**St Columba’s Church, Selsdon**

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**13TH JUNE 2021**

**11th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**(YEAR B)**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my saviour!

**A reading from the prophet Ezekiel: 17:22-24**

**Responsorial Psalm PS 91:2-3. 13-16. Rcf. V2:** It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

**2nd Reading: A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians: 5:6-10**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Mark 4:26-34**

**Communion Antiphon:** There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live on the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

**COVID PRECAUTIONS AT MASS: WHAT’S CHANGED**

In line with the Government’s Covid road map to normalisation, our Archbishop, John Wilson, has relaxed some of the restrictions placed on the celebration of Mass.

We can now once again have the Prayer of the Faithful (Bidding Prayers).

Holy Communion can be distributed with the usual invitation by the minister and response by the communicant: ‘Body of Christ – Amen’.

Holy Communion will still, however, continue to be given in the hand only and after Mass ends.

**11TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

Prophet Ezekiel gives us an insight into a special period of the history of Israel. He is a temple priest who was exiled during the first wave of the Babylonian exile 597 B.C. Chapter 17 Ezekiel is in Babylon, a great literary figure. He presents an allegorical history of the Jewish people, “

Thus, says the Lord; an eagle with great wings, long pinioned, rich with many coloured-plumages, came to the Lebanon. He took the top of the cedar tree, he plucked off the top branch, he carried it off to the country of merchants and set it down in a city of shopkeepers…”

Great eagle with long pinions is a symbol of Babylon, an imperial power and “rich with many coloured-plumages signifies the many ethnic background under the imperial power of Babylon. In 597 Babylon conquered Israel and exiled the elite leaders of Israel and send them to the city of Babylon. Israel has become a subject of Babylon. Huge problem came when Israel shifted its allegiance to another eagle in the west namely Egypt. For that reason, `Babylon was extremely upset by this, thus it led to another punishment and the destruction of Jerusalem temple.

This allegory is the politics of the world. Review the history of the world, who would ever thought that the Roman empire will collapse. They are the mighty eagles of the first century. Think of the mighty eagles of the medieval history how the Europeans have conquered the world. Think of the 18th and 19th century, the imperial powers that discovered Africa and the Americas. The religious meaning of it is in verse 22 “The Lord Yahweh say this: From the top of the tall cedar tree, from the highest branch I shall take a shoot and plant it myself on a high and lofty mountain. I shall plant it on the highest mountain in Israel….”

We got two great birds Babylon and Egypt, Israel is caught between it. God will build a kingdom above the two great powers. Linking this point with the gospel this Sunday, Jesus the Son of God also the son of Israel. “The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of the all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.” God is building the kingdom that will last forever.

Kingdoms of this world come and go. This point leads us to the kingdom that Jesus Christ started with a handful of disciples. For those who have travelled to Rome. Every liturgical celebration performed in front of St. Peter’s basilica reminds us how far we have become into a kingdom. Yet, we are all aware that the work is not yet done. Whenever we travel and attend mass at the host country we feel at home knowing that the people around us belongs to the same kingdom that Jesus is building. Let us keep our eyes to the kingdom that will last and that matters.

**REMEMBER THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Please pray for all those who are sick or in need at this time including: Howard Francis, Douglas & Yvonne Bruce, Colin Furk, Vera De Souza, Mike Bond, Alice Barclay, Thelma Benn, Cora Litchfield, Sean Walsh, 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, James Guckian, 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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| **LITURGICAL CALENDAR OF THE WEEK** | |
| Sat 12th | Immaculate Heart of Mary |
| Sun 13th | 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| Mon 14th | Weekday of Ordinary Time |
| Tues 15th | Weekday of Ordinary Time |
| Wed 16th | Weekday in Ordinary Time or Saint Richard of Chichester, Bishop |
| Thurs 17th | Weekday in Ordinary Time |
| Fri 18th | Weekday in Ordinary Time |
| Sat 19th | Weekday in Ordinary Time or Saint Romuald, abbot |
| Sun 20th | 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time |

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| **MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK** | | |
| Sat 12th | 6.30pm | Pro Populo |
| Sun 13h | 8.00am | Intention of the Alvarez Family |
| Sun 13th | 10.00am | Lucia & Vittoria & Rosa, RIP |
| Sun 13th | 6.30am | Vincent Dias, RIP |
| Mon 14th | 10.00am | Intention of the Alvarez Family |
| Tues 15th | 10.00am | Margarette Smith, RIP |
| Wed 16th | 10.00am | Intention of the Alvarez Family |
| Thurs 17th | 10.00am | Hayat Dayani, wellbeing |
| Fri 18th | 10.00am | Maagid El Saarany, RIP |
| Sat 19th | 6.30pm | Ollie Hogan, RIP |
| Sun 20th | 8.00am | Pro Populo |
| Sun 20th | 10.00am | Intentions of the Savi Ilangantileke Family |
| Sun 20th | 6.30pm | Bartholomew Ramos, RIP |

***STEPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF WHEN COMING TO CHURCH…***

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 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.
* 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 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.

**FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION**

First Communions will take place on Sunday June 27 at noon.

A dozen children are now being prepared for their first Holy Communion (and Sacrament of Reconciliation). Please keep them all in your prayers.

**CONFIRMATIONS** 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.

Instruction is planned to start in June – the date will be announced shortly. Watch this space.



***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)  **DEAR HUSBAND & WIFE…**  You are invited to give each other a gift by spending July 10 online between 9am and 1pm exploring and improving your relationship.  The event, entitled ‘Building A Better Marriage’, will provide you with valuable insights into your communication skills and the call of the Church to the married.  There is no group sharing.  This is not marriage counselling but a chance to make average-to-good marriages a bit better – whether you married five years ago or 50.  Booking is essential: telephone 07983 524 727 or email [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk)  Recent online ‘Building a Better Marriage’ courses attracted the following comments from couples: ‘The topics were chosen well and we could really relate to them… The personal stories you shared were very insightful and helped us to reflect on our own relationships more deeply… It was relaxed and you put us at ease, being friendly and personable... We thoroughly enjoyed attending the course.’  **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 3pm 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](mailto: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.**  **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/> |  |  |

**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…**

**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>

**PLEASE DON’T FORGET…**

Keeping everyone safe when they come to Mass at St Columba’s is essential.

Using the defogger, a piece of machinery we now have for sanitizing the benches after Sunday Mass, is part of that.

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, take a marker paper when arriving and 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.

**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.

**RENATE FILM COMPETITION**

RENATE stands for Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation.

It is inviting 16-24-year-olds in European countries to join its mission to tackle human trafficking by entering a film competition.

RENATE encourages young people to get involved by producing a short film individually or as part of a team, up to four minutes long, around the slogan ‘Slavery - Human Trafficking - Near YOU!', and some or all of the following tags: #StopTheDemand, #BreakTheChains, #EndTheCycleTOGETHER.

The deadline date of entry is mid-August 2021.

For more information visit this website:

[www.renateevents.net/film-competition](http://www.renateevents.net/film-competition)

**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.

**GOING BACK TO MASS AGAIN**

**The bishops of England and Wales have produced a reflection entitled ‘The Day of the Lord’ linked to returning to Mass after the pandemic.**

**Its purpose is to pay tribute to all in the Catholic community ‘who have shown such courage, generosity and understanding in the face of adversity this past year’.**

**Click on this link to access the reflection: **

**THE LONDON JESUIT CENTRE**

Here are details of forthcoming events at the London Jesuit Centre:

June 19: 2-4pm ‘An Opportunity for Prayer’ - a retreat

June 21: Brian Purfield’s ‘Introduction to the Bible – morning and evening classes on offer.

More details from: [www.londonjesuitcentre.org](https://londonjesuitcentre.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ba5b3aa1bbd112142962fd5fd&id=fe4386ac1c&e=c39c69b4e0)

**ST PHILOMENA’S OPEN EVENING**

An open evening for entry to year 7 in September 2022 will take place at St Philomena’s Catholic High School for Girls on July 6.

There will be sessions at 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 5.30pm and 6.30pm.

One parent and one year 5 student per family only will be able to attend because of Covid restrictions.

Advance booking via the school website is essential: [www.stphils.org.uk](http://www.stphils.org.uk)

**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](mailto:enquery@thefriars.org.uk)

**THE OFFERTORY COLLECTION**

The Offertory collection for May 23 totalled £513.06 of which £288 was Gift Aided and £225.06 not.

The Offertory collection for May 30 totalled £747.05 of which £462.50 was Gift Aided and £264.55 not.

In addition £20 was received for Repository items.

Many thanks, everyone.

**MAJOR MARRIAGE PROBLEMS?**

Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have major difficulties in their marriage.

It brings a positive focus and new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage – and you don’t even need to leave home, it comes to you!

Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided.

The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken their love, trust and commitment. It helps them through difficult times, disillusionment and deep misery.

There is no group therapy or group work.

For confidential information about ‘Retrouvaille’ or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on July 1-4, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443. Alternatively email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit the website [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**SOME DEFINITE SERVICE: WHO’S IN?**

The Church is made up of people and so is *Some Definite Service* - Catechists, Formators, Evangelisers, Deanery Mentors, Parish Leads.

It is the goal and intention of our Archbishop John to invest time and energy in all involved in *Some Definite Service*, to ensure that those working in ministry are supported and do not feel isolated. Are you being called to be part of this network in a particular way?

For more information, please visit: [aec.rcaos.org.uk/sds](http://aec.rcaos.org.uk/sds)

**SITUATION VACANT AT PRISON TRUST**

The Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT) are seeking a Volunteering Manager.

Through the new Faith in Action programme ‘Just People’, they are seeking to provide opportunities for Catholics, Christians and whole parish communities to explore and deepen their faith and sense of lived discipleship by connecting people with opportunities to serve as volunteers.

The charity are seeking a person of faith who has an understanding of the Church alongside a strong commitment to Catholic Social Teaching.

They should also be a good communicator with project planning and implementation experience.

Salary: £28,000 per annum

Closing date for applications is June 17.

Further information: <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/current-vacancies>