**St Columba’s Church**

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**12TH JULY 2020 - 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)**

**DAILY MASS ONLINE FROM ST COLUMBA’S (10AM EVERY DAY EXCEPT SATURDAYS)**

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

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

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

**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.

**1st Reading: from the prophet Isiah 55:10-11**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 64:10-14. R.Lk 8:8**

Some seed fell into rich soil and produced its crop.

**2nd Reading: from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:18-23**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23**

**Communion Antiphon:** Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

**PRAY FOR THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Andrew Martin, Nina Wade, Roger Fenton, Deacon John Letley, Joan Cunningham, John Davis, Noreen Lawlor, Solveya La Marina, Chris Jones, Maria Reece, 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 and sick residents at the four residential homes usually, in better times, visited by the parish SVP group.

***ATTENDING MASS AT ST COLUMBA’S – WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW***

Mass times are just as they were before the lockdown: Saturday 6.30pm, Sunday 8am, 10am and 6.30pm. During the week there is Mass every day at 10am (except Saturday). The daily 10am Mass continues to be live streamed on the internet.

But as you will have seen if you attended Mass at St Columba’s during this past week, things are not back to normal.

* Everyone attending Mass must provide their name and contact details (phone number or email or postal address).
* You must wear a face mask in church so bring your own. There will be some provided for those who forget.
* A maximum of 57 people are allowed into the church for Mass. ***If there are already that number inside when you arrive, the stewards will advise that you need to come back to a later Mass.***
* Access is only via the side door leading into the Sacred Heart chapel/confessional and people must leave via the main central rear doors. Follow the signs.
* Hand sanitizer is provided for use both on entering and leaving the church.
* Chairs have replaced the benches and are at 1m intervals to ensure the necessary social distancing. Please do not move them.
* There are no votive candles, no holy water, no singing, no Bidding Prayers and no Sign of Peace.
* No prayer/hymn books or any other shared items are available. Bring your own.
* There is no Offertory collection. Please place your offering in the baskets at the entrance/exit.
* Stewards will guide and advise you on when and how to come forward for Holy Communion which is ***completely silent***.
* You are asked to leave straight after Holy Communion – do not go back to your seat and do not congregate in the car park.
* ***The toilets cannot be used.***

**COMING TO MASS: HELP US TO HELP YOU**

If at all possible, email us ***every time*** you intend coming to Mass. It will save filling up a form with your name and contact details when you arrive and reduce queuing. And please, please, to avoid transmission of the virus, do not touch any chairs other than the one you are using. All have to be cleaned after use.

**A MESSAGE & REFLECTION FROM FR ROY**

**FOR THE 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

The first reading from the prophet Isaiah reminds us of the power of the word of God. The word of God nourishes and enriches all those with open hearts and minds who welcome it, thus accomplishing God’s purpose.

Uniquely, God spoke directly to His people, Israel; His chosen people. Being His chosen people, they had a responsibility to listen to his words.

The primary purpose of the word of God is to give life. It produces concrete benefits for all who listen to it. In the spiritual order, it has the capacity to create and re-order things.

The word of God effects reality. So, for example, when God says ‘Let there be light’, light comes. God speaks the word into being. Hence, God’s word shapes reality.

Language has a creative and productive role. I would like to link this to an important phenomenon of our generation – the power of social media. I hope all of us are aware of the danger and risks of social media to our individual and communal lives. An example, widely reported, is the young woman who was tipped into depression because she did not get a positive reaction to the picture she posted on Instagram. People are increasingly being influenced by the number of affirmative and negative feedbacks posted on social media. I find that disturbing because it makes us increasingly vulnerable to people’s criticism. Affirmation and negative comments can have a lasting effect on people. Destructive comments on social media can destroy our confidence and ruin our lives. This is a result of our generation’s popularity culture.

Affirmative and negative feedback on social media are counter-productive because of their lack of spiritual value. Instead, remember that we should never entrust our lives to anyone other than God. We need to recognise and embrace the word of God which has true worth in our lives, bringing the comfort and reassurance that comes from knowing that we are his friends.

Open your eyes to the fact that the current situation in our society is not acceptable. We need a new way of looking at the meaning of life; to recognise the destructive pattern caused by sin in our lives.

As I mentioned earlier, language has a creative and productive role. Only the word of God can recreate us, transforming us into his sons and daughters – and even then only if we listen to his words. Again, repeating what I said earlier, God’s word has creative effects because it effects a reality.

So accept the challenge of fully trusting Him and you will never be disappointed because the word of God has the capacity to change the way things are.

It can give us new heart. It can recreate everyone who listens to it.

So allow His word to invade your heart - allow it to be immersed in God’s power. That is how we build the confidence completely shattered by sin; how we rededicate to God every aspect of lives infiltrated by the poison of sin.

We need to do it. And we can do it, re-consecrating ourselves to God.

Just have faith. Then Jesus’s Word will change you and transform you.

**PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED**

Gerald Heady and victims of Covid-19 – may they rest in peace.

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

Sun 12TH: 15th Sunday in ordinary time Year A

Mon 13th: Feria or St Mildred

Tues 14th: Feria or St Camillus de Lellis

Wed 15th: St Bonaventure

Thurs 16th: Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Fri 17th : Feria

Sat 18th: Feria or Our Lady

Sun 19th: 16th Sunday in ordinary time

**WHO IS IN NEED OF PRAYERS?**

*If you or people you know are in particular need of our prayers, let Deacon Philip know so that the name(s) can be included in the prayer list of people who are sick or needy.*

**WOULD YOU LIKE A MASS SAID?**

If you wish to have a Mass offered for a special intention, you can do so. Use one of the special envelopes at the back of the church. Or email details to Fr Roy. Or write them out 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 and if there is a specific anniversary or if it is some 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.

**BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS TO GO AHEAD**

Just arrived from Archbishop John, confirmation that we can now go ahead with celebrating baptisms and weddings again at St Columba’s. We can also now start planning again for Confirmations, although organising those is going to take some time.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 11th: 6.30pm Holy Souls

Sun 12th: 8am Sebastian Dias RIP

Sun 12th: 10am Isobelle

Sun 12th: 6.30pm Pro Populo

Mon 13th: 10am Holy Souls

Tues 14th: 10am Nora Madden RIP

Wed 15th: 10am Holy Souls

Thurs 16th: Holy Souls

Fri 17th: 10am Holy Souls

Sat 18th: 6.30pm Frederick Mills RIP

Sun 19th: 8am Holy Souls

Sun 19th 10am Tony Russell RIP

Sun 19th: 6.30pm Pro Populo

**MORE GEMS FROM YOUNG CHILDREN: KIDS WILL BE KIDS…**

We published some of these last week and here are a few more. Pay special attention to the wording and spelling of the little gems that follow, kindly submitted by Edmund Tame.

A group of children at a Caithness school were asked questions about the Old and New Testament. These are some of their answers. They have not been retouched or corrected. Incorrect spelling has been left in.

1. Moses died before he ever reached canada then Joshua led the hebrews in the battle of geritol.
2. The greatest miricle in the bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
3. David was a hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar. He fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times.
4. Solomon, one of Davids sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
5. When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the magna carta.
6. When the three wise guys from the east side arrived they found Jesus in the manager.
7. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
8. St. John the blacksmith dumped water on his head.
9. Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says to do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.
10. It was a miricle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
11. The people who followed the lord were called the 12 decibels.
12. The epistels were the wives of the apostles.
13. One of the oppossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.
14. St. Paul cavorted to christianity, he preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marraige.
15. Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.

Funny? Or what!

**DO YOU NEED HELP?**

Are you in need? Struggling to cope? Worried out of your mind?

Take comfort: help is at hand.

The parish St Vincent de Paul (SVP) conference is ready and willing and able to do whatever it can to help you. And in complete confidence.

Give Diane a ring on 01883 627 138.

**REMEMBER: THERE IS NO LONGER A SATURDAY MORNING MASS ONLINE**

**HOW YOU CAN HELP ST COLUMBA’S WHEN YOU GO SHOPPING ONLINE**

*Deacon Philip writes:* Several parishioners have now signed up for this scheme, me included. It means that you can turn your everyday 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 visit the [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) website, register (which is quick and easy) and then go shopping online at whichever retailer you choose.

Each time you buy something a small donation is made to St Columba’s. 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)

**REMEMBER THE FOODBANK**

Calls on the Salvation Army’s Vine Foodbank at New Addington which we at St Columba’s have regularly supported over the years have increased significantly.

The demand has rocketed during the lockdown and, of course, we can no longer hand in items at the church. You can still help, however. Phone Lesley Holland (07906 097473) to find out what they most need and how to give. You can donate via this website:

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| <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/newaddingtonsalvationarmy> |

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**WHAT ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER…?**This newsletter, that is. Do you find it useful, worthwhile, informative? What else might we include in it? Is it worth continuing? Tell us what you think. Also we need contributions – comments, suggestions, experiences, even complaints and, yes, jokes too would be welcome. Contact Deacon Philip with your comments and suggestions.  |   |

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**INTENTIONS TO PRAY FOR…**

These are the intentions the Church asks us to pray for during this current period:

* For a deeper understanding between Christians and Jews.
* For those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights.
* For human life
* For seafarers
* For Europe.

**COUNTING THE FINANCIAL COST TO ST COLUMBA’S OF THE LOCKDOWN**

We have mentioned it before but it needs to be said again. Because of the coronavirus lockdown, many people were unable to make their usual contribution to the everyday running costs of the parish and our parish priest. Not being at Mass has meant no opportunity to put money in the Offertory collection basket. (Likewise Fr Roy’s Easter offering, your personal gift to your parish priest.) That lack of income is beginning to have a serious effect. Now that lockdown restrictions have eased, do please, if you have fallen behind, give serious thought to catching up on your contributions. There are a number of options. Put the money in a

collection basket when you come to Mass. Post an offering through the presbytery letterbox. Better still, make a payment online or, best of all, set up a monthly standing order: the parish bank account number is 79124313 and the sort code 60-50-01.

**NEW OPEN TIMES FOR ST COLUMBA’S**

Don’t forget that with St Columba’s now open every day for Mass, the church will no longer be open daily from 11-12.30.

**THE OBLIGATION TO GO TO SUNDAY MASS**

St Columba’s is now open for the celebration of Mass. But as Archbishop John has confirmed, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still suspended. Also, as he points out, if you are potentially vulnerable to Covid-19, you may be nervous about attending Sunday Mass because of the number of people likely to be there. In which case – if you are healthy enough – consider going to a weekday Mass instead. Or simply attend a virtual Mass online.

**THAT ABORTION VOTE IN PARLIAMENT**

As we reported last week, abortion amendments had been proposed for the Domestic Abuse Bill being discussed in the House of Commons last Monday.

If agreed, the changes would have left England and Wales with one of the most extreme abortion laws in the world.

The good news is that the amendments were rejected, not even discussed. Thanks to all those who wrote to their MP protesting against the changes.

**WHAT IS MASS LIKE NOW ST COLUMBA’S HAS REOPENED?**

Different! And shorter. These are unusual times…

There is a one-way system – in at the side, out at the back.

We are using chairs instead of the benches, which seems strange at first although you soon get used to it.

Holy Communion is distributed (in silence) after Mass ends.

And of course everyone is wearing face masks.

Not surprisingly, numbers are down.

Last Sunday, there were between 20 and 30 people only at each Mass. During the week, the numbers ranged from 8-12 daily.

Do come to Mass if you can but only if you feel comfortable with the idea. Remember: health and safety come first.

And don’t forget before setting off to email us your name and contact details (email or postal address or phone number) plus the date and time of the Mass you are attending. That is required by the Government’s Track & Trace scheme – the details are destroyed after 21 days.