**St Columba’s Church, Selsdon**

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**12 DECEMBER 2021**

**3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

**A reading from the prophet Zephaniah: 3:14-18**

**Responsorial Psalm IS 12:2-6. Rv.6**

**2nd Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians: 4:4-7**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Luke: 3:10-18**

**Communion Antiphon:** Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

**MORNING PRAYER EACH MORNING**

*Morning Mass is now preceded by Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours.*

*It starts at 9.40am every weekday.*

*No one requires a breviary because it is all projected on to the back wall of the sanctuary.*

**HEAR THE SOUL SYMPHONY CHOIR**

There is going to be a carol concert given by the Soul Symphony Choir in the church on Saturday December 11.

It will start at 5.45pm and finish before 6.30pm Mass.

Members of the choir include St Columba’s parishioners.

**DON’T FORGET MONDAY’S TALK**

It’s at 7pm on Monday (the 13th), will be given by Fr Roy and, following on from evening prayer, is going to be on the subject of Advent repentance. What better way to prepare for Christmas…

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

Here are the times of Masses over the Christmas weekend.

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| Friday 24th Dec | 6pm and midnight *(note there will be no morning Mass on Christmas Eve)* |
| Saturday 25th Dec | 8am and 10am *(note there will be no evening Mass on Christmas Day)* |
| Sunday 26th Dec | 8am, 10am and 6.30pm |
| Monday 27th Dec | 10am |

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**GAUDETE (REJOICE)**

The third Sunday of lent is called “Gaudete.” Literally it means rejoice. In latin gaudete is an imperative, a command, an order, do it. Rejoice! The Second reading is from the letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians. “ Brother and sisters rejoice in the Lord always. “ I shall say it again rejoice.” This is strange because of the word “always.”To rejoice when you are doing well is fine but how can it be always? How can you rejoice when you just have had a bad news. When you missed the job you fancy most? When someone is lying sick in the hospital how can he/she rejoice? I would say you must be joking.

Who can be commanded to rejoice? Joy as an emotion comes and goes, it is out of our control. St. Paul challenges us to find out then the spiritual truth of rejoicing. It is indeed the case the emotional state of feeling good cannot be commanded because joy is conditioned by the factors beyond our control. We may feel joy at this moment but there is no guarantee that we will feel the same in the next minute or hour at least. The things that cannot be demanded is not what Paul mean. In other words, for Paul emotional joy is not the issue. To help us get to the bottom of it is the analogy of the wheel of fortune, at the top of the wheel is the king and at the bottom is the pauper. As the wheel spins clock wise the king moves aways from the top and the other close to him moves to the top. As the wheel of fortune spins the condition of our emotion changes also. The constant movement of the wheel drives down the people on top and drives up the people down. This principle conditions so much the emotions of the people living in the rim of the wheel. This is the nature of the rim of the wheel because it dictates the emotion of the people living in it and not much can be done about that.

In the centre of the wheel is the picture of Christ, as the wheel turns he remains the same. “Jesus the same yesterday, today and forever.” Jesus represents that place of contact with God. Being grounded in the eternity of God which does not change even if our fortune changes. Jesus as the centre remains the place of contact with God. The point is most us live our lives tragically on the rim of the wheel. Greek fathers tell us to live at the centre of the wheel. The fathers teach us to practice “Apatheia,” it means living by detachment, if we live our lives wholly focus on Jesus from central location we can watch wheel go round and round. Living in Christ means living in joy, living in peace. this is what Paul rejoice. I can be commanded to live in the centre of the wheel not in the rim. “It is no longer I who lived in me but Christ lives in me.”

Let me conclude this reflection that to get our attention to the centre of the wheel we need to pray. Prayer is raising of mind and heart into God. In effect prayer is consciously moving from the rim into the centre of the wheel. At the centre of the wheel rejoice can be commanded.

**REMEMBER THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Please pray for all those who are sick or in need at this time.

In particular remember in your prayers: Teresa Madden, Jeffrey Wei, Nicola Gingell, Judy Freegard, Christine Marchant, Douglas & Yvonne Bruce, Margaret Bolton, Eddie Aldridge, Jean-Claude Anthony, Ellen Everett, Maureen Coffey, Patrick Acholonu, Christopher Onyeachom 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 11th  | 6.30pm | Colleen Hiett, RIP |
| Sun 12th  | 8.00am | Holy Souls |
| Sun 12th  | 10.00am | Pro Populo |
| Sun 12th  | 6.30pm | Elizabeth, Celida & Franz Sensano, RIP |
| Mon 13th  | 10.00am | Kathleen & Geoffrey Weston, RIP |
| Tues 14th  | 10.00am | Ellen Chaplin, RIP |
| Wed 15th  | 10.00am | Keith Sandland, well-being |
| Thurs 16th  | 10.00am | Holy Souls |
| Fri 17th  | 10.00am | John Joe O'Reilly, RIP |
| Sat 18th  | 6.30pm | Michael Skinner, RIP |
| Sun 19th  | 8.00am | Derek Ah Quat,RIP, Nom Chong & the Ah Quat Family, well-being |
| Sun 19th  | 10.00am | Angela Lamell, RIP |
| Sun 19th  | 6.30pm | Pro Populo |

**CHRISTMAS TREES & CRIB**

These will be assembled in the church during the coming week.

The memory tree, a variation on the theme of the Christmas tree, will be positioned in the lady chapel. The idea is that you write a little message and hang it on the tree. It could, for example, be a prayer for a deceased family member or friend or a ‘thank you’ to God for favour received or a prayer for someone who is ill.

The Christmas tree proper and the crib are being assembled on December 18 – any children who would like to help decorate them are invited to come along to the church between 1-3pm.

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| **LITURGICAL CALENDAR OF THE WEEK** |
| Sat 11th  | Weekday of Advent, St Damasus I, Pope |
| Sun 12th  | 3rd Sunday of Advent |
| Mon 13th  | St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr |
| Tues 14th  | St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church |
| Wed 15th  | Weekday of Advent |
| Thurs 16th  | Weekday of Advent |
| Fri 17th  | Weekday of Advent |
| Sat 18th  | Weekday of Advent |
| Sun 19th  | 4th Sunday of Advent |

**CHRISTMAS SPRING CLEAN**

We all want St Columba’s looking its very best for the Christmas services.

And it’s a long time since the church was thoroughly cleaned throughout.

So an extra-special church-cleaning session is being organised for Saturday December 18.

Whether you are on the church cleaning list or not, please come along, even if only for half an hour, to lend a hand.

Remember: the more the merrier (men and women!) – and the quicker the job will be done.

There is a rota on the noticeboard in the porch of tasks which need to be completed.

Please put your name down – you can come along at any time between 10.30am and 6pm.

Please bring along your own cleaning materials - a vacuum cleaner will be provided.

***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.

That is particularly so given the latest developments with the Omicron variety of the virus and the fact that it is something of an unknown quantity.

So, for the benefit of all parishioners please continue to:

* Remember to bring and wear a face mask covering the nose as well as the mouth. Remember this protects other people.
* 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.
* Ensure plenty of social distancing in the church and in the benches unless you are in a family group.
* Stewards will continue to sanitize the seating after each Mass.

***We can now offer each other the Sign of Peace but please do not shake hands. Instead just exchange a bow.***

**CHRISTMAS: BUY AT ST COLUMBA’S**

Christmas cards, children's books and calendars are all now available in the repository/church shop at the back of St Columba’s.

**Quiz Night - COVID permitting**

The UCM will be hosting a quiz night on the evening of 5th January 2022 at 7.30pm and all are invited. Why not come along with family and friends and enjoy a fun evening? There will be cheese and biscuits to tuck into and a chance to win a prize in a raffle. Guests will need to bring their own drinks.

All we ask is for a donation on the door, and your company. So why not put the date in your diary and join us to make this a great night?

**HOW YOUR ONLINE SHOPPING CAN HELP ST COLUMBA’S**

Have you joined easyfundraising yet? So far 28 parishioners have signed up and, at no cost to them, St Columba’s has benefitted to the tune of £175. Not bad, eh?

How does it work? It’s simple.

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) **SAFEGUARDING: BE RESPONSIBLE**We as a parish have a duty and responsibility to keep children and vulnerable adults safe when they are in church or attending church events and services.That’s what Safeguarding does. It’s active right across the diocese (and in all other dioceses as well) including here at St Columba’s.If you have any concerns or queries about possible abuse of children or vulnerable adults, contact Gill Tomei (g.tomei@btopenworld.com), Richard Mills or Claire Tucker in complete confidence. All their contact details can be found on the noticeboard at the back of the church.**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. ***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. |  |  |

**HELP WITH YOUR SHOPPING?**

Do you find it difficult carrying your shopping home?

Would you like a helping hand? If so, why not take advantage of this service on offer from Contact? The Contact shopping bus runs on a fortnightly basis to Sainsbury’s at Warlingham.

Clients are collected from their homes and are fully supported by our drivers and escorts. One to one help is available if you use a wheelchair.

Each client is able to fill a maximum of three bags of shopping during the hour instore. Help with packing and carrying the bags is given.

The cost is £7 per trip, much cheaper than a taxi!

Telephone 020 8651 4944 for more details.

**NAMES ON OUR SICK LIST**

Every Sunday a list of names of those who are very sick is read out during the Bidding Prayers so that we can all pray for them.

That same list appears in the weekly-updated newsletter on the parish website.

Some of the names on that list are parishioners; some, family members or friends of parishioners; some have been there for a long time and some we don't recognise.

It could be that some are now fully recovered but no one has told us.

So unless we have heard from you to the contrary, we have removed the names of those we don't know currently to be seriously ill.

If you know of anyone who is seriously ill and in need of our prayers but not on our list, please tell Fr Roy or Deacon Philip and we shall add them on.

**WANTED: ALTAR SERVERS**

Ever since the pandemic began in early 2020, altar serving has been suspended.

But things are improving and it’s now time for our altar servers to return to the sanctuary.

If you were a server before the lockdowns, do come back: we would love to see you in the sanctuary.

Our MC, John Fennell, is drawing up a new rota so that we can, hopefully, return to having several servers at all four Sunday Masses.

Altar serving is an important and fulfilling role at Mass and we would welcome new servers, boys as well as girls.

Contact John on thefennells60@gmail.com if you are interested.

Applicants must have made their first Holy Communion, so anyone aged eight or upwards is eligible.

There is no upper age limit, which means that teenagers and adults too qualify.

**SCHOOL GOVERNORS WANTED**

Do you have skills to offer as a governor or trustee in the Catholic schools in Southwark?

The Education Commission for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark is looking to build up its list of people able to offer time, expertise and commitment to support primary, secondary schools and sixth form colleges in the area.

If you are interested visit the website:

<https://www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/could-you-become-a-governor/Education>

**CELEBRATE ST COLUMBA**

Colmcille 1500 has been set up to commemorate the 1500th anniversary of the birth of our very own St Columba.

﻿﻿Anyone with any relevant photos, artwork or written components is invited to share them on social media platforms to celebrate the reach this saint has in 2021, 1,500 years after his birth.

﻿For more information and to participate visit any of these three links:

[colmcille1500.com/english/](https://colmcille1500.com/english/)﻿

[www.facebook.com/Colmcille1500NW/](https://www.facebook.com/Colmcille1500NW/)﻿

[www.instagram.com/colmcille1500/](https://www.instagram.com/colmcille1500/)﻿

**CAROLS OUTSIDE SAINSBURY'S**

The annual Christmas carols concert organised by Churches Together in Selsdon & Addington will take place on Saturday December 18 from 11-12 noon.

As usual St Columba's will be represented among the singers. Why not come and join us?

All are welcome and you don't need to be an opera singer to take part; simply willing and able to sing carols.

We shall gather just outside Sainsbury's around 10.50am.

We hope to see you there.

**MARY OSAI-BOBI RIP**

We have just heard that a former parishioner, Mary Osai-Bobi, also known as Joy, died this week.

After a long spell in Selsdon, Mary moved to live with her family in Ghana several years ago and took on a new lease of life.

Her funeral will be held in Ghana.

May she rest in peace.

**CONFIRMATIONS DECEMBER 17**

Some 32 young people will receive the sacrament of Confirmation at a special 6pm Mass on December 17.

Bishop Paul Hendricks will officiate.

Please keep all of the candidates in your prayers.

**GUESS HOW MUCH WE RAISED?**

Last Sunday’s concert (a most enjoyable event for all concerned) raised the magnificent sum of £429 for Ahotokurom, the leprosy village in Ghana which we as a parish have adopted and support.

A brilliant effort, as was the concert given by the South London Concert Band. The Conductor was St Columba’s very own director of music, Tony Ryan.

A total of 75 people were there in person to enjoy the big-band performance (plus mulled wine during the interval) with another 70-odd watching on YouTube.

Well done and thanks, all concerned.

**WANTED: £581.20 FOR CRISIS**

The group of keep-fitters who meet and exercise regularly at St Columba’s have raised the excellent sum of £325 for the charity Crisis.

According to Crisis, “£581.20 could help 20 people take their first steps out of homelessness…”

Are you willing to help them do that? Another £256.20 is needed…

You can donate to their JustGiving page by clicking here: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Gillian-Tomei1WalkingChallenge?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=Gillian-Tomei1WalkingChallenge&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=d42fd216166244b2a93f308782aa0a54>.
Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to Crisis, so it's the most efficient way to give - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.

**REGINA COELI APPLICATIONS**

A message from Regina Coeli Catholic primary school in Pampisford Road, South Croydon…

“We are a friendly school with dedicated staff, hard-working and confident pupils, loyal parents, supportive governors and committed parish priests.

Our school is committed to developing both the personal and academic dimensions of a child in line with the School Mission Statement and the School Development Plan. Pupils achieve results well above the national average.

If you are looking for a school place for your child, we would be very happy for you to visit us.

We are currently holding tours on Mondays and Tuesday and invite you to call the school office to make an appointment: 020 8688 4582”