

**Archbishop’s Appeal Second Collection *This Weekend (8<sup>th</sup> / 9<sup>th</sup> November):*** The Archbishop’s Appeal is a Diocesan second collection that funds key areas of ministry: Youth and Evangelisation, Our Faith in Action (Caritas) and Clergy Care and 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 2025. Every gift is welcome. Thank you for your generosity of heart.

- Find out more or donate online: <https://www.rcaos.org.uk/archbishops-appeal>
- Scan QR Code on poster using telephone camera
- Telephone weekdays 9 am – 5 pm: 020 7960 2504
- Cash / Cheque – please use the *Archbishop’s Appeal* envelopes at the back of church. Please gift aid your donation if possible. Thank you.

**Carol Service Practices** have started on Saturdays at 10.45am and Wednesdays at 7pm in the small hall. We have two weekly practices to make attendance easier. There are some carols chosen specially with the children in mind, so we hope they will attend in great numbers! Feel free to speak to one of the choir leaders if you have any questions.

**Christmas Carol Service** on *Saturday 20th 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. Please feel free to speak to the Sunday Mass choir leaders for more information.

**Southwark Catholic Youth** Autumn Newsletter can be read here [Southwark Catholic Youth Newsletter, Autumn 2025](#) for the latest news and events for youth and young adults in our diocese. For regular updates on forthcoming events, sign up to its network at [www.tinyurl.com/scysnetwork](http://www.tinyurl.com/scysnetwork).

**A Youth Day** for 10-14 years including icebreakers, catechesis, games/sports, question box, prayer, pizza and Holy Mass at St. John Fisher, Chatham ME1 2FA. Start at 11am, finish at 5:30pm. Charge of £5 per child (£8 for families) - lunch & dinner included. Book here: <https://rcaos.org.uk/mission/southwark-catholic-youth-service/event-booking/> Please email the Youth Service on [youth@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:youth@rcaos.org.uk) or call 020 7928 5256 with any queries

**Parish Liturgy Meeting** on Wednesday 19th November at 7.30pm in the small hall (attached to the church). Parishioners are invited to suggest additions or changes that could enhance any aspect of our parish liturgy by completing the leaflet available on the table at the back of the church and posting it through the presbytery letterbox or give to the priest after Mass. At the meeting we will be discussing and planning for the Advent, Christmas and the New Year liturgies and any ideas or suggestions from parishioners would be welcomed. The leaflets can also be used to volunteer for specific liturgical roles in our Sunday Masses.

**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.

**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.

**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>.

**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.

**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.

**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](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 Dedication of The Lateran Basilica (Year C)	
Saturday 8th November	
5pm	Terry Rush RIP
Sunday 9th November	
9.30am	Baptista Rodrigues RIP—anniv
11.30am	People of the Parish
Mon 10th	St Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church
10am	Living & Deceased Members of the Lobo/D’Costa & D’Souza/D’Silva Families
Tues 11th	St Martin of Tours, Bishop
10am	Trudy Coutinho -birthday thanksgiving
7pm	Novena Mass
Wed 12th	St Josaphat, Bishop & Martyr
10am	Mrs Josefa Rego RIP
Thurs 13th	St Francis Xavier Cabrini
10am	Holy Souls (G Robinson)
Fri 14th	Feria
10am	Anne Komisky—spec int (G Robinson)
Sat 15th	St Albert the Great, Bishop & Doctor of the Church
10am	Priest Intentions
Sacrament of Reconciliation 10.30am—11am & 4pm—4.30pm	
Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)	
Saturday 15th November	
5pm	Mr Vu’s Family Intentions
Sunday 16th November	
9.30am	Olive & Michael Reilly RIP
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.
<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 Dedication Of the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome. I am sure many of you who have visited Rome have visited the Basilica of St. John Lateran.  The Basilica of John Lateran is the Cathedral of Rome, the cathedral or Chair at which the Bishop of Rome, the Pope presides.  The Basilica was originally named the Basilica of the Saviour. At the beginning of the 10th century the basilica was also dedicated to St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist. When Constantine became the emperor of Roman Empire, he gave the elected Pope the palace on the Coelian Hill, which belonged to the Laterani family.  This palace became the papal palace for many centuries. When the papacy returned from Avignon in the 14th century, the Vatican became the residence of the popes in place of the Lateran.  There is an important inscription in Latin in the front of the church which very often visitors miss. The words are	shortened and they read—“Sacros Lateran Eccles, Omnium Urbis et orbis ecclesiarum mater et caput.” which means, “Most Holy Lateran Church, of all the churches in the city and the world, the mother and the head.” This inscription was placed by Pope Clement XII in the 18th century.  Since the Pope presides over the universal Church, the Lateran Basilica is called the ‘mother and the head of all the churches in Rome and the world.’ So today we are celebrating the church, our mother and the head, of all the churches in the whole world, not just in the city of Rome. It is the oldest and one of the four Basilicas the bishops visit during their ‘Ad Limina’ visit to Rome, which takes place every five years.  Today we acknowledge the primacy of the Bishop of Rome and celebrate our belongingness, our communion with the Bishop of Rome and the unity we share.  God Bless you and love you all. Canon Edward
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Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (C)

<p><b>About Today’s Solemnity</b></p> <p>As the cathedral church of the diocese of Rome, St John Lateran is the mother church for all Catholics. Today’s feast celebrates not only the dedication of this ancient church, but also provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the role that the pope, the bishop of Rome, has in bearing witness to Christ and to preserving the unity of the Christian faithful.</p> <p><b>Scripture Insights</b></p> <p>The forty-eight chapters of Ezekiel are rich in imagery and complex in their message. This passage follows a description of areas of the temple and its ritual actions. Here the author describes the temple as the source of life using the imagery of a river that flows to the Dead Sea, where it brings forth new life. The language is symbolic; there are parallels to the life-giving power of God, who will deliver the Israelites from exile and give them new life.</p> <p>There are two parts in today’s Gospel. In the first instance Jesus drives the moneychangers from the temple precincts. Although there was a market area near the temple, Jesus objects to this commerce encroaching on the purpose of the temple. In the second part he refers to himself as the temple, a reference that begins to cause division between himself and the religious leaders; a division that will surface many times during his public ministry.</p> <p><b>Reflections</b></p> <p>• The image of the first reading presents the Church as a</p>	<p>source and conduit of life-giving water, far from an authoritarian church to be obeyed. This vision guides the universal Church, offering life-giving water to local churches who then become sources of this love and hope in their communities.</p> <p>• On this feast commemorating the building, we are reminded that the People of God are the Church. As much as we value sacred spaces, we would do well to pause and evaluate our relationship to church buildings, which can become idols in themselves.</p> <p><b>Introduction to Mass</b></p> <p>Today we celebrate the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome. It may seem odd to have a feast for a church building. However, the Lateran Basilica is the cathedral church of the Bishop of Rome, the Pope. Today’s feast in honour of its dedication is a reminder that we are one family, one flock, and we are led by one shepherd, the successor of St Peter.</p> <p><b>Liturgy of Life</b></p> <p>“Whenever people listen to one another humbly and openly, their shared values and aspirations become all the more apparent. Diversity is no longer seen as a threat, but a source of enrichment” (Pope Francis)</p> <div><p>LTP Sourcebook 2025</p></div>
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**Mass for Deceased Family & Friends** of St Stephen’s parishioners on Saturday 22nd November at 10am. Where we will pray for and remember our loved ones together. All welcome. This will be an opportunity for us as a parish community to remember and pray for those that have departed us.

**Repository:** Christmas cards, calendars, advent calendars, children’s Christmas books, candles and Christmas Mass Bouquet cards on sale now in the Repository. Please take time to visit after weekend Masses. (cash only please).

**Unity Service** to be held at Welling Methodist Church, Bellegrove Road, on Sunday 9th November at 6.30pm. This is in place of the traditional 5th Sunday service which used to be held for Unity when there were 5 Sundays in the month. A chance to pray with our fellow Christians in Welling. You will be made very welcome.

**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.

**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 <https://rcaos.org.uk/donate/leave-a-legacy/>

**Bexley Winter Shelter Drop-In Centre** offering practical help and a welcoming space for anyone in need at Sea Cadets Hall, Trinity Place, Bexleyheath on Mondays & Tuesdays, 10am–2pm. No appointment needed — just drop in. More info at [bexleywintershelter.org.uk](http://bexleywintershelter.org.uk)

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

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

<b>Cemetery Blessings of Graves</b>	
Hillview (Welling)	8 <sup>th</sup> Nov at 11.30am—1pm
Brook Street (Erith)	9 <sup>th</sup> Nov at 3pm
Erith Friary	9 <sup>th</sup> Nov after 8.30am Mass
Kemnal Park (Sidcup)	9 <sup>th</sup> Nov at 2pm
Bexleyheath	9 <sup>th</sup> Nov at 2:30pm
Sidcup (Blackfen)	16 <sup>th</sup> Nov at 2pm

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

**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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 and 31<sup>st</sup> 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/>

**A Day With Mary** on Saturday 15th November at St Saviour Church, Lewisham High Street, SE13 6AA. Starting at 9.20am, finish at 5pm. During the day: Confession & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. See poster for full details of the day or go [www.adaywithmary.org](http://www.adaywithmary.org). Please bring a packed lunch.

**CAFOD’s World Gifts** catalogues are available on the table in the porch. Every purchase helps families overcome poverty, build brighter futures and celebrate Christmas with dignity. To order gifts visit <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> or scan the QR code or call 0300 777 0030. Please take a catalogue home.

**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](mailto:sidcupda@gmail.com)  
Leaflets available on the table in the porch—please take a copy home to read.