**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: 020 8651 4653

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

**11TH JULY 2021**

**15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**(YEAR B)**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

**A reading from the prophet Amos 7:12-15**

**Responsorial Psalm PS 84:9-14. Rv8:** Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

**2nd Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians: 1:3-14**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Mark 6:7-13**

**Communion Antiphon:** The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

**CELEBRATE SEA SUNDAY**

This is Sea Sunday when we are asked to remember seafarers and fishers in our prayers.

Providing pastoral and spiritual support to seafarers and fishers is Stella Maris, formerly know as the Apostleship of the Sea.

They do that by deploying chaplains to visit ships in port.

The past year has been particularly difficult for seafarers.

Now that restrictions have eased and ship visits have restarted, the need for face-to-face contact is more important than ever.

Both prayers and practical support are greatly needed. To find out more and to support the charity’s work visit their website:

[www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=1f5d18aa1f&e=7d4ac57aff)

Our having been baptised, we are all called to be prophets

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

The prophet Amos lived in Judea around the 8th century BC.

He did not see himself as a prophet – just a herdsman and a dresser of sycamore trees – and had no formal training as a prophet.

In other words, he was just an ordinary person, like a civil servant or a teacher or a mother or a retired person.

You may think to yourself: I am not a prophet. However, we are all baptised and by virtue of baptism therefore we are all prophets, priests and kings.

Amos did what a prophet does because God tasked him to do so – just as God tasks all of us to be prophets.

We all are meant to speak God’s word to others, just like Amos.

In other words, a prophet is simply someone who speaks the word of God publicly; who speaks on behalf of the Lord to others.

We become a prophet by making the language we use the language of faith.

***“A huge public impact…”***

People will then easily recognise us as followers of Jesus Christ.

It follows naturally that our words reflect our closeness to the Lord.

A simple acknowledgement of faith can have a huge public impact on people’s lives.

We must never hide our faith, keep it private, because we have the obligation, the duty, the responsibility to make it public - without being obnoxious, of course.

The language of faith should always be on our lips. The language we use should always reflect the hope that is in us.

We must always be ready to put our faith into words. And it goes without saying, therefore, that, as prophets, we need to be informed about our faith. We have no excuse for not knowing our faith because the information is at our fingertips, not least on the internet.

In the Bible we often see prophets speaking about social justice, for example how the poor are mistreated.

How often do we speak out on issues of social justice?

Remember that phrase ‘The preferential option for the poor’.

It means that we are called to favour the poor and the marginalised.

As baptised people, we can never ignore the plight of the poor in our role as prophets.

You can see from the Bible that prophets were always unpopular.

The same will apply to us.

So when we speak the word of the lord we should not expect people – society – to welcome us with open arms and with a red carpet.

For prophets, persecution is an occupational hazard. It comes with the territory.

As prophets, we can never expect to please everyone because our job is to show the world the distinct character, the values, of the kingdom of God.

Those values are the opposite to those of the world. It is for that reason the world does not easily accept the message of God, the message of the prophet.

Finally, a prophet is someone who prays.

Regular and deep attention to God is the source of the prophet’s power.

We can’t expect to hear the promptings of the Holy Spirit unless we listen for what God is saying to us. And we can do that only through prayer.

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| **LITURGICAL CALENDAR OF THE WEEK** |
| Sat 10th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time |
| Sun 11th  | 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time – ‘Sea Sunday’ |
| Mon 12th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time orSt John Jones, Priest, Martyr (W) |
| Tues 13th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time ororSt Henry |
| Wed 14th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time orSt Camillus de Lellis, Priest |
| Thurs 15th  | St Bonaventure, Bishop, Doctor of the Church |
| Fri 16th  | Weekday in Ordinary Timeor Our Lady of Mount Carmel |
| Sat 17th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time |
| Sun 18th  | 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time |

**REMEMBER THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Please pray for all those who are sick or in need at this time including: Douglas & Yvonne Bruce, Vera De Souza, Mike Bond, Thelma Benn, Cora Litchfield, Judy Freegard, Joan Cunningham, Solveya La Marina, Chris Jones, Maria Reece, Margaret Bolton, Eddie Aldridge, Ellis Warburton, Mary Marks, Jean-Claude Anthony, Ellen Everett, Maureen Coffey, Elizabeth Sensano 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  | 2.00pm6.30pm | Andrew Martin RIPPro Populo |
| Sun 11th  | 8.00am | Eden Dallimore, RIP & the Dallimore Family |
| Sun 11th  | 10.00am | Lucia Di Maio, RIP |
| Sun 11th  | 6.30am | The Cooney Family |
| Mon 12th  | 10.00am | Nannette Mansfield, RIP & the Mansfield Family |
| Tues 13th  | 10.00am | Jan Ryzko, RIP & the Ryzko Family |
| Wed 14th  | 10.00am | Albert Sequeira, RIP |
| Thurs 15th  | 10.00am | Nora Madden, RIP |
| Fri 16th  | 10.00am | Giovanni Mosconi, RIP |
| Sat 17th  | 6.30pm | Frederick Mills, RIP |
| Sun 18th  | 8.00am | The Alvarez Family |
| Sun 18th  | 10.00am | Pro Populo |
| Sun 18th  | 6.30pm | Vangie Bayani, RIP |

***HOW TO KEEP SAFE WHEN YOU COME TO MASS***

We know we must take precautions when coming to Mass.

So every time you come to church make sure to:

* Remember to bring and wear a face mask covering the nose as well as the mouth. There are some available in church if you forget.
* 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.
* Take a paper marker (during the week, not at the weekend) and leave it on your seat so that the stewards know where to sanitize.
* Put your gift to the church in the container marked ‘Offertory Collection’. There are no collections during Mass.
* 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.
* Leave the church straight after Holy Communion, which is distributed at the end of Mass, and don’t congregate outside to socialise.

**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. That’s when the track’n’trace forms which everyone attending Mass has to complete (unless they send an email) come into play.

**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>

***SHOP ONLINE AND HELP ST COLUMBA’S***

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 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. Then, in future, every 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. Shopping, Online, E-Commerce, FashionHave 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) **ANNUAL MARRIAGE MASS**Are you celebrating your 1st, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or any later wedding anniversary this year? Or did you last year? If so, Archbishop John invites you to join him in celebrating a Mass for married couples at noon on Saturday October 9 at St George’s Cathedral. You need to book in advance and by doing so you will then receive a personal written invitation from Archbishop John. To book or for more details email mflsw@rcaos.org.uk**SO WHAT’S YOUR VERDICT?****On 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.**  |  |  |

**GOT YOUR GIFT AID ENVELOPES?**

**There are still plenty waiting to be collected… 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. Don’t forget to take yours…**

**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 situation.

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

***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.

Make sure also to let Fr Roy or Deacon Philip know beforehand if possible of your admission or that of a family member into hospital. We can then keep you in our prayers.

**HAVE YOU LOST A LOVED ONE?**

‘Grief and Loss, Hope in Christ’ is the title of a weekend for those who have lost a loved one through death. The weekend provides a time to mourn and share with others. The venue: Aylesford Priory. Date: October 8-10. For more information phone 01622 717272 or email enquery@thefriars.org.uk

**GUILD OF ST STEPHEN**

The Guild will be holding its annual rally for altar servers, their 43rd, on September 18 at Aylesford Priory.

For more details email the Guild’s chairman at john.bonnici@btopenworld.com

***KNOW YOUR FAITH BETTER***

The Archbishop’s Certificate (ArchCert) is an online course for all in Southwark who wish to know their Catholic faith more deeply.

Participants will take a two-year journey through the Church’s teaching to understand their faith in a more

profound way and be able to share it with confidence and joy.

The course will commence in October 2021 and the cost will be £365 per year.  Registration must be completed in advance.  Further details can be found here: [https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/archcert](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=60d238c547&e=7d4ac57aff)

**SUMMERTIME IS BACK**

Following last year's cancellation, this annual activity for altar servers, boys and girls aged 10 - 15 within Southwark diocese, will take place from August 3-6.

The venue is the Oratory School in Reading, Berkshire and the event opens with Mass celebrated by Archbishop John.

Activities will include talks, discussions, prayer and daily Mass as well as sport, a trip to Thorpe Park and swimming.

For more details phone 01322 220075 or email dartford@rcaos.org.uk

**MARCH FOR LIFE**

The next March for Life will take place on September 4: please save the date.

Posters and more details are available from [http://www.marchforlife.co.uk/](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=c89fd441d0&e=7d4ac57aff)

**GRIEF TO GRACE VACANCY**

An administrative assistant (part-time) is required by Grief to Grace.

This is a small charity offering spiritual and psychological healing to those traumatized by historical sexual or other types of abuse

* Hours: initially 17.5 per week.
* Salary: £16k
* Start date: as soon as possible.
* Closing date for applications: June 30

More details: see the website [www.grieftograceuk.org](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=387118d974&e=087693309e))

***PRAYERS FOR THE SICK***

We have a prayer list of names of those who are sick which appears in the newsletter every week.

The names are read out at Mass during the Bidding Prayers.

If you know of anyone, a parishioner or family member, you would like to be included, please let Fr Roy or Deacon Philip know.

If you previously asked for someone to be included in the list but who is now recovered, do let us know.

**BIDDING PRAYERS TOP TEN**

Ten parishioners have kindly agreed to take turns writing Bidding Prayers for Sunday Masses. All have been emailed a copy of the new rota. If you are one of the volunteers but have not received a copy of the new rota, please let Deacon Philip know without delay.

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR OFFERING***

The Offertory collection for June 20 totalled £717.51 of which £478.75 was Gift Aided and £238.76 not.

The Offertory collection for June 27 totalled £538.40 of which £205.50 was Gift Aided and £332.90 not.