

Repository: Please take the time to visit the Repository after Saturday evening & Sunday morning Masses to browse the wide range of cards for *every occasion*, plus a lovely section of religious gifts available. Baptism, First Holy Communion & Confirmation cards and gifts are on sale now! Cash only please.

No First Saturday Devotions in church on Saturday 4th April.

Parish Garden Morning on Friday 1st May (& the first Friday of each month), at 10.30am. Everyone welcome to help if you have a spare hour or two. Please bring your own equipment. Refreshments provided.

Bexley Foodbank: Donations can be left in the box in the porch. Your support and generosity is much appreciated. Wanted items can be found at <https://bexley.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>

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 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.

Evergreen Care UK: Elderberries Vintage Tea Room in a new Welling venue – 8th Bexleyheath Scout Group, 32 Westbrooke Road, DA16 1PR. Starting on **Thursday 9th April 10.30am – 1pm**. For over 50's – friendship, laughter and connection over a cuppa. See leaflets on the table in the porch for more details and for other venues & days in the local area.

We Believe Festival - a festival of Catholic life in the UK - will take place from 24 to 27 July 2026, at Oscott, Birmingham. Tickets on sale now. More information can be found at: <https://www.webeliefestival.com>

Flame is the largest Catholic gathering for young people in the UK and is on Sat 6 March 2027 at the OVO Arena Wembley. The theme is: *“Take courage! I have overcome the world.”* (John 16:33) Flame is open to those in school Year 9 to university age. Tickets are £30pp. Leaders from parishes & schools can now book to join the Archdiocesan group led by Archbishop John at [Flame 2027 Leader Booking Form](#)

The Confirmation team warmly invites all parishioners—especially former Confirmation candidates and their parents—to join them for a special session on **Sunday, 19 April at 9:20am** in the parish hall. The session, titled *“Forgiveness, Peace, and Hope,”* will be led by Margaret and Barry Mizen, who sadly lost their son Jimmy in 2008. Since then, they have dedicated themselves to honouring his memory by promoting a message of forgiveness, peace and hope, and empowerment among young people and communities. All are welcomed to join this session.

The London Catholic Worker magazine (Easter edition) is available on the table in the porch. Please take a *free* copy home to read.

The CELEBRATE Trust has produced a game entitled *Journey to Easter Joy*, designed to encourage children, in engaging and interactive ways, to attend more closely to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It is available here: [Lent Game - CELEBRATE@Home – CELEBRATE Trust](#)

St. Fidelis Catholic Nursery: Children born between 01.09.2022 and 31.08.2023. Full-time, morning and afternoon places are still available. Please return our Supplementary Form to the school office. More info at <https://www.st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk/admissions>
School contact details:
Address: Bexley Road, Erith, DA8 3HQ
T: 01322 337752 E: admin@st-fidelis.bexley.sch.uk

Summer Celebration of Saint Jude on Saturday 30th May in the grounds of Carmelite Shrine of Saint Jude in Faversham. Starting at 11am—Devotions with Anointing, 1.30pm Open Air Mass & 2.30pm Procession to the Shrine. Refreshments & piety stall available. See poster. More information at www.stjudeshrine.org.uk
34 Tanners Street, Faversham ME13 7JW

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.



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

Easter (Year A)	
Saturday 4th April	Easter Vigil
8pm	Sister Theresa Tham Ngo RIP
Sunday 5th April	Easter Sunday
9.30am	ENGR (Dr) EJS Uujamhan—78th birthday
11.30am	People of the Parish
Mon 6th	Easter
10am	Linda Govia RIP—birthday
Tues 7th	Easter
10am	Subscribers to the Organ Restoration Fund
	7pm Novena Mass
Weds 8th	Easter
10am	Arjan Rodrigues—7th birthday
Thurs 9th	Easter
10am	Anna Maria Rodrigues RIP—anniv
Fri 10th	Easter
10am	John Hines RIP (P Wall)
Sat 11th	Easter
10am	Priest Ints
Sacrament of Reconciliation 10.30am—11am & 4pm—4.30pm	
Second Sunday of Easter (Year A)	
Saturday 11th April	
5pm	J&S Fernandes—Wedding Anniv & Thanksgiving
Sunday 12th April	
9.30am	People of the Parish
11.30am	Tony Califano RIP—22nd anniv

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.

Support our parish and make your donations go further by signing a valid Gift Aid Declaration form. Go to www.rcaos.org.uk/media/xfqfyxyj/welling-planned-giving-and-gift-aid-form.pdf 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 <https://forms.rcaos.org.uk/giftaid>.
Donate online at <https://portal.mydona.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=236> or <https://justgiving.com/campaign/parishsupport>—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.

Digital Collection Plates 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.



Wishing you all a very Happy Easter
and may the Peace of the Risen Lord be with you and your loved ones always.
God Bless
Canon Edward and Bishop Pat

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

About Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday crowns the Triduum celebration and begins a new period within the liturgical year. Easter Sunday is the pattern and purpose for all other Sunday celebrations of the year and begins a time of reflecting on how the followers of Jesus came to receive and understand his resurrection from the dead.

Scripture Insights

John narrates Mary of Magdala's coming to Jesus' tomb on the week's first day. Mary is alone and "it was still dark." For John, darkness can indicate lack of faith, and that is the case with Mary. She will come into the light but has a journey to travel. Seeing the stone removed, she rushes to Simon Peter and the Beloved Disciple to report the tomb emptied. Where is the executed Jesus? We know that God is the one involved, but they must still catch on.

Peter and the Beloved Disciple run to the tomb. Peter leads, but the other disciple passes him, sees that the signs of death are absent, but relinquishes first entry. Peter has emerged as the leader, while the Beloved is the model disciple who both gives access and defers to his leader. We see the burial cloths rolled to one side, contrasting Jesus' raising of Lazarus, who was still bound. This is distinctive. Following into the empty tomb, the Beloved Disciple sees further evidence of death overcome by God. The burial cloths are folded and lain at opposite ends of the tomb. He believes (Jn 20:8). Peter and Mary's responses are not connected; their faith journeys need more time.

The disciples return home, as yet unaware of the Scripture of Jesus' resurrection. The Scripture is John's Gospel, and we eventually learn that we are blessed to have it (20:30-31). They witnessed, but we are

summoned to believe because of that witness, to believe without seeing. Paul summons us likewise in his letter to the Colossians, as does Luke in the Acts of the Apostles. To find our place, we must "seek what is above" (Col 3:1).

Reflections

- After encountering the empty, Mary immediately goes to Simon Peter and the other disciple. While seemingly insignificant, this detail encompasses one of the most important realities of the Resurrection. Mary knew that she could not continue her morning duties alone, especially in light of her recent discovery.
- As Christians, our life is rooted in a similar reality. We cannot exist as isolated individuals and are instead called to community. It is impossible to journey through life by ourselves. We rely on others for strength and support. We share our hopes and fears. We work together to accomplish our goals, we affirm the diverse gifts we see in others, and we help others in need.
- Most importantly, though, Mary knew that the work of the resurrection was not meant for her alone. Telling the world that "God is alive" requires a network of believers, connected in common mission. We are part of this same network and continue the mission today.

Liturgy and Life

Alleluia! He is risen! Today we rejoice in the resurrection. We celebrate both our and the apostles belief that God makes all things new. Reflect on your life since last Easter. What is new in your life? What has been renewed? Where do you see God breaking into your life? If you have encountered difficulties and sadness during this time, ask Christ for continued healing.

Passion Readings on Good Friday: The old lectionary had defined parts for "The Crowd" to be said aloud by the congregation. The current lectionary, introduced in November 2024, makes no provision for the congregation to speak any part. The Bishops' Conference for England and Wales has confirmed that this is a deliberate change, made at the direction of the Dicastery for Divine Worship in Rome. It is now considered more appropriate for the congregation to focus on listening attentively to the Passion readings, just as we do for the Gospels throughout the year.

Collection for the Holy Places of Palestine on Good Friday (3rd April).

Good Friday Walk of Witness: Gather outside St Mary's Church, Wickham Street on Friday 3rd April at 11.15am for a 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.

The Wintershall Passion of Jesus will again happen on Good Friday 3 April in Trafalgar Square. There are two free performances (although donations are welcome) at 12pm and again at 3.15pm. Please see poster for further details, or visit: <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/event/the-passion-of-jesus-2026/> Also livestreamed on Facebook. These performances contain a realistic interpretation of the crucifixion – parental guidance is advised.

Easter Collection This Weekend: Your Easter offering is for our parish priest. Please use your gift aid envelope, card reader in church or online. Cash / cheques also accepted. Many thanks for your generosity. Every Blessing of the Easter Season to you all.

Refreshments will be available after the Good Friday Reflection, and after the Easter Vigil in the main parish hall. All welcome.
No Coffee Morning on Easter Sunday morning.

Many Thanks to all parishioners that supported our Easter Hampers raffle. A grand total £93 was raised to go towards the cost of our Easter flower displays in church. Jocelyn Thomas and Canon Edward were our winners enjoying the Easter treats! Many thanks to Judith for organizing the raffle and donating the Easter Hampers.

AI Evangelisation Conference on Saturday 6th June 9.30am—4pm at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, 330a Burnt Oak Lane, Blackfen DA15 8LW. An inspiring day featuring guest speakers covering a variety of subjects on how Artificial Intelligence can promote evangelisation within the Catholic Church. All welcome. For more details and to book a place please email blackfen@rcaos.org.uk

St George's Cathedral: The Living Heritage is a magazine issued quarterly showcasing the history and living heritage of St George's Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Archdiocese. Each edition brings St George's Cathedral's story to life through heritage features and in-depth articles, inviting our community to explore its traditions and stay connected to its living history and rich legacy. To subscribe, a full year of four issues costs £18, including postage & packing, contact the cathedral office via email cathedralenquiries@rcaos.org.uk The spring edition is available on the table in the porch to view.

World Youth Day will take place from Monday 2 August - Monday 9 August 2027 in Seoul, South Korea. Archbishop John will lead the Archdiocesan group (ages 18 to 35). Initial registration of interest is now open: www.tinyurl.com/wyd2027 The final cost is still to be confirmed, but is expected to be approximately £2,500

Vacancy -Part Time Caretaker at St. Mary of the Crays Church, Old Road, Crayford DA1 4DN. Hours: 8 hours per week, flexible schedule. Salary: £12.71 per hour. Start Date: Monday 4th May 2026 To apply for this post, please send your CV to crayford@rcaos.org.uk by Wednesday 15th April 2026, for the attention of Fr. David Gummatt. Date of interview to be advised. More details about the role can be found on the notice board.

Job Vacancy: Primary Religious Education Adviser. Are you passionate about Religious Education and committed to strengthening the Catholic mission in our primary schools? The Southwark Catholic Education Service are seeking to appoint an exceptional Primary Religious Education Adviser on a seconded basis (2 days per week) to support the implementation of the Religious Education Directory (RED) and Lighting the Path across our primary schools. To apply and find out more, visit <https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/primary-religious-education-adviser-education-service/> Closing date: Monday 13th April 2026 at 12noon. Interviews: Week beginning 20th April 2026.