**St Columba’s Church, Selsdon**

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**14 FEBRUARY 2021**

**6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

**1st Reading from the book of Leviticus: 13:1-2. 44-46**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. Rv7:** You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

**2nd Reading: from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians: 10:31-11:1**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Mark 1:40-45**

**Communion Antiphon:** They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

***MASS ON ASH WEDNESDAY***

That’s this Wednesday, the 17th. Mass will be at 10am and 7.30pm. For other daily Mass times see ‘Mass Intentions for the Week’ below. We continue to follow Government guidelines to ensure a safe environment at Mass. See ‘Precautions When Coming to Church’ below.

***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 will then need to contact anyone else who was at the same Mass.

**LIKE THE LEPER, IF WE HAVE CONTACT WITH JESUS WE TOO SHALL BE CURED**

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

The book of Leviticus, from which we just heard a reading, describes how lepers were treated during biblical times.

As soon as the symptoms appeared the affected person had to present themself at the temple.

There the priest was required to confirm the presence of the disease or its absence.

He also had the task of declaring whether the person was clean or unclean.

If the diagnosis had been confirmed by the priest, the sufferer was required to declare to everyone that they were unclean and thereafter to live away from and outside the community.

Thus, they were excluded not just from the community but also from liturgical life.

Imagine the trauma...

In explanation, leprosy at that time was considered a curse from God.

That reading from Leviticus sets the scene for today’s gospel.

A leper approaches Jesus. Note that he had not gone to the temple, to the priest.

Instead he went straight to Jesus.

This is spiritually symbolic because it indicates that the leper viewed Jesus as priest.

Jesus represents the humanity and divinity signified by the temple.

The leper appeals directly to Jesus: “If you wish you can cure me.”

As set out in Leviticus, the priest does not have the power to heal but only to declare the person clean or unclean.

In this case, the divinity of Jesus is clearly accentuated: his divinity is the foundation of healing.

By being in close contact with Jesus the leper exposes him so to speak to the virus.

Given that he has the correct spiritual attitude, the leper is confident of not making Jesus unclean; rather that the contact with Jesus will make him clean.

The point is: our having contact with Jesus will make us clean.

“If you want you can cure me...”

“Of course I want to. Be cured.”

Jesus came to us so that we might have life.

The Church embodies this attitude of Jesus: “Of course, I want to. Be cured.”

In other words, Jesus formed the Church in order to embody for everyone the healing love that he expresses to the leper.

The existence of the Church is linked to the desire of Jesus that every sinner who comes into contact with it will be healed.

The purpose of the Church, then, is to reach out to those who have been alienated from the community because of their sins.

Significantly, bridging the gap between the alienated sinner and the community is the realisation of the mission of the Church.

The moment the leper realised that he had been cured, he started talking about it.

The healed man started proclaiming the good news because of his healing.

In other words, he was evangelising.

At the heart of evangelisation is experiencing and sharing the love of God.

We become effective evangelisers if we experience first-hand the healing power of Jesus through the Church.

We do not need to experience the dramatic healing the leper had.

Every sinner is alienated from Jesus and our role is to bridge that gap and ensure that the sinner accepts the healing forgiveness of God.

The sense of having been forgiven is the greatest gift we can give a sinner.

And forgiveness empowers every Christian – us – to preach the good news and to become effective an evangeliser.

***PRECAUTIONS WHEN COMING TO CHURCH***

For safety’s sake, don’t forget when coming to Mass that there are certain precautions we must all follow:

* Remember to bring and wear a face mask – that should cover the nose as well as the mouth
* 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.
* To meet Track-and-Trace requirements, provide a written note – and this applies every time you come to church – of your name and contact details (phone number or email or postal address) plus the date and, if relevant, Mass time. To save queuing and filling out a form, why not send an email to selsdon@rcaos.org.uk?
* Use hand sanitizer, provided, both when entering and leaving the church.
* Do not move the chairs which have replaced our benches and are at 1m intervals to ensure the necessary social distancing.
* Don’t expect to find Mass or prayer books or any other shared items: bring your own. That applies to readers as well.
* Remember that singing is not allowed.
* Don’t forget that Holy Communion is silent.
* Before leaving the church (i.e. before you come up to receive Holy Communion), turn your chair back to front so that the stewards know which ones to clean afterwards.
* Leave the church straight after Holy Communion and don’t congregate outside to socialise.

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| **LITURGICAL CALENDAR OF THE WEEK** |
| Sat 13th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time |
| Sun 14th  | 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| Mon 15th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time  |
| Tues 16th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time  |
| Wed 17th  | **Ash Wednesday**  |
| Thurs 18th  | Weekday of Lent |
| Fri 19th  | Weekday of Lent |
| Sat 20th  | Weekday of Lent |
| Sun 21st  | 1st Sunday of Lent |

**DON’T REFUSE A COVID JAB**

**A series of films has been produced by the NHS to encourage and promote the uptake of Covid-19 vaccination across Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities as well as different faith groups. Presenters include a permanent deacon from St Joseph’s, Bromley. You can watch by clicking any of the links here:**

* YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1fo7mb0qmAvQANj-ByeV72ScnslGPk2M>
* Facebook: <https://fb.watch/3oZtBYzOUd/>
* Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NHSSELondonCCG/status/1356571921983426564>

**REMEMBER THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Please pray for all those in need at this time including: Rob Adams, Thelma Benn, Julie Ballesteros, Cora Litchfield, Sean Walsh, Lily Wei, Judy Freegard, Imogen Fernando, Joan Charman, Roger Fenton, 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 Patrick Guckian, Elizabeth Sensano, Stephen Beck and sick residents at the four residential homes usually, in better times, visited by the parish St Vincent de Paul group.

**YES, LENT STARTS WEDNESDAY – BEGIN PREPARING NOW**

Lent will shortly be upon us – Ash Wednesday is this week. So now is the time to prepare and start thinking about what you will do to mark this special time of the year.

As in previous years, Churches Together in Selsdon and Addington (CTSA) will be organizing Lent groups, providing the opportunity for people from different CTSA congregations to meet and discuss a Christian book.

This year, because of Covid-19, the Lent groups will meet on Zoom which means, of course, that you won’t need to leave your home in order to participate.

The subject of this year’s Lent groups course will be the book 'Bridging the Gaps' by Trevor Neill. To find out more and to sign up please click on this link: <https://forms.gle/8j4ppBKCWnhueQoB8>

**ASUF JAHANGIR RIP**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Asuf Jahangir, the husband of Rosemarie. May he rest in peace.

**TIME TO EMPTY THAT RED MISSIO BOX**

A good number of parishioners have these collecting boxes from the Mill Hill Missionaries (MHM).

Some will know them better as APF (Association for the Propagation of the Faith) boxes.

The money we put in them goes to help finance the invaluable work carried out in the missions by the MHM.

Normally these boxes would be emptied at least once during the year by our parish Missio coordinator, Edmund Tame, and the money sent to the MHM to help finance their work.

But that hasn’t proved possible this past year because of Covid.

And yet the work of the Mill Hill Missionaries goes on and, because of the coronavirus, is needed even more now than ever.

Boxes not being emptied has meant a dramatic fall in income for the MHM.

So why not empty your own box, count up the money and send a cheque, or do a bank transfer online, to the MHM?

They certainly need the money….

You can get their contact details on the website [www.missio.org.uk](http://www.missio.org.uk)

If you do send your box money direct, please let Edmund know because he needs to keep a record: email him on edmuta@googlemail.com

***DEAR HUSBAND & WIFE…***

*Dear Husband and Wife, You are invited to give each other a gift by spending March 13 online between 10am and 1pm exploring and improving your relationship.*

*The event is entitled ‘Building A Better Marriage’. It will provide you with valuable insights into your communication skills and the call of the Church to the married.*

*Please note that there is no group sharing. This is not marriage counselling but a chance to make average-to-good marriages a bit better.*

*That applies whether you have been married five years or 50.*

*Recent ‘Building a Better Marriage’ sessions attracted the following comments from married couples who logged on:*

*‘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.’*

*Booking is essential: telephone 07983 524 727 or email* *mflkent@rcaos.org.uk*

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| **MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK** |
| Sat 13th  | 6.30pm | Ellen Everitt, wellbeing |
| Sun 14th  | 8.00am | Tim Baile, wellbeing |
| Sun 14th  | 10.00am | Maura Jenkins, RIP & Juliette Tablizo, RIP |
| Sun 14th  | 6.30pm | Brigit Chacko, RIP |
| Mon 15th  | 10.00am | Pro Populo |
| Tues 16th  | 10.00am | Ivo De Souza Ticlo, RIP |
| Wed 17th  | 10.00am | Peter McKenna, RIP |
| Wed 17th  | 7.30pm | Angela’s Private Intention |
| Thurs 18th  | 10.00am | Stephen Lowndes, wellbeing |
| Fri 19th  | 10.00am | Keiran Connery, RIP |
| Sat 20th  |  6.30pm | Theresa Ponnampalam, RIP |
| Sun 21st  |  8.00am | Geoffrey Dodwell, RIP |
| Sun 21st  | 10.00am | Pro Populo |
| Sun 21st  | 6.30pm | Molly King, RIP, Joey King & Family |

**GOING INTO HOSPITAL? TELL US**

If you or a member of your family go into hospital, whether diagnosed with Covid or anything else, 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. And don’t forget to let Fr Roy or Deacon Philip know beforehand of your admission into hospital. We can then keep you in our prayers.



***SHOPPING ONLINE? HELP ST C’S AT NO COST TO YOURSELF***

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, in fact, 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. Each 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) **HOW IS YOUR MARRIAGE COPING WITH THE LATEST LOCKDOWN…?**There is so much uncertainty around – about health, income, employment, vulnerable family members, children, housing... People have different ways of seeing things and coping with change… The result is that managing fears can be a source of conflict and stress. It can be a difficult to talk, to listen, to support and to comfort when there is so much uncertainty. Being together all the time brings even more challenges. You just can’t cope. Would we be better apart, you may wonder to yourself.Retrouvaille is a programme designed to support couples. It brings a positive focus and new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage - and you don’t need to leave home to participate because it comes to you!For confidential information about Retrouvaille or to register for the next programme, a virtual weekend commencing on February 25-28, call or text 07887 296983. Alternatively email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)**YOUR CHANCE TO JOIN A LENTEN RETREAT LED BY ABP JOHN**The Archdiocese of Southwark is offering a retreat experience for people and parishes during Lent, beginning on the first Sunday of Lent and ending in Holy Week. For each week of Lent, the Southwark Spirituality Commission will provide a video exploring themes connected with the Sunday Gospel.The input will be available in advance rather than live-streamed, so that it can be viewed at any time. The video will be accompanied by suggestions for prayer and reflection through the week. The retreat is open to individuals, who can make use of the weekly video and material for prayer and reflection.For more details and to register: <http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/followme>**VOICES FROM THE HOLY LAND**During Lent last year, Fr Richard Nesbitt found inspiration to write a series of 15 poems on the themes of Our Lord’s passion, death and resurrection as he faced the challenge of a closed church at Easter,  Through the Friends of the Holy Land charity, a number of people in the Holy Land were then approached to offer their reflections on the Scriptures for Holy Week, the poems and their own personal experiences. The result is **Holy Week Voices from the Holy Land**, a prayerful and timely resource, which contains: * Forewords by Cardinal Vincent Nichols and Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury
* 15 chapters each featuring a poem, Scripture, a reflection from a Holy Land ‘Voice’, a prayer and questions for meditation.
* Stations of the Cross during a Time of Pandemic, first prayed at Our Lady of Fátima in Lent 2020.
* An invitation to share the reader’s own poem or reflection on Simon of Cyrene.

Holy Week Voices from the Holy Land can be used for individual meditation. Parishioners may wish to purchase a physical copy directly from Friends of the Holy Land or obtain an electronic/digital version (also priced £7.99): click on: [(](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=206196bab0&e=7d4ac57aff)[www.friendsoftheholyland.org.uk](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=6262e7e53a&e=7d4ac57aff)[)](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=2cce6fb326&e=7d4ac57aff).  The proceeds will go towards their work in helping our Christian brothers and sisters in that area, who have suffered a dramatic loss of livelihood due to the significant decline in pilgrimages to Bethlehem and the surrounding areas.**INVITATION TO 'GLOBAL HEALING'**In 2015, Pope Francis published his ground-breaking letter on the environment: Laudato Si’. Since then, millions of people worldwide have joined the global movement to address the environmental crisis our world is facing. This Lent the GCCM Laudato Si’ Animators in the UK are inviting everyone to come together for a series of reflective evenings with inspiring speakers, prayer and discussion, using the film-based resource “Global Healing”.These engaging documentaries will inform and challenge people to respond to Pope Francis’ call to Care for Our Common Home. These sessions are suitable for all who are concerned about what is happening to our world and who want to take action.**Dates:** six Thursdays from February 18 – March 25**Time:** 7.30–8.30pm**How to join?** To register please [click here](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=609451b88e&e=087693309e) or visit [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcvcOuuqzsvEtMBwz2hxBzhhvwy0hcgyoEb](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=06fd7d685f&e=087693309e).  Alternatively **email** jane@catholicclimatemovement.global**TELL THE GOVERNMENT…**The Department of Health is holding a public consultation on whether to continue the practice of allowing abortion providers to send abortion pills to women so that they can perform their own abortion at home. As many pro-life people as possible need to complete the Department of Health’s questionnaire in order to help stop dangerous DIY abortions becoming permanent.The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) has prepared a briefing which gives a step by step guide to completing the consultation questionnaire. Please go to: <https://www.spuc.org.uk/Get-Involved/Campaigns/England-DIY-Abortion-Consultation>The consultation ends on 26 February.**KNOWING JESUS: AN ONLINE RETREAT** Walk with the Jesuits through Lent and Easter and really come to understand and love Jesus. This online retreat, pondering Gospel stories, will reflect on their meaning and see how startlingly relevant Jesus is to living a truly human life in the 21st Century.Sign up by clicking here: [https://www.onlineprayer.net/](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=b850b7338b&e=087693309e) You can also sign up to receive daily emails during Lent and additional resources: [http://eepurl.com/hnIXAn](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=3bb43464bf&e=087693309e) |  |  |

**PATHWAYS TO CHRIST'S PASSION**
**You are invited to three webinars exploring the accounts of the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus hosted by Holy Innocents Parish, Orpington**
To prepare for Holy Week Fr Henry Wansbrough, a Benedictine monk based at Ampleforth Abbey, will lead participants through different narratives of the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus in order to gain a deeper understanding of these powerful events. The series offers an opportunity to increase personal insights into the historical context and profound theology expressed in these accounts, with a view to understanding what the Resurrection means for the mission of the Church and for our spirituality.

The three webinars, all running from 7.45-9.15pm are as follows:

**1. March 10: The Passion and Resurrection of Jesus according to the Synoptic Gospels**
**2. March 17: The Passion and Resurrection of Jesus according to John**

1. **March 24 The Passion and Resurrection of Jesus according to the writings of Paul**
* **To find out more or to join the webinars click here:** [visit Eventbrite](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=81c68d3db5&e=087693309e)**.**

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| **FLIPPING FANTASTIC FUNDRAISER****On Pancake Day, February 16,** Missio is hoping to raise a few smiles and a few pounds during these difficult times by encouraging people to fundraise for the missions. Usually at this time of year, school supporters from across England and Wales get ready to hold fundraisers through Mission Together, Missio's children’s branch, in the form of pancakeraces and flipping contests.However, due to COVID-19 many of these events cannot take place and without these fundraising activities, Missio cannot raise funds or reach all the families around the world who need their help.Mission Together have come up with a way to take their fundraising effort online as well.  They are inviting everyone to join in their online ‘Flipping Fantastic Fundraiser’ in which everyone can take part: all you have to do is make a pancake and get sponsored to flip it as many times as possible. **How to get involved - click on:**[www.missio.org.uk/pancake](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=f01e993632&e=087693309e)  |

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**THE POPE'S PRAYER FOR FEBRUARY** Pray with Pope Francis for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded. For more details click on the following:[Read a reflection on this month's prayer intention:](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=c94e386d37&e=087693309e) |

**WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT SO FAR…?**

**Our newsletter, that is.**

**Your comments, thoughts, suggestions, ideas and contributions would be most welcome.**

**Email Deacon Philip – the deadline for each weekend’s newsletter is the Wednesday before.**