**St Columba’s Church, Selsdon**

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**11 APRIL 2021**

**2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B)**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles: 4:32-35**

**Responsorial Psalm PS 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24. Rv1:** Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

**2nd Reading: A reading from the first letter of St John: 5:1-6**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! Jesus said: ‘You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.’ Alleluia!

**Gospel: John 20:19-31**

**Communion Antiphon:** Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

**ENTER THE DEFOGGER…**

The defogger? Yes, that’s the piece of machinery we now have for sanitizing the benches after Sunday Mass.

It’s much easier and quicker for the stewards to use this electrically-operated spray than cleaning and drying by hand as they did before.

At Mass, remember to leave plenty of space between you in the bench. There should be no more than three people – unless you are a family or in a bubble – ideally one person at each end, one in the middle.

During the week, if you were given a marker paper when arriving, leave it on the seat so that it’s obvious which part of the bench needs manual cleaning.

Do please be prepared to lend a hand helping the stewards clean the benches after weekday Masses.

Like the disciples, our job too is to be sent on a mission

***A reflection on Sunday’s Gospel by Fr Roy***

The first day of the week referred to in Sunday’s Gospel represents the first day of recreation, the day of resurrection.

The description of the disciples as being locked in fear gives us a clear idea of how broken they felt; of the darkness that enveloped them.

So just imagine how they must have felt when Jesus appeared.

God’s love and grace are far greater and more powerful than the power of sin.

No sin is bigger than the cross of Jesus.

Thus the resurrection erases all fears and replaces them with courage and grace.

The disciples in that upper room were presented with the ultimate proof that Jesus is risen. And the experience transformed them.

They immediately became fearless evangelists and missionaries, totally confident that death would no longer be an issue because Jesus has overcome it. Nothing could then stop them from proclaiming the kingdom of God.

In this Gospel account, the risen Christ shows them his wounds.

Jesus bares them because he wants us to see the effect of our sins. We need to recognise them in his wounds.

Then, as we read, Jesus tells them “Shalom”. Peace be with you.

We have sinned against God big time by crucifying him on the cross but all is forgiven.

Jesus has reconciled us to his father.

He breathes the spirit on the disciples and tells them: “as the Father sends me so am I sending you.”

Being sent is our job too. Jesus sends us all on a mission.

We, the Church, filled with the Holy Spirit, are to go forth and breathe the same spirit into the world.

The second part of Sunday’s Gospel tells us the story of Doubting Thomas.

He was absent when Jesus appeared to the disciples. And he wouldn’t believe when they told him what had happened.

“Unless I can put my fingers into his wounds I will not believe.”

Why did that happen? Primarily because Thomas insisted on satisfying his own senses: seeing, touching.

He got what he wanted a week later, in the process uttering those immortal words “My Lord and my God.”

Thomas missed his first chance of seeing Jesus because he was not present with the rest of the community. He was not with the church.

The lesson here is that resurrection is a community experience.

It is meant to be experienced with all the brothers and sister who profess the same faith.

To sum up, the resurrection of Jesus overcomes all our fears.

It conclusively reassures us that his power is greater than death.

He is capable of taking us to the kingdom of the father.

All we have to do is commit to him and follow his command to go and share the good news – that then empowers us.

The road to the kingdom of God is through the Church founded by Jesus.

So be faithful to this communal journey and commit to the way of Jesus.

The ups and down we meet on that journey are as nothing compared to the glory that awaits.

***DEALING WITH COVID AT ST COLUMBA’S…***

We know we must take precautions when coming to Mass. They are set by the Government – and the local council is checking that we comply. So make sure to:

* Remember to bring and wear a face mask covering 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.
* Meet Track-and-Trace requirements by providing a written note every time you come to church of your name and contact details plus the date and, if relevant, Mass time. To save queuing and filling out a form, send an email to selsdon@rcaos.org.uk
* Use hand sanitizer, provided, both when entering and leaving the church.
* Leave where they are the chairs which have replaced some of our benches and are at 1m intervals to ensure the necessary social distancing.
* Bring your own Mass or prayer book – there are no shared items:. That applies to readers as well.
* Keep silent when receiving Holy Communion.
* Leave the church straight after Holy Communion and don’t congregate outside to socialise.

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| **LITURGICAL CALENDAR OF THE WEEK** |
| Sat 10th  | Easter Saturday |
| Sun 11th  | 2nd Sunday of Easter |
| Mon 12th  | Weekday of Easter  |
| Tues 13th  | Weekday of Easter or Saint Martin I, Pope, Martyr |
| Wed 14th  | Weekday of Easter |
| Thurs 15th  | Weekday of Easter |
| Fri 16th  | Weekday of Easter |
| Sat 17th  | Weekday of Easter |
| Sun 18th  | 3rd Sunday of Easter |

**REMEMBER THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Please pray for all those in need at this time including: Vera De Souza, Mike Bond, Alice Barclay, Thelma Benn, Julie Ballesteros, Cora Litchfield, Sean Walsh, Judy Freegard, Imogen Fernando, Joan Charman, Joan Cunningham, Solveya La Marina, Chris Jones, Maria Reece, Margaret Bolton, Eddie Aldridge, Ellis Warburton, Mary Marks, Jean-Claude Anthony, Ellen Everett, Maureen Coffey, James 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 10th | 6.30pm | Weronika Lawicka, RIP |
| Sun 11th  | 8.00am | Family McDonagh, Ann Matton |
| Sun 11th  | 10.00am | Pro Populo |
| Sun 11th  | 6.30am | Mary Charman, RIP |
| Mon 12th  | 10.00am | Intention of the Alvarez family |
| Tues 13th  | 10.00am | Margit Symons, wellbeing |
| Wed 14th  | 10.00am | Hayat Dayani, wellbeing |
| Thurs 15th  | 10,00an | Hugh John McGonigle, RIP |
| Fri 16th  | 10.00am | Oliva Fernandes, RIP |
| Sat 17th  | 6.30pm | Intention of the Alvarez Family |
| Sun 18th  | 8.00am | Loretta Sean, RIP, Deni & the Sean Family & the Sing Keys |
| Sun 18th  | 10.00am | Pro Populo |
| Sun 18th  | 6.30pm | Malcolm Bowen, thanksgiving & wellbeing |

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| **THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH RIP**

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| On hearing the sad news of the announcement of the death of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, Archbishop John Wilson issued the following statement:*On behalf of the Catholic Community of the Archdiocese of Southwark, I wish to express my profound sorrow at the news of the death of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. In union with the entire nation, we mourn the loss of not only an esteemed and respected member of the Royal Family, but also a man who exemplified the very best qualities of courage, fortitude and loyalty. Although born into a very different world, his example and witness leave us, here in this present age, with a lasting and enduring legacy of the timeless paradigm of duty and service.  In this season of Eastertide, when we celebrate the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and his victory over death, we pray that His Royal Highness will rest in peace and rise in* *glory. We also remember in our prayers Her Majesty the Queen and all members of the Royal Family at this sad time, offering to them our sincerest condolences.* +JohnArchbishop of Southwark |

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**WANT TO GO TO CONFESSION?**

Well you can – and at the same time be confident that you are safe from Covid. Simply give Fr Roy a ring and make an appointment. He will hear your confession in private in the hall.

***IF YOU TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID…***

Should that happen and you have been to Mass at St Columba’s in the preceding week, let Fr Roy or Deacon Philip know.

For track’n’trace purposes, they may then need to contact anyone else who was at the same Mass.

**CONFIRMATION & FIRST COMMUNION**

Now that things are beginning to get back to some sort of normality, plans are being made for young people to receive the sacraments of initiation.

So parents of children age 7-8 should contact Fr Roy about the preparation course for First Holy Communion.

Young people (age 13-14) wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation are advised to write a short letter to Fr Roy asking to be confirmed.



***SHOP ONLINE AND HELP ST C’S TOO***

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) * ***GOOD NEWS So far 23 parishioners have signed up for easyfundraising, raising £165 for St Columba’s (at no cost to themselves). Well done all, and many thanks.***

**WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT SO FAR…?****Our newsletter, that is.** **Your comments, thoughts, suggestions, ideas and contributions would be most welcome.** **They will also enable us to know whether this newsletter is considered helpful and useful – or not. Email Deacon Philip – the deadline for each weekend’s newsletter is the Wednesday before.**  |  |  |

**COLLECT YOUR GIFT AID ENVELOPES**

**All members of the Gift Aid scheme are invited this weekend to collect their boxes of envelopes for the coming year.**

**The boxes, with your names on, can be collected at the entrance to the sacristy in the Sacred Heart chapel after all Masses.**

**THINK YOU HAVE A VOCATION?**

The Beda College in Rome is running a discernment weekend for men between the ages of 30 and 55 from September 3-5. It takes place at St Beuno’s Spirituality Centre in North Wales.

The weekend is a first step for those who may be exploring the possibility of priestly vocation in later life.

Information and registration forms are at: <https://www.pathwaystogod.org/courses-events-retreats/discernment-weekend-older-men-1>

**HOW DID COVID AFFECT YOU?**

Our diocesanAgency for Evangelisation and Catechesis has partnered with other dioceses to produce and promote a survey which aims to find out about the experiences of Catholics over the period of the Coronavirus pandemic.

This research will help us to understand what has been happening during this time when churches have been closed and/or only opened for limited periods and Catholics have had to practice their faith ‘at a distance’. To complete the survey, select our Archdiocese from the drop-down menu so that we can hear about what God has been doing and what He wants to say to us about the future of the Church in this part of England and Wales.

This important survey should take about 10 minutes to complete and the deadline for submissions for Southwark is July 4. Click on this link:

<https://forms.rcaos.org.uk/covid-19-survey-form/>

**VICTIMS & SURVIVORS OF ABUSE**

**Make a note in your diary. There will be a day of prayer for victims and survivors of abuse on May 4. More details to follow nearer the time.**

***KEEPING ST COLUMBA’S OPEN DURING THE PANDEMIC***

**We have a number of parishioners who have been doing an invaluable job during the pandemic to ensure that St Columba’s can stay open for Mass, every Mass.**

**You may not have noticed them, quietly going about their job. But that job is essential.**

**Volunteers all, they are the stewards who check people into the church before Mass starts, ensure they provide a completed track’n’trace form, hand out face masks if needed and make sure everyone uses hand sanitizer. After Mass they clean the seating which has been used and sanitize door handles and the like.**

**These volunteers are essential if we are to keep St Columba’s open during the pandemic.**

**But there are not enough of them: we need more, especially now that the benches are back in use and numbers attending Mass hopefully will start to increase.**

**If you are willing to help - and do give it serious consideration - contact Fr Roy or Deacon Philip.**

**PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD**

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| Please spread the word - and don't delay.On Monday (April 12), a clinical team from Covid Crisis Rescue Foundation, Rainbow Health Centre and local Croydon GPs will be giving the Covid-19 vaccination to a special group of needy people.These are people in homeless households, rough sleepers, asylum seekers, sex workers and anyone living in emergency accommodation. The venue will be Lantern Hall, 190 Church Rd, Croydon CR0 1SE. The time is midday till 4pm. No NHS number is needed to receive the jab. There will be free food and drink.We have been asked to help reach out to the community to promote this event as widely as possible. So if you can. do please spread the word.For more information contact Dr Sharon Raymond, GP and Director Covid Crisis Rescue Foundation at sharonraymond1512@gmail.com  |

**KNOW OF ANYONE IN NEED?**

Are you aware of any parishioners living alone or in need?

If so, as well as phoning them yourself occasionally to see if they need anything, let Fr Roy or Deacon Philip know of their whereabouts.

That way, we can work together to support and help them at this difficult time.

**ST JOSEPH’S 150TH ANNIVERSARY**

In preparation for the 150th anniversary of the opening of St Joseph’s School, Upper Norwood, former pupils, parents, staff, governors and friends are invited to submit recollections, photos and memorabilia.

They will be displayed in anniversary publications and at events. Please include a description of any items sent, name people in photos and add a date or occasion when the photograph might have been taken.

During the celebratory year, beginning in September, there will be many opportunities to visit St Joseph’s and to meet with other Alumni to mark this special milestone. Please help spread the news to all those associated with St Joseph’s.

To share memories of your days at St Joseph’s, or to receive more information as the plans for the anniversary year unfold, please email your contact details to: alumni@st-josephs-jun.croydon.sch.uk

For more details visit the school’s website: <https://www.stjosephsfederation.co.uk/>

**GOING INTO HOSPITAL? TELL US**

If you or a member of your family go into hospital, 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.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS**

The offertory collection on March 28 totalled £692.82 of which £426 was gift aided and £266.82 was not. Good Friday’s collection for the Holy Places totalled £168.44 of which £10 was gift aided. The Easter offering amounted to £1,511.90.

**‘THANK YOU’ FROM FR ROY**

**Fr Roy would like to thank all parishioners for their Easter offerings, which are very much appreciated as a personal gift to the parish priest.**

**FIGHTING RACISM**

Following the official inauguration of the Racial Justice Commission (RJC) on 29 January by Abp John Wilson, the RJC wish to to reach out to every community in this archdiocese to help seek to identify, address and speak out against the evil of racism where it exists.

They wish to raise awareness of the responsibility of everyone to eradicate racial discrimination in all its forms within the Church and wider society.

Their goal is to work with parishes, different groups and schools to make this a reality.

In the words of the Catholic bishops of Southwark, “Racism is incompatible with the Catholic Faith. Whether expressed by the attitudes or behaviour of an individual, or the behaviour of a group, or through unjust structures in society that exclude and discriminate, there is no place for racism at any time or in any place. We say this again: there is no place for racism.”

“We cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form and yet claim to defend the sacredness of human like” – *Pope Francis*.

Racism is not a political issue but a human right issue. It is a human right pandemic and this is the time to act.

The Commission for Promoting Racial and Cultural Inclusion, to give the RJC’s full name, facilitates engagement with marginalised communities and promotes opportunities for a growth in understanding in matters of diversity and inclusion and explore ways to listen, accompany and support victims of racism, with a view to eliminating this infringement on human dignity.

Over the coming months, you will be invited to support the work of the commission in fighting this sinful practice and violation of human dignity.

Let us all come together and make this a reality.

Visit <https://racialjustice.rcaos.org.uk/> for more details of the RJC.