**St Columba’s Church, Selsdon**

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**3 JANUARY 2021**

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS (YEAR B)**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, your all powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven’s royal throne.

**1st Reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus: 24:1-2, 8-12**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 147:12-15. 19-20. RJn 1:14:** The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

**2nd Reading: from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians: 1:3-6. 15-18**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans; Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. Alleluia!

**Gospel: John 1:1-18**

**Communion Antiphon:** To all who would accept him, he gave the power to become children of God.

**NO TUESDAY ADORATION**

**UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

Please note that because of the coronavirus pandemic, there will be no exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday mornings until further notice.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR OFFERING**

Thank you for your contribution to the Offertory collection. The collections over the weekends of December 20 and 27 amounted to £381.05 in total. For the 20th the total was £184.50 of which £70 was gift aided and £114.50 not. For the 27th the total was £196.55 of which £96 was gift aided and £100.55 not. The Christmas collection, your personal gift to the parish priest, amounted to £2,851.94 in total.

**HERE IN A NUTSHELL IS THE MYSTERY OF REDEMPTION…**

**A REFLECTION ON THIS SUNDAY’S GOSPEL BY FR ROY**

In this Sunday’s Gospel, John the evangelist provides us with a brief summary of the story of redemption.

Just think: Jesus, as the second person of the Blessed Trinity, was present when the world was created.

It is clear to John that the incarnation of Jesus is part of the divine plan of salvation.

It defines the whole purpose of the birth of Jesus which was necessary because of the fall of man.

Sadly, mankind is not interested in the redemptive plan created by God.

Man is too preoccupied with the business of this world and that has nothing to do with the divine plan offered by God.

Here, in a nutshell, is the mystery of redemption.

Our attraction to the values of this world is far stronger than the heavenly values offered to us.

Jesus’s life opens our eyes to the fact that we can never fully trust our own instincts. Those instincts are the road to failure.

In contrast, Jesus’s birth, passion and resurrection are wonderful testimonies to the fact that we can fully trust him.

That’s because He is capable of raising our eyes, our very existence, to the standard of heaven.

The limitations of the flesh are not the limit of our existence.

Jesus helps us to recognise and understand that as human beings created in the image and likeness of God, that is what we are capable of achieving. Heaven.

If we will only surrender ourselves fully to him, as He surrendered himself to the Father while on the cross, we too can join him in his triumph over death.

The incarnation, the birth of Jesus Christ, his transformation into human flesh, reminds us that humanity is sacred.

Jesus raises the status of our existence. He sanctifies our humanity by bending human will to the will of God.

His plan of redemption reveals to us that only by doing what Jesus asks can we achieve heaven.

It is not easy because it involves sacrifice and a complete offering of oneself to God.

But the sacrifice is more than worth it because the reward of eternity surpasses all human expectation.

This is the mystery of our human existence.

By surrendering everything to God’s will, we can achieve the real purpose of our existence. Ultimately it is a question of living a carefree life without the guarantee of salvation or making a choice that guarantees, at the cost of temporary sacrifice, eternal life in the next world.

***10 COMMANDMENTS FOR COMING TO CHURCH…***

Don’t forget when coming to Mass that we must all comply with the following ‘Ten Commandments’:

1. Remember to bring and wear a face mask.
2. Enter the church via the side door leading into the Sacred Heart chapel/confessional, observe the one-way system and leave via the centre back door.
3. Provide a written note – and this applies every time you come to church – of your name and contact details (phone number or email or postal address) plus the date and, if relevant, Mass time. To save queuing and filling out a form, why not send an email to selsdon@rcaos.org.uk?
4. Use hand sanitizer, provided, both when entering and leaving the church.
5. Do not move the chairs which have replaced our benches and are at 1m intervals to ensure the necessary social distancing.
6. Don’t expect to find Mass or prayer books or any other shared items: bring your own. That applies to readers as well.
7. Remember that singing is not allowed.
8. Don’t forget that Holy Communion is silent.
9. Before leaving the church (i.e. before you come up to receive Holy Communion), turn your chair back to front so that the stewards know which ones to clean afterwards.
10. Leave the church straight after Holy Communion and don’t congregate in the car park.

**CHURCH TOILETS: NOW OPEN AGAIN**

The toilets at St Columba’s were closed on the instructions of the Government. Along with all the other restrictions like using hand sanitiser, wearing face masks and providing notification that you were coming to church, that was one of the pre-conditions they laid down for allowing churches to reopen after the first Covid-19 lockdown.

However, toilets at church have now been reopened on condition that they are thoroughly cleaned after use to avoid any possible spread of Covid-19.

There will now be notices in the toilets to this effect along with spray bottles of cleanser and kitchen rolls. Please make sure to spray and wipe over any surfaces you touch – including door handles and taps – when visiting the toilets. Thank you for your cooperation.

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| **LITURGICAL CALENDAR OF THE WEEK** | |
| Sat 2nd | Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nanzianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church |
| Sun 3rd | 2nd Sunday after Christmas |
| Mon 4th | Weekday of Christmas |
| Tues 5th | Weekday of Christmas |
| Wed 6th | The Epiphany of the Lord, A Holyday of Obligation |
| Thurs 7th | Weekday after Epiphany or St Raymond of Penafort, Priest |
| Fri 8th | Weekday in Ordinary Time |
| Sat 9th | Weekday in Ordinary Time |
| Sun 10th | The Baptism of the Lord |

**REMEMBER THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Please pray for all those in great need at this time including: Patsy McFarlane, Nicholas and Teresa Booth, Pat Tomei, Julie Ballesteros, Cora Litchfield, Sean Walsh, Lily Wei, Judy Freegard, Imogen Fernando, Joan Charman, Roger Fenton, Joan Cunningham, John Davis, Noreen Lawlor, Solveya La Marina, Chris Jones, Maria Reece, Margaret Bolton, Eddie Aldridge, Ellis Warburton, Mary Marks, Jean-Claude Anthony, Ellen Everett, Maureen Coffey, Albert Khayyat, James Patrick Guckian, Elizabeth Sensano, Stephen Beck and sick residents at the four residential homes usually, in better times, visited by the parish St Vincent de Paul group.

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| **MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK** | | |
| Sat 2nd | 6.30pm | Rhoda Martin, RIP |
| Sun 3rd | 8.00am | Mary Williams, RIP |
| Sun 3rd | 10.00am | Pro Populo |
| Sun 3rd | 6.30pm | Arthur Martin, RIP |
| Mon 4th | 10.00am | Benedict Okafor, RIP |
| Tues 5th | 10.00am | Benedict Okafor, RIP |
| Wed 6th | 10.00am | Bridget Madden, RIP |
| Thurs 7th | 10.00am | Benedict Okafor, RIP |
| Fri 8th | 10.00am | Benedict Okafor, RIP |
| Sat 9th | 6.30pm | Benedict Okafor, RIP |
| Sun 10th | 8.00am | Angela’s Private Intention |
| Sun 10th | 10.00am | Mary Williams, RIP |
| Sun 10th | 6.30pm | Pro Populo |

**MAKE A PLEDGE FOR OUR PARISH**

The dramatic fall in the numbers attending Mass during the pandemic has, not surprisingly, had a knock-on effect on parish finances. The Offertory collection is much reduced.

But regular parish bills still have to be paid and the amount of money available from the Offertory collection to do so is now much less than it was a year ago, before the pandemic.

So, to ensure the future financial wellbeing of St Columba's, we are asking all parishioners to review their offerings to support the work and mission of the parish. This, of course, is in the light of the fifth commandment of the Church which is 'To contribute to the support of our pastors.'

There are various ways of giving, whether you are coming to church or not. As well as cash in the basket at Mass, they include payment by cheque and standing order. For taxpayers, there is also the option of signing up for Gift Aid which boosts your offering by 25p for every £1 you pay - and at no extra cost to yourself.

Below is a form inviting you to make a pledge of support for St Columba's and which also sets out all the options. It includes a standing order form.

Do give some thought to this: we all need our church, we all need to support the work and mission of the parish - and we all need to take responsibility for supporting St Columba's financially.





***SHOP ONLINE AND HELP ST C’S AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOURSELF***

Thinking of buying something online? Anything? A new washing machine or any other white goods?

Or perhaps you need a new vacuum cleaner or intend ordering a book or dvd or, in fact, other items.

If you do it online you can help St Columba’s finances, depleted by the lockdown, at the same time and at no cost to yourself. More and more parishioners are signing up for this scheme. It means that you can turn your everyday online shopping into free donations to our parish. It’s simple. It’s straightforward. And it will cost you nothing. All you have to do is to logon to the following website [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk), register (which is quick and easy) and then go shopping online at whichever retailer you choose. Each time you buy something – anything – a small donation is made to St Columba’s.

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| There are more than 4,000 retailers to choose from including lots of big names such as Argos, John Lewis, Amazon, M&S and Sainsbury’s. Have a look at this link to find out more: [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stcolumbasldn/?invite=ZTUSO0%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm\_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm\_content=nst](http://t.e.easyfundraising.org.uk/r/?id=h2ef6bab4,257a256b,25302fff&utm_source=adobecampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=referral-2018&utm_content=trigger-supp-referee-raised-2018&origin=RTNS2&p1=stcolumbasldn&p2=ZTUSO0) |  |  |

**NEW YEAR NEWS FROM THE UCM**

Our next Union of Catholic Mothers meeting will be on Wednesday (January 6) when we will play Bingo on Zoom - let Anne Rodrigues know if you would like to take part.

Please also see the parish website for a further UCM news update.

**MAKE YOUR OFFERING GO FURTHER**

If you are a taxpayer and not already signed up for Gift Aid (which, at no cost to you, enables St Columba’s to reclaim from the Government tax you have already paid on the money you put in the Offertory collection) contact Fr Roy or Deacon Philip for details of how to join the scheme.

**THE NEWSLETTER: WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Comments, suggestions, contributions: all are welcome. Items for publication should be emailed to kyrabarone@aol.com by Wednesday evening at the latest.