

Next Weekend (20th / 21st June) there will be a second collection for *Day for Life*. This is the day in the Church's life dedicated to celebrating the sacredness of life. The proceeds from the *Day for Life* collection provide core funding to assist other life-related activities supported by the Church.

Repository: *New Items available*: 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! ***Father's Day cards available now.*** Cash only please.

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

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.

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/>

Youth Day at St. John Fisher School, Chatham on Saturday 11th July 11am – 5.30pm. Cost £5. For 10–14 year olds. This great day organised by the Southwark Youth Service and is a day of prayer, activities including sport, as well as lunch. To book a place go to the diocesan website: <https://rcaos.org.uk/mission/southwark-catholic-youth-service/event-booking/> There is a free coach from St. Anselm's Dartford, leaving at 10am. Please contact Fr. Stephen by email to book a coach place and for more details about the day: dartford@rcaos.org.uk

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.

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

World Youth Day Korea 2027: Join Archbishop John Wilson for the Archdiocese of Southwark's pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Seoul, South Korea, from 2 to 9 August 2027 for young adults aged 18-35. World Youth Day brings together over one million young Catholics from across the world with Pope Leo XIV for prayer, catechesis, pilgrimage, and celebration of the faith. It is a unique opportunity to deepen your faith and experience the joy of the universal Church. Package prices:

- Full package including flights: £3,270
- Ground package only: £1,870

A £400 deposit is required by close on Monday 29 June.

For full details, fundraising information, and booking, please visit: www.tinyurl.com/wydhome1

Summer Stillness Retreat at The Friars, Aylesford on 10th to 14th August 2026 with Fr Ged Walsh O.Carm and Angela Black. £582pp single/£542pp shared, all meals included. £30 deposit to book. Call 01622 717272 or email reception@thefriars.org.uk

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.

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. <https://bexley.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>



ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

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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

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Saturday 13th June

5pm George Mizon & Dennis Cocklin

Sunday 14th June

9.30am Mary-Lou Lobo Thanksgiving Birthday & Lloyd & Mary-Lou Lobo Wedding Anniv

11.30am People of the Parish

Mon 15th 10am Feria
Romaldina Fernandes RIP—birthday

Tues 16th 10am Feria
Jason Rodrigues—birthday

7pm Novena Mass

Weds 17th 10am Feria
Josie Pace RIP (M Sloan)

Thurs 18th 10am Feria
Josie Pace RIP (B Hebben)

Fri 19th 10am St John Rigby, Martyr
Marie McTiernan RIP—anniv (McMorrows)

Sat 20th 10am St Alban, Martyr
First Holy Communion Mass

No Sacrament of Reconciliation

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Saturday 20th June

5pm Sister Cecilia Truc Ngo RIP

Sunday 21st June

9.30am Zoe Pereira RIP—anniv & birthday

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,

After a long break, we now come to read from the Gospel of Matthew continuously on Sundays. Matthew includes in his gospel more of Jesus' teaching, and for centuries it has been called the teaching gospel about Jesus. Mathew presents Jesus as a teacher, like Moses was in the Old Testament, but also as someone far superior to Moses.

Matthew puts the teachings of Jesus into five great sermons. Surely Jesus preached more than five sermons. But for Matthew it was a clearer way of organising his material. That way he presents Jesus as the new law giver and the teacher of the new Covenant—greater than Moses who would guide and lead all, both Jews and Gentiles, to God.

With a short introduction (end verses of chapter nine), we have today the second great sermon of Jesus (chapter 10), called 'the Mission Discourse.' it is addressed to the close disciples of Jesus rather than to the crowd at large, as they are sent on mission to preach in his name. We will read parts of it over the next three Sundays.

The mission discourse begins with a word addressed to the twelve about their immediate mission. It is good to note that the twelve are called disciples, which means someone who sits at the feet of the master and learns from him. It is to indicate that the Mission belongs to Jesus and it is with his authority that the disciples are sent out. It is only after they have learned from the master that they can become apostles or those who are sent out. It is Jesus' message that they are to proclaim.

It is interesting also to note that of the twelve the first four were fishermen, one was a tax collector, and not much is known about the others, but there is a betrayer also in the group. we also know that of these chosen twelve, none of them remained in the garden when Jesus was arrested. In other words Jesus did not choose heroes. He chose the weak, the vulnerable and hoped that through them he would continue the Mission given to him by God. Today it is you and me.

God Bless and love you all.
Canon Edward

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture Insights

"The Lord is good: / his kindness endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations." This verse, from today's responsorial psalm, functioned as a mini-creed in Jesus' day. These words acknowledged that, although disasters had happened to Israel, the nation had always recovered whenever it recommitted to faith in God.

The primary example of this was the exodus from Egypt, the setting of the first reading. In earlier days, the Israelites had taken refuge in Egypt. Over time, the Egyptians had reduced Israel to slavery. God did not forget the promise made to Israel's ancestors to provide their descendants freedom and security. God exceeded that promise, in fact, by not only winning Israel's freedom but in making of Israel a priestly people, God's friend and representative to the world.

In Jesus' day, another disaster had struck Israel: Roman conquest. After the Romans had conquered Israel, Roman government and economic policies led to an increase in poverty and its problems: illness, malnutrition, crime, fear, and untimely death. It was among those so afflicted that Jesus found his special possession. Just as God dreamt of Israel teaching holiness to the world, so Jesus sent out his closest associates to establish a kingdom they would share the Good News with the world. They cured the sick, fed the poor, forgave sinners, drove out demons, and raise the dead.

Decades later, Paul could see a larger picture. God desired humanity to share divine life, but so many were unable to receive the gift or rejected it. The sacrifice of

the cross changed human nature by revealing the resurrection and sharing the Holy Spirit. Christ's work overcame the fear and confusion that had led so many astray. In this way, Christ fulfilled God's dream of making all humanity a special possession and divine friend.

Reflections

• In today's Gospel, we find Jesus after a staggering run of healings. He has cast out demons, healed people, he has even saved a little girl everyone thought dead.

• Jesus was surely tired. He could have said, "I've done enough." But yet he looks with compassion on those approaching him, likening them to sheep wandering without a shepherd. They are an abundant harvest of mercy so Jesus asks the Father to send more harvesters.

• As Jesus names the harvesters, the twelve apostles, he empowers each of them to do the work he has been doing. They are to seek first the lost sheep. And they are to do it all as He does: not for fame, money, or power, but given freely, out of gratitude for the mercy the twelve have already experienced.

Introduction to Mass

Without cost we have received the grace of reconciliation and salvation through Jesus. Without cost we are to share that reconciliation with others. Let us ask God's forgiveness for the times that we have not offered forgiveness to others.

LTP Sourcebook 2026

New Sanctuary Furniture: Our new altar has been delivered and we are waiting the delivery of all the items before we place them on the sanctuary. If you and/or your family would like to make a donation to the cost of the new sanctuary items, which come to over £15,000, there are many ways in which you can contribute.

* Cash or cheque (made payable to 'RCAS Welling') in a sealed envelope with *Sanctuary Furniture* written on the front or use one of the Gift Aid Envelopes on the table at the back of the church.

* Card Readers at the back of the church or use the online link <https://portal.mydona.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=236>

* Bank Transfer—please use the church bank details on the front page of the newsletter & please reference your donation with 'Sanctuary' Your donation can be anonymous if preferred but if you are eligible, please consider gift aiding your donation to the church, which will increase your donation value by 25% at no cost to you. Your kindness and generosity is much appreciated. If you have any questions regarding a donation to church for our new sanctuary items please speak to Canon Edward or contact the church office.

Missio Impact Report is available in the church porch. Please take a copy, particularly if you are a Red Box holder.

A Day With Mary at St Thomas More Church, Long Lane, Bexleyheath on Saturday 20th June starting at 10am, finish at 5.30pm. During the day: Confession & Exposition of The Blessed Sacrament. Please bring a packed lunch. See poster & leaflets in the church porch for the full programme of the day or go to [Bexleyheath-POS-2026.pdf](https://www.bexleyheath-pos-2026.pdf)

Churches Together in Welling AGM on Sunday 28th June will be held at the Methodist Church, 191 Bellegrove Road, Welling at 5.30pm. The meeting will be followed by light refreshments then Evening Worship at 6.30pm. The agenda for this meeting & minutes from the last meeting are available from the table in the church porch.

Society For the Protection of Unborn Children: *Join the Fightback Day 2026:* Please show your support by joining SPUC's campaign to defend unborn babies and their mothers. Postcards are available on the table in the porch for you to complete and send to SPUC and receive an action pack to join the *Fightback* campaign or visit [Join the Fightback - SPUC](https://www.spuc.org.uk) for more information. See poster.

Parish Of St Stephen, Welling: Patronal Feast Celebration on Sunday 12th July: The 9.30am and 11.30am Masses will be replaced with a single Mass (of St Stephen) at **10.30am**. Lunch and recreation activities to follow in the parish hall and outside garden areas (weather permitting) until around 3pm.

To help with the planning and organisation of the day we are asking parishioners to use the lists at the back of the church. Donations of equipment, food & drink are needed. Please write on the lists at the back of the church your contribution(s) to our *Bring & Share Lunch*—food, drinks and/or equipment. We hope it will be another great, sunny (hopefully!) day when the parish comes together to celebrate St Stephen and our parish community. All are welcome! If you have any questions regarding the celebration please speak to Canon Edward, Simon Heywood or contact the church office.

SPARK in the Park: On Tuesday 16 June and Tuesday 23 June there will be **Cake & Cut Evenings** at 7:30pm at St John's Church Hall, Danson Lane, DA16 2BQ when craft will be prepared ready for SPARK week. It is a fun get together with cake! Please come along to help. Items listed below are needed for the SPARK craft activities. Please could bring your collected items to St Stephen's church *this weekend (13/14 June)*. A box is available in the church porch to put your items in (please do not bring items to church after this weekend—thank you). Or you can drop off items at St John's Church ahead of the Cake and Cut evenings: Items required are:

Toilet roll tubes

Jam jars

Off cuts of felt

Clear yoghurt pots

Balls of wool

Thin cardboard

SPARK in the Park runs from 17th to 21st August in Danson Park. A *free* community event for all the family. <https://www.sparkinthepark.org.uk/> If you feel you can contribute financial help please follow the link <https://bexleylife.churchsuite.com/donate/fund/vdlbgo8n> to donate or scan the QR code on the poster on the noticeboard. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this community blessing.

Keep Fit whilst having fun! Line Dancing class every Tuesday, 1pm-2pm in the church hall, suitable for beginner/ intermediate level. First class half price (£3), thereafter £6. Come and join our friendly, sociable class. For further details contact Angela on 07989 821306.