

Baptism Preparation Classes for parents living in the parish and who regularly worship at St Stephen’s church wishing to baptise their child(ren) on Thursdays 16th October, 13th November and 11th December at *7.30pm in church*. Please note that parents must attend **all** classes.

Prisoners' Sunday is on 12th October. We remember Pope Francis and his call to support prisoners and their families. Prisons are in crisis, and life for prisoners and their families in our communities is challenging. *Pact*, the national Catholic prison charity, supports prisoners, their families and their children, offering them hope and the chance to turn their lives around. To find out more about the work of *Pact* and ways for you to get involved and to donate online please go to <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/faith/events/prisoners-sunday/> See poster to donate via the QR code. There will be a second collection in church this weekend to support Pact’s important work in the year ahead. Envelopes are available on the table at the back of church—please gift aid your donation if possible. Thank you.

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

Christmas Carol Service: The two choirs are starting to plan the *Carol Service* which will take place on *Saturday 20th December at 3pm*. This is always a very joyful occasion and we invite others (singers and instrumentalists), who are not usually part of either of the choirs, to join us for the practices. Children and teenagers are particularly welcome. The first meeting will be on *Saturday 11th October at 10.45am* in the small hall, to plan what we might sing. Regular practices will commence from Saturday 8th November. There will also be some Wednesday evening rehearsals at 7pm for those unable to attend on Saturdays. Please feel free to speak to the choir leaders for more information.

Missio Red Boxes: If you are a red box holder, please bring your box to church during the month of October 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.

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.

David Wells Seminar on Saturday 1st November in St Stephen’s parish hall 10am—3pm. *“Your will be done! Learning to let God have the last word. A brief look at how our Faith can grow, transform and redeem us”* **Please sign up on the list at the back of the church to confirm your attendance.**

Day of Retreat for Lectors & Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist
Saturday 18 October 2025 . Registration from 9.30am with teas / coffees in St Stephen’s parish hall.

Mass for Deceased Clergy of Bexley will be at St Lawrence of Canterbury Church, Sidcup on Friday 7th November at 12pm. Please join the other parishes to remember and pray for our past clergy, who built and served our communities. All welcome. 1 Hamilton Road, Sidcup, Kent. DA15 7HB. Please note there will not be a morning Mass at St Stephen’s on 7th November.

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 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.

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.

Fun at the Organ Console in St John’s Church, Welling on Saturday 25th October. Come & hear some enjoyable music, solos & duets, plus learn how a pipe organ works. Doors open 2pm, Concert 2.30pm, Refreshments 3.30pm. Before & after the concert there will be an opportunity to look inside the organ, view the tromba pipes on the vestry roof and try out the organ console. Organists: Aeron Preston & Doug Snow. See poster for details.

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.



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-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)	
Saturday 11th October 5pm Mary Califano RIP	
Sunday 12th October 9.30am Errol Vertanness RIP (A O’Hare) 11.30am People of the Parish	
Mon 13th 10am	St Edward the Confessor, King Thanksgiving (Agnes)
Tues 14th 10am 7pm	Feria All Souls in Purgatory Novena Mass
Wed 15th 10am	St Teresa of Jesus (of Avila) Repose of the Soul of Dapane Cook (M Harrison)
Thurs 16th 10am	Feria Etta & Otis Rodrigues—5th birthday
Fri 17th 10am	St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr Peter Slaughter—wellbeing (P Wall)
Sat 18th	St Luke, Evangelist No Morning Mass Sacrament of Reconciliation 4pm—4.30pm
Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)	
Saturday 18th October 5pm Patrick Boyle RIP—1st anniv	
Sunday 19th October 9.30am Errol Vertanness RIP (McMorrow) 11.30am People of the Parish	
Please remember in your prayers the sick and housebound; at home, in hospital or in residential care.	
Mass Times and Intentions	
Mon 20th 10am	Feria Peter O’Connell RIP (Baker)
Tues 21st 10am 7pm	St Margaret Clitherow, Martyr Errol Vertanness RIP (Doherty Family) Novena Mass
Wed 22nd 10am	St John Paul II, Pope Ann Moody RIP
Thurs 23rd 10am	Feria Patrick Hartley RIP (McMorrow)
Fri 24th 10am	Feria Susan Clarke & Kevin Beck—wellbeing (P Wall)
Sat 25th	The Blessed Virgin Mary No Morning Mass Sacrament of Reconciliation 4pm—4.30pm
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)	
Saturday 25th October 5pm Mrs Anna Hang Ngo RIP	
Sunday 26th October 9.30am Errol Vertanness RIP (A& J Carrolan) 11.30am People of the Parish	

My dear people	
In the Gospel we continue reading Jesus’ long journey to Jerusalem for His passion, death and resurrection. This long journey is given to us through nineteen weeks of Sunday readings during this present liturgical year. We began reading on the 13 th Sunday and will continue for three more Sundays.	them to, they realise they were cured. One of the lepers sees beyond his healing, and turns back to give thanks and show his gratitude to Jesus. Like Naaman in the first reading, this leper is also a foreigner—and more than a foreigner, a Samaritan. Whom the Jews do not keep company with.
Travelling along on the road to Jerusalem, Jesus finds himself on the border between Galilee and Samaria. Samaria was originally the name of a city, the capital of the northern kingdom of Israel. But later on it was referred to as the region between Galilee and Judea.	The story concludes with three important questions. Firstly, ‘Were not all ten cured?’ Nine of them have not seen beyond the healing. Secondly, ‘The other nine, where are they?’ Thirdly, ‘Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?’
Like the blind man outside Jericho, ten lepers whom Jesus meets, cry out to him for mercy. Jesus does not reject their request. Like others who sought Jesus’ help and mercy, the lepers also receive his compassion, whom the society rejects. Jesus shows us that he is continuing his mission he announced in the synagogue, ‘to bring good news to the poor.....’ When the lepers go to the priests as Jesus asked	As we read and hear this story of the healing of the ten lepers, and as we read and hear the three questions of Jesus, I ask myself, are they addressed to me today? Our lives are filled with uncountable and unmerited blessings from God each day—heath, food, family, clothing, etc. etc. etc. and the list goes on and on and on!
	God Bless you and love you all. Canon Edward

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Scripture Insights

Today’s readings from Second Kings and the Gospel invite us to reflect on how we respond to God’s saving deeds. In each of these readings, we find an individual who recognises the goodness of healing power of God. In the first instance, Naaman, a Syrian, was a man of high regard in his native land. At the suggestion of his servant girl, and the permission of his master, Naaman went to Israel to be cleansed of his leprosy. The prophet Elisha had directed Naaman to plunge into the Jordan seven times. Although Naaman’s initial reaction to this instruction was one of disgust, he did as he was told, and “his flesh became again like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean of leprosy” (2 Kgs 5:14). Naaman’s response was one of belief in and gratitude for the God of Israel.

In the Gospel from Luke, we are told of ten men who, upon seeing Jesus, call out to him and ask for pity. Jesus’ response is simple: “Go show yourselves to the priests.” as the ten were obeying this command, “they were cleansed” (17:14). One man, a Samaritan, returned to Jesus and glorified God. While much could be said of each story, what the text tells us is quite clear. Not everyone responds in the same way to the merciful actions of God. In both these Scripture readings, the individuals cleansed of their leprosy were foreigners, not men of Israel. Yet both of them returned to express their gratitude and their recognition of the saving power of God.

Reflections

- The healings of Naaman and the Samaritan challenge notions of belonging: a military leader from a rival kingdom and a descendant of this kingdom were not only healed but were also able to see God’s power through their healing. Once again, God defies our artificial barriers of friend and enemy, insider and outsider, neighbour and foreigner.
- Among a group of Israelites with leprosy, the one Samaritan was likely an outcast among outcasts, the one considered least worthy of healing. Distinctions of worthiness continue today for individuals deemed unworthy of mercy and love. Jesus shows that God’s healing power reaches out without distinction, and calls us to imitate him.

Introduction to Mass

God came for all people, reaching across cultural, racial, and religious boundaries. Like Jesus, we are called to reach out to those on the margins of our society and carry on his mission of love and care. Jesus showed compassion for the outcasts of his day, and thereby is a model for how to be inclusive and merciful.

LTP Sourcebook 2025



The Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis are hosting a *Sharing Your Faith Workshop* on **Saturday 11th October 10am-3:30pm** at Ss John Fisher and Thomas More, Eltham Well Hall. This one-day workshop aims to explore what it means to share our Catholic Faith. There will be practical tips and plenty of opportunities for discussion. For more details, including how to register, please see the poster in the church porch. Any questions, please email evangelisation@rcaos.org.uk

The Commission for Promoting Racial & Cultural Inclusion in the Archdiocese will be hosting a *free* Zoom webinar exploring how cultural and ethnic identities can be celebrated within our parishes on Thursday 16th October from 7pm to 8.45pm. Scan the QR code on poster to register. For more info email caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk or tel. 07521 425400.

Many thanks for your contributions to the collection for *CAFOD Family Fast Day* which came to £2200.95. You can still make a donation on the CADFOD website <https://cafod.org.uk/?form=harvest25> or call 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFOD to 70560 to donate £10. Scan the QR code to donate online. Envelopes are available at the back of the church. We received confirmation from CAFOD that the final total for The Lent Appeal at St Stephen's was £1482 (including gift aid)—many thanks!

CAFOD’s World Gifts cards 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 scan the QR code on the cards or call 0300 777 0030. Please take a card home.

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 Mission Sunday is on 19th October when 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. We are called to be ‘Missionaries Of Hope Among All Peoples’ as everyone deserves to hear that God loves them and to be strengthened by God’s Spirit. Please pray for missionaries and give what you can to this vital collection, bringing God’s compassion, peace and justice to those in need. To donate, use the *Missio* envelopes available on the table at the back of the church, call 020 7821 9755 (office hours) or visit <https://missio.org.uk/> to give a gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation if possible. There will be a collection in church on 18/19 October to support *Missio*.

Feast of Saint Jude on 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. During the celebrations there is a piety stall, a display of Carmelite books, and light refreshments available. Please see poster for the full programme of events and times. All are welcome. For more info please call 01795 539214 or visit <https://www.stjudeshrine.org.uk/events/feast-saint-jude-25> or email shrineoffice@stjudeshrine.org.uk The Shrine of Saint Jude is at 34 Tanners Street, Faversham ME13 7JW.

Blessing of the Graves at *Hillview Cemetery* will be on Saturday 8th November 11.30am—1pm. Details of other local cemetery blessings to follow.

Reception 2026: Open Meetings and Tours at St Stephen's Catholic Primary School for parents/carers of children due to start school in September 2026 (*children born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022*) on: Thursday 13th November 9:30am Thursday 13th November 1:30pm Tuesday 25th November 9:30am There will be a talk from the Headteacher and the opportunity to tour the school. School Address: Ruskin Avenue, Welling DA16 3QG. <https://www.st-stephens.bexley.sch.uk/>

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.