

**Confirmation 2026:** Children in Year 9 or above who wish to be Confirmed at St Stephen’s are invited to a meeting with their parents on Wednesday 1st October in the small hall (attached to the church) at 7.30pm. Please note: Confirmation Mass will be on Saturday 18th July 2026 at 5pm.

**Church Cleaners Needed** to join the church cleaning rota. This will involve spending approximately one hour on a 4weekly rota. Please contact Kate Wilson on 07747 620087. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

**Next Weekend** there will be a second collection for **Evangelii Gaudium (Home Mission)** (20th / 21st Sep). This collection provides the bishops of England and Wales with resources to support Home Mission, the spread of the gospel in our own country. The money collected enables a breadth of work to be done in support of parish evangelisation. Donations can be made by cash or card reader in church or donate online at <https://portal.mydona.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=236>

**Catholic Worker** paper is available on the table in the porch. Please take a copy home to read.

**Archbishop John Wilson and the Safeguarding team** invite all our parishioners to join us on the 24<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm, for the *Service for Hope and Healing*, for all those that have been harmed by abuse. The service is to express the archdiocese’s commitment to all those that have been harmed, their family and friends and to come together as a community and demonstrate our solidarity for those harmed.

**Day of Celebration and Thanksgiving for the Jubilee Blessings** on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 10.15am – 5pm at St George’s Cathedral. Archbishop John Wilson will be presiding and preaching at Mass at 11.15am. Day includes Adoration, confessions, testimonies, praise and worship, bookstall, prayer ministry led by Catholic evangelist Ros Powell. For more details of the day see leaflets on table in the porch or visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-day-of-praise-worship-and-thanksgiving-tickets-1513969827509> (no tickets required - free event)

**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>.

**Day of Retreat for Lectors & Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**  
*Saturday 18 October 2025* Parishes in the Deaneries of Bexley, Bromley, and Greenwich at Saint Stephen's Church Welling, 26 Deepdene Road, Kent, DA16 3QL. Registration from 9.30am with teas / coffees.  
**Please sign up on the list at the back of the church to confirm your attendance.**

*Saturday 25 October 2025* Parishes in the Deaneries of Camberwell, Lewisham and Lambeth at Bishop Thomas Grant School, Belltrees Grove, Streatham, London, SW162HY  
PROGRAMME OF THE DAY  
09:30: Registration with Tea and Coffee  
10:00 - 1040: Welcome & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament by Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar, Southeast  
10.45am: *Discipleship of Hope* - Canon Edward Perera, Dean of Bexley  
11.30am: Q&A  
11.45am: Break  
12 noon: *Virtual Missionary; How the Church can thrive in the digital space* - Father Antony Megalan Sellam, Dean of Lewisham  
12.45pm: Q&A  
1pm: Lunch - Bring your own packed lunch  
1.30pm: *Liturgy of Witness* - Father Stephen Wymer, Dean of Bromley  
2.15pm: Q&A  
2.30pm: Mass  
18th October Homily - Father Richard Plunkett, Dean of Greenwich  
25th October Homily - Father Valentine Erhahon, Dean of Lambeth  
Music: Father Bartłomiej Dudek, Dean of Camberwell

**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.

**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 needed—please put any spare bags you have in the donation box. 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](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

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Year C)	
<b>Saturday 13th September</b> <b>5pm</b> Michael Reilly RIP—anniv	
<b>Sunday 14th September</b> <b>9.30am</b> People of the Parish <b>11.30am</b> Amanda Coutinho RIP—birthday	
<b>Mon 15th</b>	<b>Our Lady of Sorrows, Memorial</b> <b>10am</b> Patrick Triplow RIP—anniv
<b>Tues 16th</b>	<b>Sts. Cornelius, Pope &amp; Cyprian,</b> <b>Bishop</b> <b>10am</b> Cypriano Joseph Castanha RIP— birthday <b>7pm</b> <i>Novena Mass</i>
<b>Wed 17th</b>	<b>Feria</b> <b>10am</b> Oseaghe Akhilomen—birthday
<b>Thurs 18th</b>	<b>Feria</b> <b>10am</b> Errol Vertanness RIP (M Rush)
<b>Fri 19th</b>	<b>Feria</b> <b>10am</b> Conceisao Fernandes RIP
<b>Sat 20th</b>	<b>St Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest &amp; Paul Chong Ha-sang &amp; Companions, Martyrs</b>  <i><u>No Morning Mass</u></i> <i><u>No Sacrament of Reconciliation</u></i>
<b>Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)</b>	
<b>Saturday 20th September</b> <b>5pm</b> Brian Illing RIP—7th anniv	
<b>Sunday 21st September</b> <b>9.30am</b> People of the Parish <b>11.30am</b> Reene Steele 90th Birthday Thanksgiving	
<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>Support our parish</b> and make your donations go further by signing a valid Gift Aid Declaration form. Go to <a href="http://www.rcaos.org.uk/media/xfqfyxyj/welling-planned-giving-and-gift-aid-form.pdf">www.rcaos.org.uk/media/xfqfyxyj/welling-planned-giving-and-gift-aid-form.pdf</a> 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 <a href="https://forms.rcaos.org.uk/giftaid">https://forms.rcaos.org.uk/giftaid</a> . <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. To set up a standing order to make regular monthly donations see bank details below.
NatWest Bank Sort Code: 51-70-14 Account No. 39013332 Account Name: RCAS Welling Please use your name as a reference Thank you.
<b>Digital Collection Plates</b> 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.

My dear people	
Today we celebrate the great feast of the Exaltation of Holy Cross, also called the feast of Triumph of the Holy Cross.	
The cross is a familiar and an important Christian symbol of our faith. But today, unfortunately many have forgotten the deep meaning of the cross, and, it has become unfortunately a fashion accessory.	
The story is told of a woman going to a jewellery shop to buy a cross that she could wear around her neck. The sales assistant showed her both plain silver and gold crosses. Then he added, ‘if you don’t want a plain cross, we do have some with a little man on it.’	
This shows the fact that we have forgotten the great humiliation of the crucifixion. As Bishop Robert Barron puts it, ‘for a person in the first century Roman Empire, crucifixion was the worst thing he or she could imagine.’ Fleming Rutledge said, ‘Crucifixion was a method of showing people in the most cruel way possible, the power of the empire and to deter anyone who dared to defy Caesar. What a deterrent!	
No wonder it took nearly 400 years to portray Christ on the Cross. The first known representation of Christ crucified in found in the Church of Santa Sabina in Aventine Hill in Rome. You can see it on the carvings on the main door. But even there the carved image does not show the cross.	
For us today, the feast commemorates two historical events. First, the finding of what was considered the Cross of Christ in the year 326 by St. Helen, the mother of Constantine, and secondly its recovery from Persia in 628.	
We exalt the Cross of Christ as the instrument of our salvation. Adoration of the Cross is adoration of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who became man, who suffered and died on the Cross for our salvation. The Cross represents the one sacrifice of our salvation. It is the symbolic summary of Jesus’ Passion, Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection.	
God Bless you and love you all. Canon Edward	
Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (C)	

<b>Today’s Feast</b> Established to commemorate the finding of the true cross of Jesus by St Helena in the fourth century, this feast invites us to meditate upon the redemption won for us by Christ. More than an occasion to venerate the physical relics of the instrument of Christ’s death, today’s feast celebrates the decisive victory that Christ’s suffering and death brings about. Indeed, we give thanks and praise that by his holy cross, Jesus has redeemed the world!	
<b>Scripture Insights</b> The author of numbers records the grumbling of the Israelites who experience hunger and thirst on their journey out of Egypt. A plague of snakes is their punishment, and they beg Moses to speak to the Lord on their behalf. The Lord instructs Moses to make a bronze serpent and place it on a pole; all who look at it will live.	
<b>Reflection</b> • In Jesus’ time, the cross was a barbaric instrument of torture. Yet it has been transformed into the ultimate symbol of hope springing from Jesus’ victory over death. The cross serves as a never-ending source of hope for us today in the face of so many seemingly hopeless situations of violence, separation, and injustice. • We continue to witness Christ crucified in the world through various mechanisms of oppression and torture all over the world. We are challenged to see Jesus in a new light.	
<b>Liturgy and Life</b> “We have never preached violence, except the violence of love, which left Christ nailed to a cross, the violence that we must each do to ourselves to overcome our selfishness and such cruel inequalities among us. The violence we preach is not the violence of the sword, the violence of hatred. It is the violence of love, of brotherhood, the violence that wills to beat weapons into sickles for work” (St Oscar Romero). <div>LTP Sourcebook 2025</div>	
<b>Today’s Feast</b> The second reading offers a succinct and profound Christology from the early Church. Christ is presented as both human in appearance and divine in his mission. He is the one who empties himself –in other words, gives all that he is—in obedience to the Father and the salvation of everyone who confesses Jesus Christ as Lord.	
<b>Scripture Insights</b> The Gospel text weaves together the threads in the first two readings as Jesus speaks about himself as Son of Man. Jesus places his life, and by implication his	

**RCIA: “Come and See”** We welcome anyone wishing to find out about the Catholic Faith. Our first session is on *Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September*. We meet in the small hall attached to the church from 7pm – 8.30pm.

**Annual Diocesan Day for Catechists** on *Saturday 20 September*. You are invited to join us for a day filled with teachings and prayer and a chance to meet fellow Catechists. Join us at St George’s Cathedral, SE1 6HU from 10am. Please bring a packed lunch – tea & coffee provided. Registration and choice of workshops can be found at [aec.rcaos.org.uk/day-for-catechists-2025](https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/day-for-catechists-2025) where you can see the timetable for the day, register your attendance and book your choice of workshop in sessions 1,2 & 3. Please contact Lorraine in the church office if you require any assistance with the booking. The parish office will receive a confirmation email once you have booked and will pay the attendance fee for each participant (£10). Please register and book as soon as possible.

**Repository Organisator Needed:** Role includes the ordering of cards, religious items, gifts etc to keep the repository well stocked, especially at Christmas, Easter & other celebrations.  
**Repository Helper Needed:** A volunteer to open & close the repository after the *Sunday 9.30am Mass* for parishioners to buy cards, gifts etc. is required. Our grateful thanks to Kath & Peter Ward (& family) who ran, organised and opened the repository after the 9.30am Sunday Mass for many years but have now decided to retire from both roles. If you would like to take over either or both jobs please speak to Canon Edward or contact Lorraine in the office to find out more.

**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.

**Sidcup Debt Advice:** If you are struggling with debt or money worries Sidcup Debt Advice may be able to help you. We are a small registered charity affiliated to the churches in Sidcup whose aim is to help those who are struggling financially. We work within the borough of Bexley and beyond, all of our advisers are FCA regulated and we do not charge for our services . For a free confidential conversation contact us on 0208 269 8621 or email at [sidcupda@gmail.com](mailto:sidcupda@gmail.com) Leaflets available on the table in the porch with information about the services of the Sidcup Debt Advice—please take a copy home to read.

**Parish Coffee Morning** on Sunday in the parish hall between the 2 morning Masses. Please join us for a cuppa & chat. Donations welcomed.

**Second Collection** *this weekend (13th / 14th 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>

**Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament** weekdays from 9am. Please join us.

**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.

**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 4-5 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.

**Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis:** Every parishioner, as well as teachers and parents in our schools, has free and unlimited access to the work-shops created by the world-renowned Catechetical Institute. From Scripture to parenting workshops, to catechetical training and mentoring, there is something for everyone. For information on how to register your free account visit: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/franciscan> **The free access ends on 30 September 2025.**