

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.

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.

Last few 2026/2027 Gift Aid Envelope Boxes to be collected from the table at the back of the church—please check to see if your box is on the table. 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 the church office via email wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk

Archbishop John calls on us to pray for Pope Leo XIV and for peace. Our Holy Father has been courageously advocating for peace, stating clearly that the message of the Gospel cannot be "abused" and that he "will continue to speak out loudly against war, looking to promote peace". [Pray for peace and for Pope Leo XIV: Archdiocese of Southwark](#)

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.

Flame is the largest Catholic gathering for young people in the UK and is on Saturday 6 March 2027 at the OVO Arena Wembley—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 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.

Parish Coffee Morning on Sunday in the meeting room attached to the church (while the Confirmation classes are taking place in the main parish hall). Please join us for a cuppa & chat. Donations welcomed

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.

Southwark Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes: Bishop Paul Hendricks warmly invites everyone to join the pilgrimage on 21st to 28th August. A pilgrimage is a great opportunity to refresh and renew our relationship with the Lord Jesus, with the help of Our Lady's prayers. Details for booking travel and accommodation can be found at <https://www.tangney-tours.com/diocese-pilgrimages/diocese-ca/> For more information, please contact Canon Edward Perera (edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk) or Bishop Paul Hendricks (paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk)



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

Third Sunday of Easter (Year A)

Saturday 18th April

5pm Ellen Kelly

Sunday 19th April

9.30am John Colaco RIP (Lobo Family)

11.30am People of the Parish

Mon 20th Feria

10am Daniel Rodrigues RIP—anniv

Tues 21st St Anselm, Bishop

10am Vitek Synowiec

7pm Novena Mass

Weds 22nd Feria

10am Nell & Tommy Connelly RIP—anniv

Thurs 23rd St George, Martyr, Patron of England

10am Raymond Treanor RIP

Fri 24th Feria

10am Birthday Thanksgiving—Gabibb

Sat 25th St Mark, Evangelist

No Morning Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation

4pm—4.30pm

Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year A)

Saturday 25th April

5pm Mary Theresa McNeil

Sunday 26th April

9.30am John Clancy 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.

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.

My dear People,

This weekend we have one of the beautiful gospel stories from the Gospel of Luke. It is a story that invites us to look into ourselves and help us to understand what real disciples can be. It is a story of life—doubt and disillusion, discouragement, despair and fear. I also think that the story has a sense of humour too. I think it is our own story too.

We are told that the village called Emmaus is about seven miles from Jerusalem. It would have taken about two hours to get there. Luke mentions two disciples walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus, but only mentions the name of one of them, Cleopas. I said above that it is our story too, and it is because the story invites us to put ourselves in the place of the unnamed disciple.

For Luke, Jerusalem is the centre. The gospel begins in the Jerusalem and it ends in Jerusalem and the Acts of the

Apostles begins in Jerusalem. In fact, in Luke we read that Jesus asked the disciples, whatever happens, not to leave Jerusalem till they are filled with the Holy Spirit. It seems that the two disciples are disobeying the request of the Lord.

The evening prayer of the Church (Monday week 4) is based on this Gospel— “Stay with us Lord Jesus, as evening falls. Be our companion on our way. In your mercy inflame our hearts and raise our hopes, so that, in union with all our brothers and sisters, we may recognise you in the scriptures and in the breaking of the bread.”

The Emmaus story is also a model liturgy. First the scriptures are read and explained. Then bread is broken and we recognise the Lord in the bread, and we return back to where we came bearing witness.

God Bless and love you all.
Canon Edward

Third Sunday of Easter

Scripture Insights

Peter speaks to an astounded crowd of “devout Jews from every nation” (Acts 2:5) who have just witnessed the Holy Spirit’s Pentecost power. To demonstrate the truth of Jesus resurrection from the dead, Peter turns to a psalm. In Psalm 16, David expresses his confidence that God will not abandon him to “the netherworld” (Sheol, the dwelling place of the dead). Peter points out that, despite this prayer, David eventually died. For Peter, this means that there must be a deeper truth in the psalm. David spoke not (only) of himself but of his descendant, the messiah, who did not remain in the tomb but was raised to new life.

The Gospel reading recounts the first appearance of the risen Jesus to two of his dejected disciples, Cleopas and a disciple who remains unnamed. Like Peter, Jesus turns to the Old Testament Scriptures to explain his suffering and death, and “glory” (that is, his resurrection). Despite their burning hearts, the disciples still don’t recognise their Lord; like other disciples who saw the empty tomb, they didn’t see him even though he is right in front to them. Only when Jesus takes bread, blesses it, and gives it to them, replicating the Eucharistic actions of the Last Supper, do they truly see him. When they rush back to Jerusalem in joy, they learn that Christ has also appeared to Peter.

Reflections

• The disciples were deeply sad as they walked on the road to Emmaus after the death of Jesus. They encountered a stranger, who seemed not to recognise

the reason for their sadness. Nonetheless they listened to him breaking open Scripture for them. Then when he broke bread with them, they truly recognised that this stranger was in fact Christ the Lord.

• We too are disciples who can listen to the breaking open of the Word in order to understand more fully the good news of Jesus Christ. At Mass, we too experience the breaking of the bread and encounter Christ’s very self.

Introduction to Mass

Sadness is turned to joy when disciples recognise the risen Lord in the breaking of the bread. As we prepare to listen to the Lord in his Scriptures receive him in his Eucharist, let us open our own hearts to burn with the joy of life in God’s presence.

Liturgy and Life

On the road to Emmaus, the disciples gradually come to recognise Jesus’ presence among them. Spend today looking at each person you encounter as though he or she is Jesus. See Jesus in the toddler mid-tantrum, the homeless person with the sign and the cup and the immigrant looking for safety. In returning to Jerusalem, the disciples were returning to their mission. Spend time this week considering where Christ is calling you.

Grace Explorers – Preteens Fellowship (Ages 9 –12): *Grace Explorers* is an initiative by Jesus Youth UK, started to support children aged 9–12 in their faith journey. We meet once every three to four months at Stephen’s Parish church hall for a day of prayer, friendship, fun activities, and simple, engaging reflections on the Kerygma — the basic message of God’s love. Children enjoy games, action songs, creative sessions, and time in prayer including Eucharistic Adoration. Our next programme is on 30th May 2026. The full-day event (10:30 am – 4:30 pm). A small registration fee of £10 includes pizza at lunch. ***We warmly invite this year’s First Holy Communion group to join us on their path as Grace Explorers.***

Missio Red Boxes: Thank you to all those who give to *Missio* through the Red Boxes or directly to the charity. Last year St Stephen’s raised £984. Sadly, as less people use cash these days, the number of boxes being handed in for emptying is decreasing. If you are still using yours, please bring it to the sacristy **by the end of April**. If you are not collecting many coins now, please consider putting a note or two in your box. The spring magazine is available on the table in the church porch.

Come Cheer with CAFOD at the London Marathon on Sunday 26 April. With 35 CAFOD runners taking part, your encouragement will make a big difference. The cheer station will be outside St Edmund’s RC Church, 297 Westferry Road, E14 3RS (nearest station: Mudchute), around mile 16 of the course – a great spot to see the runners. People are welcome to drop by at any time, but most runners are expected to pass between 1pm and 4pm. If you are able to join in with the cheering, please let CAFOD know at events@cafod.org.uk. It would be great to have our parish support the runners on the day.

The FAITH Summer Break 2026, which will take place from 10–13 August 2026 at St Mary’s School, Ascot, SL5 9JF. This is a residential event for young Catholics aged 11–15, intended to offer a few days in which participants may grow in faith, make friends, and enjoy time together in a lively and supportive Catholic setting. The programme includes daily Mass and prayer, age-appropriate talks, small-group discussion, sports, arts and crafts, and a trip to Thorpe Park. The event is led by trained helpers. The cost is £250, inclusive of accommodation, meals, and the Thorpe Park visit. Further information, together with booking details, may be found at: <https://www.faith.org.uk/events/faith-summer-break-2026>

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

Good Shepherd Sunday – Support Our Future Priests: The priesthood has always been at the heart of the Church. There will be a collection on Good Shepherd Sunday next weekend, 25th/26th April, to support the Priest Training Fund, which forms men for service across our parishes, schools, hospitals, and communities. We currently have 9 seminarians, each costing around £30,000 per year over six years of formation. Your generosity helps make their calling possible.

- Donate online: [Priest Training Fund: Archdiocese of Southwark](#)
- Call: 020 7960 2504 (weekdays, 9am–5pm)
- Or use the envelopes at the back of church—please gift aid your donation if possible.
- Use the Gift Aid envelope in your box

Leave a lasting legacy to the Church: Please consider remembering our church or the Priesthood in your Will. Find out more at [Leave a Legacy: Archdiocese of Southwark](#) Thank you for your prayers and support.

Radio Maria is inviting people to take part in a **Rosary Walk** along the Capital Ring, the circular walking route that surrounds London on Saturday 23rd May. Please meet at St Stephen’s church at 1pm. There would be a short opening prayer in church and our group will leave the parish at 1:30pm to start the walk. At 2pm the group would begin praying the Rosary together as they walk their section of the Capital Ring. A Radio Maria volunteer will lead each group. We will walk Section 2 of the Capital Ring: [Falconwood to Grove Park](#) 4.4miles. Please go to [Capital Ring Rosary - Radio Maria Eng-land](#) or call 0300 3021251 for more details and to register your attendance.

The Capital Ring is divided into 15 sections. For more details about the Capital Ring walk – please visit: <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/walking/capital-ring>

Eucharistic Adoration in church will be on Mondays to Fridays 9am to 9.30am.