

**Poor Parishes Collection This Weekend** (16th / 17th March). This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the poorer parishes in the diocese.

**Prayer Group** meets every Tuesday after the morning Mass in the small hall. Everyone welcome.

**Caritas Southwark** will be celebrating its 1 Year Anniversary on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March. The event will begin with a Mass at St George’s Cathedral at 12.30pm and continues thereafter at the Amigo Hall with Talks and Discussions on the “*Journey so far*” and the “*Way forward*”. Archbishop John Wilson will be the principal celebrant at the Mass while Raymond Friel, the CEO of Caritas Social Network England and Wales, will be the principal speaker. All are invited to attend. See poster.

**Passing on the Faith:** For grandparents, focusing specifically on the conversations which can help to anchor faith, four online sessions starting Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 7:30pm – 9pm. Email Lisette [mflse@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflse@rcaos.org.uk)

**The Southwark Catholic Youth Service** has several activities for those aged 10-35. Receive regular updates at <https://form.jotform.com/230894642403052> See poster.

**Your Legacy of Faith:** Remember the Church with a gift in your Will. When you move onto the next life, you can make your lifetime of faith live on through a gift in your Will. If you are thinking of putting your affairs in order, the Archdiocese of Southwark can help. If you would like to find out more and receive information on Will writing and estate planning contact the team on [legacy@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:legacy@rcaos.org.uk) or tel.no. 020 7960 2504. An information leaflet is available on the table in the porch. A copy is also on the Diocesan Church Legacy page: [Leave a Legacy: Archdiocese of Southwark \(rcaos.org.uk\)](#)

**Date for the Diary: Spark in the Park** 29<sup>th</sup> July – 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024 in Danson Park. Each day will feature a range of *free* activities for children of all ages and family events. More details to follow. <https://www.sparkinthepark.org.uk/about>

**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. Many thanks.

**The New Boxes of Gift Aid Envelopes** have arrived and may be collected from the table at the back of the church. They are arranged in alphabetical order. Please check your name, there may be a box for you even though you have changed to an alternative method of donation.

New subscribers to our Gift Aid scheme are welcomed. Please take a *Gift Aid Declaration* form from the back table. Once completed, please post it through the presbytery letterbox. Alternatively, you can sign up online by clicking the link <https://forms.rcaos.org.uk/giftaid> If you have questions regarding the Gift Aid scheme please contact Maureen Harrison or the church office.

**We Welcome The Knights of St. Columba** next weekend, giving out their **Holy Week** posters and taking donations for the Seminary Fund.

**Cheques:** If you write a cheque for your church collection, hall hire, mass stipends etc. please could you write the payee as **RCAS WELLING** and not ‘St Stephen’s Church’. This is due to a change of our bank account name. NatWest bank will no longer accept cheques that do not match our account name. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage: Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 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, please let us know by **31<sup>st</sup> May**, providing the following details: your names in the format John and Mary Smith, your home address, the anniversary you are celebrating, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Spaces are limited. Email us at [mflse@rcaos.org](mailto:mflse@rcaos.org) As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Welling.

**Synergy Network Meeting** on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 11am – 2pm (lunch provided 1pm – 2pm) at Montgomery Hall, 58 Kennington Oval, London SE11 5SW. For families and individuals who have been impacted by knife crime. An opportunity to hear from the Government civil servants and statutory bodies about the work carried out nationally to address this crisis. See poster. <https://wearesynergy.org.uk/>

**Opportunities for Young People** booklet in the porch giving details of some events and activities for our youth (under 18) and young adults (18 to 35) to assist in their faith journey. Please take a copy home.



# 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](http://www.saintstephens.co.uk). Email: [welling@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:welling@rcaos.org.uk)  
Secretary: Mrs. Lorraine Harris. email: [wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk)

School: St. Stephen’s Primary School, Ruskin Avenue, Welling. Kent. DA16 3QG  
Telephone: 020 8303 9738

Fifth Sunday in Lent (Year B)	
<b>Saturday 16th March</b>	
<b>5pm</b>	Mr Anthony Vu Rip
<b>Sunday 17th March</b>	
<b>9.30am</b>	People of the Parish
<b>11.30am</b>	Special Ints—Mary Anne Paguntalan
<b>Mon 18th</b>	<b>Feria</b>
<b>10am</b>	Repose of the Soul of John Uden (M Harrison)
<b>Tues 19th</b>	<b>St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>
<b>10am</b>	Mrs Frances Ferdinands
<b>(No Adoration)</b>	
<b>7pm</b>	<b>Novena Mass</b>
<b>Wed 20th</b>	<b>Feria</b>
<b>10am</b>	Special Ints—Mary Anne Paguntalan
<b>Thurs 21st</b>	<b>Feria</b>
<b>10am</b>	Repose of the Soul of David Meachem (M Harrison)
<b>Fri 22nd</b>	<b>Feria</b>
<b>10am</b>	<b>Funeral: Joyce Osborne</b>
<b>Sat 23rd</b>	<b>Feria</b>
<b>10am</b>	Priest Intentions
<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b>	
<b>10.30am—11am &amp; 4pm—4.30pm</b>	
Palm Sunday (Year B)	
<b>Saturday 23rd March</b>	
<b>5pm</b>	Mario Comiskey RIP (Doherty Family)
<b>Sunday 24th March</b>	
<b>9.30am</b>	Special Ints—Mary Anne Paguntalan
<b>11.30am</b>	People of the Parish
<div>Please remember in your prayers the sick and housebound; at home, in hospital or in residential care.</div>	

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.
<b>Donate online</b> at <a href="https://portal.mydona.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=236">https://portal.mydona.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=236</a> or <a href="https://justgiving.com/campaign/parishsupport">https://justgiving.com/campaign/parishsupport</a> —please include parish name and location or click on the PayPal donate button on <a href="http://www.saintstephens.co.uk">www.saintstephens.co.uk</a> . To set up a standing order to make regular monthly donations see bank details below. Please consider signing up to our Gift Aid scheme. Contact the church office for more details.
NatWest Bank Sort Code: 51-70-14 Account No. 39013332 Account Name: RCAS Welling Please use your name as a reference (gift aiders please add your envelope number). Thank you.
<b>Digital Collection Plates</b> are situated at the back of the church. Making a donation is simple and quick. Press one of the donation values or Other Amount. Tap your card or phone on the card reader. For donations greater than £45, the card must be inserted. 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	
There are different models of understanding the meaning of the death of Jesus. First is that it is an act of ransom or payment to God by which Jesus brought the world freedom from evil and death. Then there is another view that the death of Jesus as a sacrifice offered to God. A third view is an understanding that his death as a deed that shows the depth of God’s love for all of us. Today’s Gospel offers yet another model for understanding Jesus’ death.	interpretation of his death. He uses two images.
Passover is approaching and many pilgrims have come to Jerusalem for the great festival that commemorates the liberating power of God in the Exodus. Our Gospel begins with the arrival of some Greeks. They are Greek speaking Gentiles who are interested in Judaism and they too are on their way for the Passover festival and they want to see Jesus. Their request adds a new era in the ministry of Jesus as Jesus’ followers go beyond that of the Jewish people to include Gentiles.	Firstly, the image of a seed. The main point to understand what Jesus says is found in the difference between the seed ‘which remains a single seed’ and the seed that ‘bears much fruit’ in dying. Jesus tells the people that his death will be fruitful because it will give life to a big community of believers which will be gathered in his name.
The rest of the Gospel story is about Jesus’ own	The second image is that of the ’hour.’ the Gospel of John uses the word ‘hour’ to describe the agony and death of Jesus. Jesus will embrace that hour in his love for the Father, who now speaks and those who were present were not sure what they heard. For some it was like a clap of thunder and for others it was a voice of an angel as signs of God’s presence.
	The crowd knows God has revealed something but failed to recognise the very presence of God in Jesus.
	God Bless and love you all. Canon Edward

Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year B)

Scripture Insights



Our parish is celebrating the third scrutiny for candidates seeking Full Communion into the Church at the 11.30am Mass. Therefore, Year A reading will be used at that Mass.

Scripture Insights: Year A

Today’s short reading from Ezekiel is the conclusion of one of the best-known oracles in this prophetic book. The fuller text, commonly referred to as “the dry bones,” is an oracle of salvation that speaks of a time in the near future, when exiled Israel will be brought back to life and return to Judah. The metaphor of bodily resurrection is most appropriate at this time in the liturgical year.

The responsorial psalm for today is another of the seven penitential psalms. The refrain for this lament, “With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,” stems from the personal experience of the psalmist. In Paul’s Letter to the Romans, he contrasts two ways of living, “in the flesh” and “in the Spirit.” For Paul, life in the flesh refers to human life with all its weaknesses, whereas life in the Spirit refers to life that is focused on God and God’s ways. Paul reminds us that, indeed, the Spirit of God dwells within us. In the Gospel account of Lazarus being raised from the dead, Jesus waits several days before going to his

ill friend. When Jesus appears, he tells Martha that her brother will rise, allowing her to profess her belief in the resurrection on the last day. When Jesus states that he is the resurrection and the life, allowing her to profess her belief in the resurrection on the last day. When Jesus states that he is the resurrection and the life, Martha again professes her belief in Jesus. Martha’s faith in Jesus does not require that he perform miraculous deeds, whereas many of the people who had come to be with Martha and Mary believed in Jesus only after they had seen the great deeds he had performed.

Reflections

• Morality, resurrection, despair, belief: Today’s Gospel reading offers so many themes to explore. Imagine what seemingly impossible new life God wants for us to take hold of as we profess our faith. Consider each of the key players in this family: Mary, the one who sits at Jesus’ feet when he visits; Martha, the one who questions Jesus, who is always busy in her work caring for home and family, who does not fear raising her concerns to God; Lazarus, deathly ill, beloved friend of Jesus. Each of these personalities has a place in God’s story. Each of them comes to Jesus and Jesus meets them just as they are, with no requirement to first be perfect. These are the ones whom Jesus loves, varied in their experience and personhood, imperfect though beloved— just like each of us. Where has Jesus found you on your journey?

LTP Sourcebook 2024

Stations of the Cross During Lent:

Wednesdays at 10.30am (after morning 10am Mass)  
Saturdays after 5pm Mass  
Sundays after 11.30am Mass

No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in church on Tuesday 19th March after the morning Mass.

**Reconciliation Service** at the parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Blackfen on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 7pm. All welcome. 330a Burnt Oak Lane DA15 8LW

**Mass Intentions:** If you would like to offer a Mass for an intention, please use the Mass Intention Envelopes available on the table at the back of the church and post it through the presbytery letterbox. Please ensure you include your contact number. The recommended stipend (donation) by the Archdiocese for a Mass Intention is £10.

**Bexley Foodbank:** Items needed listed on <https://bexley.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/> Donations in the box in the porch. Thank you.

**The Missio magazine** is on the table in the porch. Please pick one up today to take home and read the latest news from Missio – the Pope’s charity for world mission. [Home - Missio](#)

**The London Catholic Worker newspaper** *Lent – Easter edition* is available on the table in the porch. Please take a copy home.

**CYMFed Flame Congress** on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025, the largest Catholic youth event in the UK. The theme is “*Unstoppable – Fan the Flame of Hope*”. Flame is open to those from school year 9 through to university age. The Archdiocese has purchased a block booking. Group Leaders from schools, parishes and universities can book here [Flame 2025 Leader Booking Form \(jotform.com\)](#) The early-bird price is £29, payable by 1<sup>st</sup> April. Queries to [mail-to:youth@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mail-to:youth@rcaos.org.uk).

**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.

**Southwark Altar Servers Annual Mass and Rally** at The Friars, Aylesford Priory on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Registration at 10.15am. Mass at 11.30am. Everyone welcome. See poster for details of the day.

**The Washing of Feet at The Mass of the Lord’s Supper** (8pm, Thurs. 28th March) re-enacts Jesus gesture of service at the Last Supper. 12 volunteers needed please to have their feet washed at that Mass. Please sign up on the list at the back of church.

**Readers for the Passion and Holy Week:** Two readers are required at each Mass on Palm Sunday to read the Passion. These are in addition to the readers on the rota; the readers on the rota should do the normal readings & bidding prayers as usual. Readers are also needed for the Holy Week services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Saturday Vigil Mass. Please sign the lists on the table at the back of the church if you would like to read. New readers not on the regular rota would be most welcome.

**Eucharistic Ministers** are required for Good Friday (3 ministers required) and Easter Saturday Vigil (2 ministers required). Please sign the list at the back of the church. Thank you.

**Lenten Activities** brought to you by the *Churches of Welling*. Leaflets available on the table in the porch and details on the Living Water blog on St Stephen’s website [Lent Activities with Churches Together in Welling – Living Water online \(saintstephens.co.uk\)](#)

**Good Friday Walk of Witness:** Gather outside St Mary’s Church, Wickham Street, at 11.15 for 11.30am departure. Join Christians from other churches in Welling as we walk, sing and pray along Bellegrove Road and Welling High Street, followed by a simple lunch at St John’s Church, Danson Lane. Donations to Christian Aid.

**Join our Mailing List:** To receive our weekly newsletter by email please email [wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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.

**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.