Parish Memorial Mass for Deceased Family & Friends of St Stephen's parishioners on Thursday 26th November at 7pm. 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.

Sacrament of Confirmation 2027: Registration has started for Candidates (Year 9 and above or age 13—17), wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation which will take place on Saturday 27th February 2027 at 5pm Mass. Please see the Catechists to register at the end of every Saturday/Sunday Mass.

Bexley Foodbank: Donations can be left in the box in the porch. Your support and generosity is much appreciated. Urgently wanted items are tinned potatoes, packets of instant mash potato, tinned custard, tinned rice pudding, long life juice, small jars of coffee & male & female deodorants.

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Appeal on 28th and 29th November. Benjamin Loughnane will make an appeal for Aid to the Church in Need (ACN), a Pontifical Foundation. ACN supports over 5,000 projects world-wide, helping the Church's mission in regions facing persecution, conflict, and poverty. There will be a collection at all Masses to support this important work. If you would like to get involved or become an ACN volunteer, please contact:
Aloma Do Rozario
☐ 07908 033 878
☐ aloma.dorozario@acnuk.org
☐ www.acnuk.org
Donations can also be made by scanning the QR code below.

#RedWednesday Mass 2026: Please join St George's Cathedral and Aid for the Church in Need for Holy Mass to mark the 10th anniversary of #RedWednesday on 18 November, 5.30pm gather, 6pm start at St George's cathedral. Gather for a special evening of prayers, music and stories of courage ahead of an award presentation and reception. Stand in solidarity with persecuted Christians who suffer for their faith.
If you are unable to attend in person, you can watch the livestream on the Archdiocese of Southwark's YouTube Channel.

Parish Coffee Morning on Sunday after the 9.30am Mass in the meeting room attached to the church. Please join us for a cuppa & chat. Donations welcomed.

Next Weekend there will be a second collection to support youth work in the Archdiocese and beyond, especially the work of the Southwark Catholic Youth Service, which provides a variety of activities for youth and young adults.
For more info, visit www.tinyurl.com/scys1 or join the Southwark Catholic Youth network for regular updates at www.tinyurl.com/scysnetwork.
Please take a leaflet from the table in the porch with activities for Youth & Young Adults.

Advent Prayer Service in church on Monday 7th December at 7pm followed by refreshments in the small hall. A spiritual preparation for the Feast of Christmas. All welcome.

Daily Reflection for Advent: As an aid to personal prayer during Advent, the Spirituality Commission have produced a helpful daily reflection based on the readings for the day. Each is short, practical and calls us to action. All who register will receive an email each morning directly to their inbox! To sign up - click on the link http://eepurl.com/dcNmsv or you can take a look at their website www.southwarkdsc.org.uk and click on the box marked ADVENT REFLECTIONS.

Unwrap Advent with Radio Maria UK: This Advent, prepare for Christmas with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. From Monday 23 to Friday 27 November, call Radio Maria UK on 0333 444 1211 to have your personal Gift drawn live on air, or register online and we will email it to you with a Bible quote to pray with. Register before Advent begins on Sunday 29 November to enjoy the whole journey, with special programmes and weekly emails with programme times and podcasts. Sign up at **www.RadioMaria.uk**. Call 0300 302 1251 for more information.

CAFOD Advent Carol Service at St George's Cathedral on Wednesday 2nd December at 7pm followed by drinks and mince pies. All welcome. Details at CAFOD's Advent Carol Service 2026

Many Thanks for your contributions to the *Archbishop's Appeal* last weekend which came to £399.95.

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.



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

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Saturday 14th November
5pm Mr Matthew Thuy Vu RIP

Sunday 15th November
9.30am Olive & Michael Reilly

11.30am People of the Parish

Mon 16th **Feria**
10am Blessings for Lauren & Tom on their Marriage (Lobo Family)

Tues 17th **Feria**
10am Romaldina Fernandes RIP anniv

7pm Novena Mass

Weds 18th **Dedication of the Basilicas of SS Peter & Paul, Apostles**
10am Mary Anne & JJ—birthdays

Thurs 19th **Feria**
10am John Colaco RIP

Fri 20th **Feria**
10am David Cowling RIP anniv

Sat 21st **The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
10am Priest Ints

Sacrament of Reconciliation
10.30am—11am & 4pm—4.30pm

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (A)

Saturday 21st November
5pm Mr Vu's Family Intentions

Sunday 22nd November
9.30am Danzal D'Costa—thanksgiving 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 Please gift aid your donation, if possible, by completing a digital Gift Aid Declaration—name, address and email address required.

To set up a standing order to make regular monthly donations please contact the office via email for the church bank details—wellingsecretary@rcaos.org.uk

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. If you have any questions please contact the church office.

My dear People,

Our gospel text is the immediate following of last Sunday's text. Once again it is about how the disciples of Jesus are to live in the in-between times as they await the return of the Son of Man.

Our Gospel can be divided into three parts—the action of the master, the response of the servants and the final reckoning of the accounts.

The word 'talent', though often understood to mean the gifts and abilities a person has, in the parable it is a large sum of money. At the time of Jesus, a talent was equal to fifteen years' wages for a day labourer. The master gives no instructions to the servants about what they are to do with the money. Each one is left to decide what he must do with the money given to him. They all realise that the money belongs to the master and is given to them in trust.

The first two servants take an active responsibility. They trade with the money given to them and earn more. Both of them are rewarded. One can think that the third servant acted cautiously and perhaps responsibly.

Though the parable emphasises the fact that there is a long-time gap between the master's departure and his return, the attention is directed not to the surprise of the master's sudden return, but more directly the conduct of the servants during the time the master has been away. The responsibility of the servants points to something much deeper than just the money received.

God has given each one of us many gifts and talents. Each one of us have been blessed with different gifts. This means we need to respond to the gift God has given to us. Each one of us are unique and special. We are accountable to God for the way we use the gifts God has given us. We will always be affirmed if we use them well, for the good of others and the community, but we will be condemned if we bury it in the ground.

Let us thank God for all his gifts to us and ask him to help us, inspire us to use these gifts for good of others and the parish.

God Bless and love you all.
Canon Edward

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Introduction to Mass
The Lord provides us with an abundance of spiritual gifts so that we might participate in his divine plan. All gifts are to be developed and used for the good of others. As we prepare for our liturgy to begin, let us consider the ways that God is calling us to share our gifts and our faith with others to build up his kingdom.

Scripture Insights
In this Sunday's readings, the Church continues to reflect on Christ's final judgement. When Jesus did not return as soon as expected, early Christians developed practices to keep themselves ready for his arrival. Judaism already had a long tradition of patient waiting, and early Christians, many of them from Jewish families, brought the practice of patience to the reality of Christ's delay.

The first reading and the psalm both connect patience with faith. Women ran households in ancient Israel, and ones who did so patiently and according to God's instruction realised wealth, enough not just for their family but for the local poor as well. In the psalm, meanwhile, the man who conducts his affairs patiently and righteously will strengthen not just himself and his family, but the city and nation as well. In both cases, short-term realities and profits might be tempting, but faith directs the mind to long-term goals.

For Christians, the primary long-term goal is to recognise and welcome Christ when he returns. This is the essence of Paul's instruction in this Sunday's second reading, "Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober" (1 Thes 5:6). Matthew, meanwhile, knew that Christ's coming was delayed, so he emphasises the development of Christian life. The "talents" that the master left behind are the divine wisdom and example we have received in the Gospel. The enterprising servants are those disciples who use the time of Christ's delay to multiply the generosity, forgiveness, compassion, and mercy that they had received. The servant who buried the talent is the disciple who knows Christ's teachings but has done nothing to embody and share them with others. It is in magnifying the divine wisdom we have received that we prepare ourselves for our Lord's unexpected return.

Reflections
There are many ways to understand the parable in today's Gospel. We'll reflect on it from the perspective of recognising the generosity of God and our call to share his gifts of mercy.
Think about the abundance of God's mercy and forgiveness that we receive. Even when we have sinned or turned away from him, God gives these to us freely and repeatedly.
Consider the challenges you've faced and how you have overcome them. God was at work there! Consider the times you've been forgiven by someone or have been able to forgive a family member or friend. God is at work there, too!
But it doesn't stop there; as Christians we are called to take the next step and extend that same mercy and grace that we have received from God to others. *LTP Sourcebook 2026*

Parish Liturgy Meeting on Tuesday 17th November at 7.30pm in the small hall (attached to the church) where we will discuss the implementation of the Final Document of the Synod in our parish. Please join us.

Parish Christmas Carol Service on *Saturday 19th 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 & come along. There will be a collection for *Friends of the Holy Land*.
https://www.friendsoftheholyland.org.uk/
If you would like to join the choirs for this merry event, Please attend the practice sessions on Wednesdays at 7pm. There will also be practices on most Saturday mornings. Please speak to one of the choir leaders for more information.

Reception 2027: Open Meetings and Tours at St Stephen's Catholic Primary School for parents/carers of children due to start school in September 2027 (*children born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023*) on:
Monday 16th November 9.30am & 1:15pm
Monday 30th November 9:30am & 1.15pm
There will be a talk from the Headteacher and the opportunity to tour the school.
Booking is not required, please attend your chosen session.
School Address: Ruskin Avenue, Welling DA16 3QG.
https://www.st-stephens.bexley.sch.uk/

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

National Conference on Migration, Integration and Human Dignity. Saturday 21 November 9.30am –4pm, Our Lady of the Rosary, Blackfen. Inspired by Pope Leo XIV's teaching, this conference explores migration as a profoundly human and theological reality. Register at local.magnicharity.org.

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.

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.

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

Blessing of Graves
- *Sidcup Cemetery* - Sunday 15th November, 2pm.
- *Hillview Cemetery, Welling* - Saturday 21st November, 11am.

Edna Pereira's Funeral on 18 November at 11am at St Thomas More Church, Bexleyheath, DA7 5JW.
Virtual link: https://www.youtube.com/@RCAOSStThomasMoreBostallPark
Followed by a 12.30pm burial service at Sidcup Cemetery, Sidcup, DA14 4NS.
Wake: St James Hall, The Angelus Centre, Erith, DA8 1DN at 2pm. For catering, please complete this form if you plan to attend the wake: https://docs.google.com/formsd/1SoAri8G9cpS_65MvbGoYojPdZkf1hh3eS5o_FXm-lD8/viewform?pli=1&pli=1&edit_requested=true
Tributes & donations via https://ednapereira.muchloved.com/

Joan Mythen RIP: Sad news that Joan, a member of St Stephen's parish along with her family for many years, sadly died on Monday 9th November. Please keep Joan and her family in your prayers. Details of Joan's funeral at St Stephens's will be confirmed soon.

Mind in Bexley is for anyone struggling with their mental health. We assist people in their recovery, helping them take control of their wellbeing and lead fulfilled, productive lives. We also offer help to anyone who is supporting someone who is struggling with their mental health. To see the full range of services available, go to https://mindinbexley.org.uk/to
Mind in Bexley is at 2a Devonshire Rd, Bexleyheath DA6 8DS

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 or tel.no. 020 7960 2504. An information leaflet is available on the table in the porch. A copy is also on the new Diocesan Church Legacy page: https://rcaos.org.uk/donate/leave-a-legacy/