 decades for a particular intention. As we come up to the time when dioceses would normally be preparing for their Lourdes pilgrimage, I'm asking people to sponsor me to raise money for the Lourdes Sanctuaries. This will help them maintain their facilities for pilgrims and people who need particular assistance, at this time when little money is coming in from visitors, because of travel restrictions. If you would like to help, please visit <https://catholicassociation.enthuse.com/pf/bishop-paul-hendricks> Thank you very much.

Rt. Rev. Paul Hendricks

Auxiliary Bishop, SW Area

RC Archdiocese of Southwark

**The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS)** course provides knowledge and understanding of theology and the Catholic faith. For more information visit [brs-ccrs.org.uk](http://brs-ccrs.org.uk) You can learn the course in person, by distance learning or online - details below:

Centres (in person learning)

<http://brs-ccrs.org.uk/index.php/course-centres>

Life-Light Home Study Courses (distance learning)  
[info@studylifelight.com](mailto:info@studylifelight.com)

01844 351 514

CCRS Online (online learning)

[ccrsonline@hope.ac.uk](mailto:ccrsonline@hope.ac.uk)

0151 291 3055

**Sunday Morning Churches Together**

**Celebration** #BEXFEST Bexley Festival Danson Park Southside on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd August 2021 run by Welling Round Table. #BEXFEST is a ticketed event, with whole weekend at £10 adults, £5 children 6-17, under 6's free. Christians across the fellowships in Bexley are invited to come together at **10am on Sunday 22nd August** at Danson Park. Tickets must be booked in advance via the website <https://www.bexleyfestival.co.uk/> All profits raised from the festival goes to local good causes and charities.