**St Columba’s Church, Selsdon**

37 Queenhill Road, Selsdon, South Croydon, CR2 8DW

Parish telephone number: 020 8657 3747

Parish Priest: Father Roy Tablizo

E: selsdon@rcaos.org.uk

Deacon: Rev. Philip Pond E: philippond@rcaos.org.uk

T: 07764 845 890

Parish website: [www.stcolumbaschurchselsdon.uk](http://www.stcolumbaschurchselsdon.uk)

**10 JANUARY 2021**

**The Baptism of the Lord (YEAR B)**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

**1st Reading from the prophet Isaiah: 55:1-11**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 12:2-6. Rv3:** With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

**2nd Reading: from the first letter of St John: 5:1-9**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Mark 1:7-11**

**Communion Antiphon:** Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

***ST COLUMBA’S IS STILL OPEN FOR DAILY MASS***

During the latest lockdown, St Columba’s will continue to stay open for daily Mass.

Mass times are as they were prior to the lockdown (see ‘Mass Intentions for the Week’ below).

We shall continue to follow Government guidelines to ensure a safe environment at Mass. See ‘Precautions When Coming to Church’ below.

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

**WHY WE NEED EACH OTHER – AND NOT JUST TO GET THROUGH THIS PANDEMIC**

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

In this Sunday’s Gospel we hear an account of Jesus’ baptism.

His choosing to be baptised is hugely significant. It is an invitation to all of us, an invitation to embrace a lifestyle that befits the kingdom of God.

Baptism signifies a beginning; the beginning of a journey to the kingdom of God. That journey lays out the path that Jesus’ followers are called to tread.

Today’s Gospel encapsulates everything that we need to know about Jesus. It clearly indicates that to be a genuine follower of his, we have to align both our personal life and our community life with the values of the Gospel.

That Gospel also identifies the boundaries which bind us and the direct route towards the heavenly kingdom of God.

Baptism reveals to us the goal of every Christian which is to get to heaven.

Our primary struggle is meeting the everyday challenge to measure up to the standards of the Gospel.

Always remember, however, that this struggle is not an individual journey: the support of the whole community is necessary to sustain the effort required.

Our parish community is a strong source of that support particularly during this pandemic.

We have all realised over recent months that spending long hours separated from one another is not healthy.

There isn’t any doubt that we all appreciate – in a way perhaps that we didn’t before – that something as simple as a phone call can help provide us with the reassurance we all look for.

That is what baptism is all about. It links us with one another and empowers us as part of a particular community, most immediately St Columba’s parish.

We all miss being able to chat and socialise with one another. Over the years of coming to church we did not just build friendships with other parishioners. More importantly we also strengthened one another’s faith.

Our own families apart – and they are important – we thus jointly participated in creating a bigger family, the ‘St Columba’s Family’. We value that family which we have helped form because of our common goal – to enter the heavenly kingdom of God.

The link that empowers us to form this Christian community is our common baptism. Today’s account of Jesus’ baptism reminds us of the need to review our attitude towards that link.

Baptism remind us of the fact that this spiritual fraternal link is as important as blood relationships.

So do remember that as we grapple with the latest lockdown.

As well as our own spiritual well-being, we are also responsible for the spiritual well-being of one another.

Keep reaching out to one another.

I hope and pray that we shall soon be allowed fully to gather again as a parish community so as to celebrate both Jesus’ baptism and our own baptism.

***PRECAUTIONS WHEN COMING TO CHURCH…***

For safety’s sake, don’t forget when coming to Mass that there are certain precautions we must all follow:

* Remember to bring and wear a face mask – that should cover the nose as well as the mouth
* 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.
* To meet Track-and-Trace requirements, 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?
* Use hand sanitizer, provided, both when entering and leaving the church.
* Do not move the chairs which have replaced our benches and are at 1m intervals to ensure the necessary social distancing.
* Don’t expect to find Mass or prayer books or any other shared items: bring your own. That applies to readers as well.
* Remember that singing is not allowed.
* Don’t forget that Holy Communion is silent.
* 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.
* Leave the church straight after Holy Communion and don’t congregate outside to socialise.

**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 9th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time |
| Sun 10th  | The Baptism of the Lord |
| Mon 11th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time |
| Tues 12th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time or St. Aelred of Rievaulx, Religious |
| Wed 13th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time or St Hilary, Bishop, Doctor of the Church |
| Thurs 14th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time |
| Fri 15th | Weekday in Ordinary Time |
| Sat 16th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time |
| Sun 17th  | 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time |

**REMEMBER THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Please pray for all those in great need at this time including: Alan Huzzey, Nicholas and Teresa Booth, Pat Tomei, Julie Ballesteros, Cora Litchfield, Sean Walsh, Lily Wei, Judy Freegard, Imogen Fernando, Joan Charman, Roger Fenton, Joan Cunningham, Noreen Lawlor, Solveya La Marina, Chris Jones, Maria Reece, Margaret Bolton, Eddie Aldridge, Ellis Warburton, Mary Marks, Jean-Claude Anthony, Ellen Everett, Maureen Coffey, 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 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 | Jojie Gianan, RIP |
| Mon 11th  | 10.00am | Pro Populo |
| Tues 12th  | 10.00am | Margaret Quinn, RIP |
| Wed 13th  | 10.00am | John Samuel Smith, RIP |
| Thurs 14th  | 10.00am | Angela’s Private Intention |
| Fri 15th  | 10.00am | Leonard Pratt, RIP |
| Sat 16th  |  6.30pm | Private Intention |
| Sun 17th  |  8.00am | Michael McGarvey, RIP |
| Sun 17th  | 10.00am | Pro Populo |
| Sun 17th  | 6.30pm | Private Intention  |

**JOHN DAVIES RIP**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Davies who died last week.

John, 86, was a parishioner of St Columba’s of long standing. He was pre-deceased several years ago by his wife, Bibi.

The details of John’s funeral will be announced in due course. May he rest in peace.

***THE EUCHARIST: JUST WHAT EXACTLY DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?***

Here is an opportunity to gain greater insight into and understanding of the eucharist, that great wonder and mystery of our faith.

Fr Tomasz Margol from St Joseph’s & St Swithun’s parish, Bromley, has prepared a series of talks on the Eucharist.

You can access them, without charge, on YouTube. Here are the links for the four talks:

1 [https://youtu.be/HJH-rNoK-wM](https://youtu.be/HJH-rNoK-wM?fbclid=IwAR0MyIQEp64cAhJ9lycNSWu-4As5_IHzxfzkX3xdman67zgEGx32Jv_yQAI)
2 [https://youtu.be/dP\_JLVObDAI](https://youtu.be/dP_JLVObDAI?fbclid=IwAR06TlUwbyXx5mXSFhE3Lwvn7_yFol_pYcAI491klEgYQytfvqQGkf80yPs)
3 [https://youtu.be/6Vjz9-Od8Ss](https://youtu.be/6Vjz9-Od8Ss?fbclid=IwAR0PjS2ldLWls6ww9CDzfv4P0eCpqGtktkzmPHt9lBql-7Mev3NJl6SBpWY)
4  [https://youtu.be/UW5K6d1vPtk](https://youtu.be/UW5K6d1vPtk?fbclid=IwAR38L43sDABVYDcTc0eT4ZI86u6tkRXpkeXa-yBk9kDumZnleGR_iKZf8WA)

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

Comments, suggestions, contributions: all are welcome. Email them to kyrabarone@aol.com by Wednesday evening at the latest.

**THE LATEST LOCKDOWN: IT’S A CHALLENGE FOR MANY MARRIAGES**

There is so much uncertainty around – about health, income, employment, vulnerable family members, children, housing...

People have different ways of seeing things and coping with change…

The result is that managing fears can be a source of conflict and stress. It can be a difficult to talk, to listen, to support and to comfort when there is so much uncertainty.

Being together all the time brings even more challenges. You just can’t cope.

Would we be better apart, you may wonder to yourself.

Retrouvaille is a programme designed to support couples. It brings a positive focus and new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage - and you don’t need to leave home to participate because it comes to you!

For confidential information about Retrouvaille or to register for the next programme, a virtual weekend commencing on February 25-28, call or text 07887 296983.

Alternatively email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**GLUTEN-FREE HOSTS**

Do you, or any parishioners you know, suffer from ciliac disease and so are unable to receive Holy Communion?

If so, please let Fr Roy or Deacon Philip know because gluten-free hosts are now available at all Masses at St Columba’s.

**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.

 



***SHOPPING ONLINE? HELP ST C’S AT NO 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) **GOING INTO HOSPITAL?**If you or a member of your family go into hospital, whether diagnosed with Covid or anything else, ask the Ward Sister or Staff Nurse to notify the hospital’s Roman Catholic hospital chaplain direct. That will make it much more likely that you have the opportunity of receiving Holy Communion (or any other sacraments) while in hospital. And don’t forget to let Fr Roy or Deacon Philip know beforehand of your admission into hospital. We can then keep you in our prayers. |  |  |