**St Columba’s Church, Selsdon**

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**12 SEPTEMBER 2021 – 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)**

**FULL SPEED AHEAD FOR OUR AUTUMN FAYRE ON OCTOBER 3: SEE BELOW**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah: 50:5-9**

**Responsorial Psalm PS 114:1-6. 8-9. Rv.9:** I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

**2nd Reading: A reading from the letter of St James: 2:14-18**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord; no one can come to the Father except through me. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Mark 8:27-35**

**Communion Antiphon:** How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

**AUTUMN FAYRE: OCTOBER 3**

Our Autumn Fayre will start after 10am Mass. Everyone is invited to help. Email Debbie Martin on stcolumbasseslsdon\_ucm@outlook.co.uk and let her know what you can do, whether as a stall holder or helper:

We shall need lots of good things to go on the stalls – bottles, jewellery, plants, nearly-new bric-a-brac, handicrafts, homemade cakes, sweets, cosmetics. Leave them in the box at the back of the church. Setting up will be on Saturday the 2nd.

It is by Jesus’s wounds that we have been healed

A REFLECTION ON SUNDAY’S READINGS BY FR ROY

Isaiah, who features in Sunday’s first reading, wrote around the time that the Jews returned home from exile.

His writings are couched in the language of triumph. The triumphal return of a people from exile.

The God who seemed to have abandoned his people has now revealed his power to bring them back home again.

Now that Yahweh’s power has been revealed, he is going to appoint a servant who will establish justice not just for Israel but for the rest of the world as well.

Isaiah refers to the special servant of Yahweh who will do the work of the Lord associated with salvation.

That suffering servant is described in the first reading today in these words:

“The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I shall not be ashamed. My vindicato

r is here at hand. Let him approach me. The Lord is coming to my help, who will dare condemn me?”

The servant of the lord is not the one we expect him to be because he is a suffering servant.

**The 64,000-dollar question**

How will he do it? How will he achieve his task?

By bearing the punishment of the world.

Using this as a background, let us now turn to Sunday’s Gospel.

Jesus “puts this question to his disciples, ‘Who do people say I am?’ And they told him. ‘John the Baptist,’ they said ‘others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.’ ‘But you,’ he asked ‘who do you say I am?’ Peter spoke up and said to him, ‘You are the Christ.’ And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him. And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly.”

The disciples must have been so excited to get the confirmation that Jesus was the messiah. They had expected someone who would focus on the glory of Israel as a country.

Because of that they must have been anticipating the establishment of a secular power, with various worldly benefits flowing from it.

Certainly, Jesus is keen to establish a new kingdom, but it’s one visualised by God.

And God’s plan is different to man’s, as the prophecy of Isaiah makes clear.

In other words, Isaiah is the key text to help us understand the meaning of the suffering servant in the context of God’s plan.

So the Gospel this Sunday helps us recognise what it means to be the servant of the Lord: it is someone who must suffer and be rejected and be killed.

And of course Jesus was indeed crucified as Isaiah predicted.

He assumed the dysfunction of the world and swallowed it up in his divine mercy.

By the wounds of Jesus are we healed.

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| **ITURGICAL CALENDAR OF THE WEEK** |
| Sat 11th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time or St Deiniol, Bishop |
| Sun 12th  | 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| Mon 13th  | St John Chrysostom, Bishop, Doctor of the Church |
| Tues 14th  | [The Exaltation of the Holy Cross](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/Sunday/Feasts.shtml#Triumph) |
| Wed 15th  | Our Lady of Sorrows |
| Thurs 16th  | Ss Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs |
| Fri 17th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time or St Robert Bellarmine, Bishop, Doctor of the Church |
| Sat 18th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time  |
| Sun 19th  | 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time |

***COVID PRECAUTIONS: SEE WHAT HAS - AND HASN’T - CHANGED***

Despite the removal of legal restrictions in July, Archbishop John strongly urges us, in the interests of health and safety, to continue to take precautions when coming to Mass. So please continue to:

* Remember to bring and wear a face mask covering the nose as well as the mouth
* 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.
* Bring your own Mass or prayer book – there are no shared items available in church.
* Ensure plenty of social distancing in the church and in the benches unless you are in a family group.

In addition, Holy Communion is once again being distributed (although still only under one kind) before the end of Mass rather than afterwards. We shall still refrain from exchanging the Sign of Peace and Stewards will continue to sanitize the seating after each Mass.

**REMEMBER THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Please pray for all those who are sick or in need at this time including: Nicola Gingell, Albert Mackay, Bridget Oxley, Judy Freegard, Dani Gonek, Christine Marchant, Anne McDonagh, Martin McDonagh, Martin Reilly, Lily Wei, Douglas & Yvonne Bruce, Thelma Benn, Cora Litchfield, 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, Patrick Acholonu, Kate Acholonu, Christopher Onyeachom and sick residents at the four residential homes usually, in better times, visited by the parish St Vincent de Paul group. All are in great need of our prayers.

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Don’t forget: all candidates to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation need to attend weekly meetings on Sunday. The meetings, in the church, start at 5.30pm and last for around 45 minutes.

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| **MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK** |
| Sat 11th  | 6.30pm | Philip & Mary Pond, 50th Wedding Anniversary |
| Sun 12th  | 8.00am | Holy Souls |
| Sun 12th  | 10.00am | Pro Populo |
| Sun 12th  | 6.30am | Holy Souls |
| Mon 13th  | 10.00am | Philip & Mary Pond, 50th Wedding Anniversary |
| Tues 14th  | NO MASS |  |
| Wed 15th  | 10.00am | Holy Souls |
| Thurs 16th | 10.00am | Rod Lulu RIP |
| Fri 17th  | 10.00am | Holy Souls |
| Sat 18th  | 6.30pm | Holy Souls |
| Sun 19th  | 8.00am | Pro Populo |
| Sun 19th  | 10.00am | Jo & Alan Maguire, RIP |
| Sun 19th  | 6.30pm | Holy Souls |

***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. 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? 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.***PRAYERS FOR THE SICK***We have a prayer list of names of those who are sick which appears in the newsletter every week and is included in the Bidding Prayers at all Sunday Masses.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.**PEACE AND QUIET**Do you fancy some? Peace and quiet, that is? Here’s your opportunity: a quiet morning. You are invited to spend the morning of Saturday September 18 reflecting on ‘Silence & Peace’.This mini spiritual retreat is being held at St Mary’s church, Addington, and starts at 10.30am – just turn up, no need to book. The leader will be Susan Oakes.The event is being organised by Churches Together in Selsdon & Addington, of which St Columba’s is an active member. |  |  |

**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.

**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

**CAFÉ COLUMBA REOPENS**

After a gap of 18 months because of the lockdowns, Café Columba has reopened.

Make a note of the open times: the first Wednesday of every month, from 10am until 1:15pm.

We will be serving scones and cakes with coffees and teas first thing; also lunches, a main dish and dessert, from 11:45am.

Should you wish to visit, bring your friends – it’s a community cafe for the whole of Selsdon, remember. Everyone is more than welcome.

Our prices are low and all profits are given to charities, local and national.

If you would like to volunteer to help or bake a cake, please get in touch with Gill Tomei: email g.tomei@btopenworld.com

We look forward to seeing you.

**ANYONE FOR COFFEE?**

Our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning will take place on Friday September 24 from 10-11.30am.

There will be a prize raffle and homemade-cakes stall plus of course teas, coffees, scones and biscuits.

Items for the raffle are needed: you can leave them in the hall kitchen over the weekend of September 18/19 or any time during the week commencing September 20. Cakes should be delivered before 9.30am on the 24th please.

Do come along and support this annual charitable event, which has been running for at least eight years. Thanks in advance for your support.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Christine Francis and Kushal Virdi who were married at St Columba’s on Friday (the 10th). We wish them every blessing.

**A MESSAGE FROM BROWN OWL**

Do you like young people? Have you thought about volunteering to help at a Brownie unit?

You would be most welcome if you did: we need you.

We are a thriving Brownie unit in need of help. One of our leaders is retiring and we are looking for helpers and leaders to join our team so we can keep the unit open.

We have 19 girls in our unit, all very enthusiastic about guiding, who want you to come along and help. We have a great programme of activities ranging from learning camping skills to craft, baking to science and engineering activities.

The girls help in the community, learn skills for the future, have fun and play games.

There are all sorts of ways you might help: admin, accounts, keeping our database up to date, sending emails, helping to plan activities…

Please help us prevent the unit closing, for the sake of our girls. Email meg.passey@gmail.com to find out more. - *Brown Owl*

**LITTER PICK**

That’s what is happening on Saturday September 25: a litter pick.

Parishioners of St Columba’s are invited to join members of other churches in the area for a couple of hours cleaning up Selsdon. In other words, making this a pleasanter place to live.

If you are interested, just turn up at St Mary’s, Addington, at 11am.

Bring some disposable gloves – refuse bags and picking sticks will be provided.

A number of specific areas have been identified for litter picking – you will get the details when you arrive at St Mary’s.

The event is being organised by Churches Together in Selsdon & Addington, of which St Columba’s is an active member.

**SITUATION VACANT**

Good Shepherd Catholic Primary & Nursery School in New Addington is looking to appoint an Administration Assistant. The position, available immediately, is permanent.

For full details and an application form visit the school website [www.goodshepherdprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.goodshepherdprimaryschool.co.uk)

**HELP AFGHAN REFUGEES**

Croydon Refugee Day Centre is making an appeal for new and good quality pre-worn clothing for refugees from Afghanistan. Here's the list of clothing needed:

* New men’s underwear - boxers please
* New women’s and children’s underwear
* New socks - all sizes
* Men’s hats - good condition
* Trainers for children and men and women
* Men’s jeans - all sizes
* Men’s and women’s t-shirts
* Small and medium size men’s jackets
* Small and medium size men’s jumpers
* Men’s hoodies and tracksuit bottoms

They are also requesting the following for children:  pads of paper, crayons, pencils, sharpeners.

Ring Ivanka on 07802 631023 for more details.

**UNITED WE STAND**

The Christian Unity Commission (CUC) does what it says on the tin: it works for unity among Christians. How would you like to become involved?

You don’t need any previous experience or special qualifications, just a desire to help and serve the Church.

Contact Deacon Michael Baldry for more information by emailing michaelbaldry@rcaos.org.uk

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

Give Fr Roy or Deacon Philip the name of anyone who is sick so that it can be included in the newsletter and in the Bidding Prayers at Sunday Mass.

**KEEP FIT CLASSES**

Classes are returning on Monday (the 13th from 11am - 12 noon. Everyone welcome, whatever fitness level you are at.

We will be using floor mats, weights and stretch bands - if you have these please bring them along as you are now expected to supply your own equipment at all fitness classes after COVID.

We are a safe environment in the church hall: we just ask you be sensible about your health.

We Look forward to seeing you there - come and have a trial session. Contact Gill, the fitness tutor on g.tomei@btopenworld.com for more details.

**CELEBRATING CREATION**

From the G7 to CoP26 we have a wonderful opportunity to highlight the beauty of the Earth and our place within it during the Sunday Liturgy.

The Diocesan Liturgy Commission would like to offer some suggestions and resources for worship particularly for (but not excluded to) the Season of Creation which runs from 1st September to 4th October.  It is hoped that these resources would bring out the rich expressions of creation within the Liturgy, leading the worshipping community to a deeper awareness of our responsibility and the inevitable gratitude to God for the gift of all of creation.

Please the attached document for details:  Seven Ways to Bring Creation to Mass



**THANK YOU, TEACHERS**

This year the focus of Education Sunday on September 12 is to thank all those who work in Catholic schools for their hard work and dedication over what has been a very challenging 18 months.

To help celebrate this special occasion the Catholic Education Service has provided a range of resources.

They include:

[A message of support and thanks for teachers, school leasers and support staff in Catholic schools from Bishop Marcus Stock](https://cesew.us.junglemailpages.com/link/?c=75e2da98-80f2-487a-a019-d2ac77241bb3&j=e2318687-6b6e-4186-8097-e8b7a8b8156a&l=d91017e8-f634-418b-a7c6-997379ce5ad4&e=90b63021-7d95-4ee0-88fe-a889e3f105c9&p=0)

[A prayer card, offering a prayer of thanksgiving for teachers](https://cesew.us.junglemailpages.com/link/?c=75e2da98-80f2-487a-a019-d2ac77241bb3&j=e2318687-6b6e-4186-8097-e8b7a8b8156a&l=c286d85a-deba-49ea-9c9b-3f0bdece5234&e=90b63021-7d95-4ee0-88fe-a889e3f105c9&p=0)

More resources can be found on the CES website:

[https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/schools/education-sunday](https://cesew.us.junglemailpages.com/link/?c=75e2da98-80f2-487a-a019-d2ac77241bb3&j=e2318687-6b6e-4186-8097-e8b7a8b8156a&l=ccdc7a21-1ac1-457c-8055-d1a6c1ef4a06&e=90b63021-7d95-4ee0-88fe-a889e3f105c9&p=0)

**ALTAR SERVERS’ RALLY**

The Guild of St Stephen will be holding their annual Altar Servers’ Rally on Saturday September 18 at Aylesford Priory.

The day commences at 10.15 am with registration, followed by a call for altar servers who wish to enrol to gather in the Relic Chapel at 10.45 am.  Mgr John O’Toole will celebrate Mass at 11.30 am. All are welcome. Bring a picnic and make a day of it.

For full details, email john.bonnici@btopenworld.com



**A MILLION GESTURES OF KINDNESS**

The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is seeking a million gestures of kindness to address the trail of poverty and loneliness left in the wake of Covid-19.

Launching its Awareness Month campaign, which runs throughout September and includes the feast days of SVP founder Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and the Society’s patron saint, St Vincent de Paul, on September 9 and 27 respectively, the SVP has called for parishioners in the Southwark dioceseto become member, volunteer a few hours of their time or donate to support people in need.

For more details contact our own parish SVP group by emailing andrealightman@hotmail.co.uk

**LITTLE FLOWER PILGRIMAGE**

The Little Flower Pilgrimage will take place at Aylesford Priory on Sunday September 26 led by the Grand Prior.

The day commences with a gathering service and banner blessing at noon. There will time for private prayer before joining together for the Blessing of the Roses on the Rosary Way. The pilgrimage will conclude with Mass at 3pm in Honour of St Therese of the Child Jesus. All are welcome.

**A WILL TO HELP ST CHRISTOPHER’S**

Do you need to make or update your will? Take advantage of St Christopher’s Will Week, 20-24 September, and support your local hospice at the same time.

During Will Week local solicitors waive their usual fee to write a simple will, in return for a donation to the hospice.

Simply call one of the listed solicitors on the first day of Will Week to make an appointment (which can be taken at a later date).

Once your will is made, the solicitor will ask you to make the donation to St Christopher’s. For more information visit [www.stchristophers.org.uk/willweek](http://www.stchristophers.org.uk/willweek) or call 020 8768 4575.

**THE ARCHBISHOP’S CERTIFICATE**

How about signing up for the Archbishop’s Certificate (ArchCert), an online course for all in Southwark who wish to know their Catholic faith more deeply?

To obtain it, participants 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 both confidence and joy.

The course will commence on October 9 and the cost is £365 per year. 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=7e2b3ef9a7)

**PARISH INCOME**

The Offertory Collection on August 29 totalled £494.04 of which £219 was Gift Aided and £258.05 not. In addition £16.99 was donated for Repository items.

The Offertory Collection on September 5 totalled £824.78 of which £280.50 was Gift Aided and £459.70 not. In addition £84.58 was donated in Votive Candles contributions.

Grateful thanks to all concerned.