**St Columba’s Church**

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

**10th MAY 2020 – 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)**

Looking ahead, we are about to enter the eighth week of lockdown: please keep not just coronavirus victims and their families in your prayers but all those in need at this time.

**MASS ONLINE FROM ST COLUMBA’S**

You can follow Fr Roy celebrating Mass live at 10am every day (except Wednesday 13th, 10.30am) on YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYVyZ2Xpfs0NiuU3bxAjsCQ/live>

It is also live streamed at the same time on Zoom:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73986660636?pwd=UkJMZHQ0S1ZYUDdOR21MVkpYZElBdz09>

**SUNDAY MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** O sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

The Gloria is said.

**1st Reading: from the Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 32: 1-2,4-5,18-19. R. v.22** May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

**2nd Reading: from the first letter of St Peter: 2:4-9**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: ‘I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.’ Alleluia!

**Gospel: John 14:1-12**

**Communion Antiphon:** I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia!

**A REFLECTION ON SUNDAY’S READINGS FROM FR ROY**

In the gospel this Sunday Jesus speaks of our true home. He is going ahead, he tells us, in order to prepare a place for each of us. As we do our best to cope with the lockdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic, that is most reassuring for us.

I fully believe that what is happening around the world is all part of a grand scheme drawing our attention towards God’s kingdom. It is not a punishment as many people suggest. Instead it is an opportunity and incentive for us to turn our attention towards heavenly values rather than focussing on the perishable goods offered by the world.

It is very clear from the gospel that this material world is not our final destination, our destiny, but a place of transition. That is a simple reality we often forget: too often we behave as if the world is our final destination. Not so.

The question is: where is our real home? Jesus tells us in today’s gospel that he is preparing a place for each of us in his Father’s house, which has many rooms. That should not be interpreted in the way we understand our own earthly home. Remember: we are already residents of God’s house by virtue of our baptism. However, our full citizenship of God’s kingdom is delayed because we have to prove our worth by the quality of our life following Jesus Christ in this world.

The characteristics of home are permanence and comfort. And that is what Jesus offers us. That is why he was so eager to go back to the Father: in order to highlight the fact that this earthly life is nothing compared to the joy and wonder of the heavenly kingdom awaiting us.

The most notable lesson I have learnt from this pandemic is the importance of the virtues of patience and humility.

Patience: Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. We need to exercise the virtue of patience in an extraordinary way because Jesus clearly indicated to us that that is the way towards God’s kingdom. So we need to buy time and learn to use time profitably to promote gospel values.

Humility: it is essential because that was the clear example Jesus gave us. He was single minded in pursuing the kingdom of God, even surrendering his life in order to promote the agenda of the Father. There you have the ultimate expression of humility. And we need to follow that example, humbly surrendering our own lives to the cause of the gospel. Surrender means giving up to God all our personal ambition and allowing Him to guide us towards his kingdom.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED** Kwaku Mintah-Sem (father of Fiona), whose funeral will take place at Croydon Cemetery on Wednesday May 13, andKathleen Evans – may they rest in peace.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK** John Davis, Noreen Lawlor, Sebastian Keen, Solveya La Marina, Chris Jones, Maria Reece, Krista Thompson, Margaret Bolton, Eddie Aldridge, Ellis Warburton, Mary Marks, Margaret Edwards, Jean-Claude Anthony, Ellen Everett, Maureen Coffey, Albert Khayyat, Grant Russell, James Patrick Guckian, Elizabeth Sensano, John Smith and sick residents at the four residential homes usually, in better times, visited by the parish SVP group (St Vincent De Paul).

**MASS INTENTIONS** If you wish to have a Mass offered for a special intention, even though St Columba’s is currently closed you can still do so. Either email details of the intention direct to Fr Roy (address above) or write out the details and post or deliver them to the presbytery. The information needed is the name of the person for whom the Mass is to be offered and whether they are deceased or if there is a specific anniversary or other special intention; also the date on or near which you would like the Mass to be celebrated; plus your own name and phone number/email address.

It is customary to make an offering to the priest when asking for a Mass to be celebrated for a special intention.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Sat 9th 10am Online: Francil Lokosul RIP

Sun 10th 10am Online: Kwaku Mintah-Sem RIP

Mon 11th 10am Online: Mary Russell RIP

Tues 12th 10am Online: Ray Sweeney RIP

Wed 13th 10.30am Online: Kathleen Evans RIP

Thurs 14th 10am Online: Maureen Kavanagh RIP

Fri 15th 10am Online: John Tallas

Sat 16th 10am Online: Anna & Michael Duignan

Sun 17th 10am Online: Pro Populo

**CYCLE OF PRAYER: SEASON OF EASTER**

New members of the Church

Vocations

The right use of the media

The Church

Human work

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

Sun 10th: 5th Sunday of Easter (Year A)

Mon 11th: Feria

Tues 12th: Feria or SS Nereus & Achilleus (martyrs) or St Pancras (martyr)

Wed 13th: Feria or Our Lady of Fatima

Thurs 14th: St Matthias (apostle) feast

Fri 15th: Feria

Sat 16th: St Simon Stock (priest)

Sun 17th: 6th Sunday of Easter (Year A)

**NEEDY NEIGHBOURS?** *Please be aware of elderly or needy parishioners and neighbours at this difficult time and provide assistance, where possible, even if only a phone call so that they don’t feel completely isolated.*

**MARRIAGE WEEK**

11th – 17th May is the week that is nationally set aside to celebrate commitment to the Sacrament of Marriage. The theme this year is "The Forever Conversation," recognising the need for continual open communication to enable a marriage to be long lasting. Marriage Encounter is working in partnership with Marriage Week UK to promote events and celebrate marriage. For more information see <https://marriage-week.org.uk/> or or <https://wwme.org.uk/>

and [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7aPwW6AlOVszW3yjFIbrOA/](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7aPwW6AlOVszW3yjFIbrOA/%C2%A0)

**DOMESTIC ABUSE**

The Domestic Abuse Group of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales has issued guidance on how Catholic parishes can support victims of domestic abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the UK-wide COVID-19 lockdown began on 23 March, there has been a 49% increase in calls and online requests for help relating to domestic abuse. The guidance includes information about how parishes can raise awareness of the issue, including a list of helplines and information about how to safely get help. It also includes a step-by-step starter guide for how parishes can work to support their local domestic abuse services with donations. [Read more here](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=ceb754c5e4&e=087693309e).

**THE PILGRIM DIOCESAN NEWSPAPER**

We are pleased to attach an electronic version of the [May edition of The Pilgrim.](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=5c123e1eae&e=087693309e) See what’s happening in parishes across Southwark diocese. Amongst many excellent articles in this, the Southwark diocesan newspaper, are details of where to find live-streamed Masses in various languages, a first-hand account of what it’s like to minister to victims of the coronavirus as a chaplain at St George’s Hospital, Tooting; and a report of Abp Peter Smith’s funeral.

**PRAYER BUDDIES**

A prayer buddy ministry is in the process of being set up by the Southwark Diocesan head of hospital chaplains. It is intended to support those working on the front-line that are dealing directly with the current pandemic.

Every hospital chaplaincy within Southwark is invited to ask NHS staff to add their first name and job title to a list, which will be held by the hospital chaplain. We also need parishioners that are prepared to be committed prayer buddies, holding a member of NHS staff and their intentions in prayer on a daily basis.

Parishioners will receive the first name, job title and general hospital location of an NHS worker, whilst the NHS worker will receive your first name, parish name and parish area. It is intended that we also support all our hospital chaplains in prayer at this challenging time.

Rebekah O'Keeffe, a catechist who works within the diocese, will pair people up as prayer buddies placing each one by name into God's care. If you would like to accompany an NHS worker in prayer at this time, please email: rebekah.okeeffe@gmail.com with your name and parish details (name and area only)  No email addresses will be passed on at any point.

**STAYING AT HOME: A NEW RESOURCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

Southwark Catholic Youth Service has worked with some 6th form students on a mini-series ‘Christ is Alive’. This is an invitation for young people to focus on staying spiritually healthy and to ponder some of the big questions about life, through journaling and prayer. This may be particularly relevant during this difficult time of lockdown. All young people are encouraged to take a look at: [www.youtube.com/southwarkcatholicyouthservice](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=5bc4d71be9&e=087693309e)

**FR ROY’S EASTER OFFERING**

Just a reminder, as we approach the end of Eastertide, that there is still time to make your Easter offering to Fr Roy. Easter Sunday is one of only two occasions in the year (the other is Christmas), when the collection at Mass is your personal offering to the parish priest. As the church was closed at Easter because of the coronavirus pandemic, we didn’t have any Masses. So no collection could be taken. But there is still time to make that offering. You can do it by dropping an envelope in at the presbytery (or posting it). Alternatively a payment could be made using online banking. For that you would need the parish bank account details: the sort code is 60-50-01, the account number 79124313. Give the reference Easter Offering.

**THIS NEWSLETTER** We need contributions – comments, suggestions, experiences, even complaints and, yes, jokes too would be welcome – to make this online newsletter work. Do you find it useful? What else might we include in it? Is it worth continuing? Contact Deacon Philip (address above) with your response and reaction.

**SUPPORT FRONT-LINE WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

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| Our front-line workers in hospitals and care homes all over the UK are giving exceptional service to those who are vulnerable and in need of treatment at this time. In order to show a spiritual solidarity with them each week, bishops across the country will celebrate Mass in their cathedrals which will be live-streamed for people nationwide to join. The Masses are celebrated every Thursday at 7pm. The schedule for the next three weeks is as follows:14 MayBishop Robert Byrne CO[St Mary’s Cathedral, NewcastleYouTube Channel](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=c6b5cb1e31&e=087693309e)21 MayBishop Mark Davies[Our Lady Help of Christians and Saint Peter of Alcantara, Shrewsbury](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=9950ff873b&e=087693309e)28 MayBishop Terence Drainey[St Mary’s Cathedral, MiddlesbroughYouTube Channel](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=2c28bfdb5b&e=087693309e)  |

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**DON’T FORGET THE HOLY LAND**Bishop Declan Lang, who chairs [the Holy Land Coordination](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=faffdbfe94&e=087693309e) has urged Catholics to support people in the Holy Land affected by the coronavirus pandemic in order to prevent a major human catastrophe.Not only is this a major healthcare crisis but necessary closures at this time of pilgrimage are also having a devastating impact on the local economy. Regrettably, the healthcare system has collapsed under the strain of coronavirus and people are also suffering from extremely overcrowded conditions.  We are therefore asked to stand in solidarity with the people of the Holy Land through our prayers and, where possible, through donations to the [Friends of the Holy Land Appeal](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=422401603f&e=087693309e).**OUR FOODBANK**Here is an update from the Salvation Army’s Vine Foodbank at New Addington which we at St Columba’s have regularly supported over the years: “To all our regular donors, I can't thank you enough for what you are doing to support us at the moment. We have a steady flow of food donations coming in which is great. In particular the donation boxes in Sainsbury's Selsdon and West Wickham are filling up regularly, so that's really helpful for us - I think some of you are placing donations in there while you can't donate at church, so thank you. At the moment, we are seeing an increased number of families being referred to us for support. We only see families who are in financial need - anyone needing support with shopping, prescriptions etc is being referred on to the New Addington Residents Association who are doing a great job helping out the community with their army of volunteers. Since we set up our JustGiving page just a few weeks ago, we have raised an amazing £1700+! If you were one of these donors, thank you so much! While people have been willing to donate money, food donations have been harder to come by with people self-isolating and food just not being available to purchase in bulk. Therefore we are more reliant than usual on members of the public buying individual donations. We really feel that the longer this crisis continues, the more The Vine will see demand rising and our stocks will need replenishing even more quickly than usual.For those of you who are looking to donate at the moment, the items we're most in need of are:Tinned potatoes and vegetables (including carrots, sweetcorn, peas, tomatoes)Tinned fruit (desperately short)Instant mash (none left)Tinned meat and meat meals (corned beef, hot dogs, meatballs, chilli etc)Pasta sauces (almost out)Rice (dried long-grain or basmati is most popular)Instant coffee and hot chocolateSugarCereals (Weetabix and Cheerio types are most popular, porridge isn't!)Puddings (custard, rice pudding, jelly...)Savoury biscuitsGeneral cleaning productsWashing up liquidLaundry tablets or capsulesToilet rollShampoo/conditionerShower gelToothpasteSoapSanitary towels (not tampons)You are also welcome to donate to our JustGiving page which you can find at:<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/newaddingtonsalvationarmy>We are still open as usual for donations Tuesday and Friday evenings 7-8pm. The Vine is located in Salcot Crescent New Addington CR0 0JJ. We are down a narrow driveway between houses 11 and 13, next to Tharreo House school.Many thanks again!Lesley Holland (Mobile: 07906 097473) |   |

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