**St Columba’s Church**

37 Queenhill Road, Selsdon, South Croydon, CR2 8DW

Parish telephone number: 020 8657 3747

Parish Priest: Father Roy Tablizo E: [selsdon@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:selsdon@rcaos.org.uk)

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**14 JUNE 2020: CORPUS CHRISTI (YEAR A)**

On this feast day of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ we celebrate eucharist, the changing of the bread and wine into Christ’s body and blood.

**DAILY MASS ONLINE FROM ST COLUMBA’S**

You can follow Fr Roy celebrating Mass live at 10am every day 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:** He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock.

The Gloria is said.

**1st Reading: from the book of Deuteronomy 8:2-3,14-16**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 147:12-15,19-20. R.v.12**

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!

**2nd Reading: from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 10:16-17**

The Sequence may be said.

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! I am the living bread which has come down from heaven, says the Lord. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever. Alleluia!

**Gospel: John 6:51-58**

**Communion Antiphon:** Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

***WHY ST COLUMBA’S WILL NOT BE REOPENING ON MONDAY JUNE 15***

After12 weeks of lockdown, churches now have permission from the Government to reopen on Monday (June 15) although for private prayer only.

However, there are strict rules which must be met before the doors can be opened.

You can find out what they are by reading the document, [*Re-Opening Catholic Churches*](Re-Opening%20Catholic%20Churches.docx), which has just been issued by our Archbishop, John.

St Columba’s will in due course reopen – but not on June 15. The reason is that we must first draw up a rota of parishioners willing to act as stewards to monitor and supervise the church while it is open, probably for a couple of hours daily. And to do that we need parishioners – you – to volunteer to help.

As soon as we have enough people to act as stewards (and cleaners) we shall reopen.

So, without delay, let Deacon Philip know by email or phone if you are willing to lend a hand as a steward: which day(s) of the week, Monday to Sunday, you are available and roughly what times and for how long.

Make sure to read that document, [*Re-Opening Catholic Churches,*](Re-Opening%20Catholic%20Churches.docx)so you understand what’s involved.

Remember that to volunteer as a steward/cleaner you must be under 70 and not shielding.

As soon as we have enough volunteers to produce a rota, St Columba’s will be reopened. Which day(s) it opens and for how long each day depend upon the number of people volunteering. The more who do so, the longer and more frequently the church will be open.

As for St Columba’s reopening for Mass, probably in July, watch this space…

**A MESSAGE AND REFLECTION ON CORPUS CHRISTI FROM FR ROY**

The body and blood of Jesus Christ are the greatest gift to all of us. Thus Jesus gives us food and drink for our souls.

He is aware of the danger to us, his people, of spiritual malnutrition and that without genuine sustenance for our souls we could end up being starved of God’s love.

This is so because we are on a pilgrimage, journeying towards God’s kingdom.

It has been made clear to us by revelation that mortality is a permanent reminder for all of us that we are destined for something noble.

God has prepared a reward for all His loyal followers that is so wonderful it exceeds all our expectations.

None of us should underestimate the importance of the journey from birth to our last breath.

It may appear to us to be a long time but for God this is a short journey, quickly over. Remember the words of psalmist: a thousand years are like a single day in the eyes of God.

Spiritual nourishment on that journey of life is essential and Jesus’s body and blood provide that nourishment.

Remember the evening before the crucifixion. Jesus gathered the apostles together to present to them the transcendent sacrifice that man can offer to God, his own body and blood.

We read in the Old Testament how, in the desert, God nourished the people with manna from heaven. The Israelites survived for 40 years because God sustained them with heavenly food.

This is also true for us today. Holy Communion, Jesus’s body and blood, is our heavenly food. It sustains us until we arrive in God’s heavenly kingdom.

The significance of the Eucharist can never be underestimated. It has sustained the Church through the centuries. It has survived persecutions. It has empowered martyrs.

Countless people down the centuries have devoted their lives to God because of the spiritual nourishment provided by the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

Two years ago, we as a parish made a commitment during the Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool to promote devotion to and understanding of the Eucharist. Our weekly Tuesday Adoration was the result. And it has nourished our parish in many ways.

Christians through the ages, from the earliest times right up to today, have recognised Holy Communion, Christ’s body and blood, as the life spring for all believers in Jesus.

We nurture that life spring by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Regular and frequent reception of Holy Communion is key to sustaining our faith and belief.

The coronavirus pandemic, sadly, has cut us off physically from the reception of Jesus’s body and blood. However, that pandemic has also inspired us more fully to appreciate the significance of Holy Communion in our lives.

We have a greater understanding now of its importance for our bodies and souls.

Jesus’s body and blood don’t just sanctify us. They also give us the right disposition to do the will of God.

Just as food and drink nourish our physical bodies, so Holy Communion nourishes our spiritual selves, nurturing us spiritually to achieve eternity in heaven.

**PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED**

All victims of Covid-19 – may they rest in peace.

**PRAY FOR THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Roger Fenton, John Smith, Deacon John Letley, Joan Cunningham, John Davis, Noreen Lawlor, Sebastian Keen, 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 (St Vincent De Paul).

**COMING BACK TO ST COLUMBA’S?**

*As soon as we have enough volunteers to act as stewards, the church will reopen for private prayer. So will you be there? Do you intend coming to St Columba’s for a visit once it reopens? It would be helpful to know in advance if possible. That way we can make sure to have enough seating (which will be limited because of the coronavirus social distancing). Drop Deacon Philip an email or make a phone call to let us know. See you there…?*

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

Sun 14th: Corpus Christi

Mon 15th: Feria

Tues 16th: Feria or St Richard of Chichester

Wed 17th: Feria

Thurs 18th: Feria

Fri 19th: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Sat 20th: Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sun 21st: 12th Sunday Year A

**DO YOU HAVE A MASS INTENTION?** If you wish to have a Mass offered for a special intention, even though St Columba’s is currently closed you can still do so. Either email details of the intention direct to Fr Roy (address above) or write out the details 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 for a special intention.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sun 14th 10am Online: Pro Populo

Mon 15th 10am Online: Fabian Carrasco RIP

Tues 16th 10am Online: Zef & Louise-Maria Carrasco RIP

Wed 17th 10am Online: Anthony Lawrence RIP

Thurs 18th 10am Online: Joan, Piadade & Michael D’Souza RIP

Fri 19th 10am Online: Amithra Ilangantileke RIP

Sat 20th 10am Online Kathleen Pond RIP

Sun 21st 10am Online: Pro Populo

**HELP IS AT HAND**

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.

**BLACK LIVES MATTER**

That is stating the obvious but it is also the name of an international movement which has sprung up to protest again violence and systemic racism towards black people, including by the police. It is important for the Church to be heard speaking out against racial injustice, wherever it happens. Remember to keep all those experiencing racism in your prayers. Pray for justice and reconciliation.

**HOW TO SUPPORT ST COLUMBA’S WHEN YOU GO SHOPPING ONLINE**

*Deacon Philip writes:* You can turn your everyday shopping into free donations to our parish. It’s simple. It’s straightforward. And it will cost you nothing. I know because I have signed up for it. 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)

**THE POPE’S JUNE PRAYER INTENTIONS**

The Holy Father’s prayer intentions for the month of June are: universal. ‘We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.’

**DON’T FORGET OUR 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. 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> | | |   **THIS NEWSLETTER: WHAT DO YOU THINK?**  Well, is it? We need contributions – comments, suggestions, experiences, even complaints and, yes, jokes too would be welcome – to make this online newsletter work. Do you find it useful? What else might we include in it? Is it worth continuing? Contact [Deacon Philip](mailto:kyrabarone@aol.com) (address above) with your response and reaction.  **HOSPITAL VISITS IN CROYDON**  General visiting is still very restricted at Croydon University Hospital. Families are allowed only one visit for no more than 15 minutes to patients at the end of their lives. The chaplaincy team provides spiritual and emotional care 24/7 to all patients in the hospital. If you know of anyone in the hospital that you feel will benefit from a visit by a priest email [Andrew.dovey@nhs.net](mailto:Andrew.dovey@nhs.net) or phone 0208 401 3105 or 07557 014 739  **PASSING ON THE FAITH TO OUR KIDS**  This short online course is for parents wishing to encourage their children in the practice of their faith. And of course families can participate from the comfort of their homes. For more details email Lisette Blanchet-Ball on [mflse@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflse@rcaos.org.uk) |  | |  | | --- | |  | |
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**WHAT’S HITTING THE HEADLINES?**

Have a look at the latest, June, issue of *Pilgrim*, Southwark diocese’s very own newspaper. What is hitting the headlines? See for yourself by double clicking on this link:

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**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.***

**THE CHURCH’S CYCLE OF PRAYER DURING ORDINARY TIME**

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.

**ST COLUMBA’S FINANCES**

Because of the 12-week lockdown, many people have been 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 somewhat, do please, if you have fallen behind, give serious thought to catching up on your contributions and posting an offering through the presbytery letterbox. Better still, set up a monthly standing order: the parish bank account number is 79124313 and the sort code 60-50-01.

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**Archdiocese of Southwark**

**Pastoral Letter**

**Concerning the Reopening of Catholic Churches for Individual Prayer**

*‘Give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of His name.*

*Adore the Lord in His holy court.’(Ps 29)*

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed our world, our country, and, in different ways, each of our lives. For some this has been devastating, with loss of life and serious illness. Throughout these past months we have prayed for everyone who has died, and for their families and loved ones. We are continuing to pray for all our keyworkers who serve with such selfless generosity. And we pray for our local, national, and global community, as we rebuild our future together. Perhaps we are learning not to take so much for granted and to focus more on who and what matters most. Please God, moving forward, we will treat each other with greater kindness, with greater respect, and with greater love.

As we know, places of worship, including Catholic churches, were closed by the Government to control the spread of the Coronavirus infection and save lives. As the restrictions have begun to be relaxed, we are very grateful that permission has now been given for places of worship to reopen for individual prayer from Monday 15 June. This can only happen, however, if all the necessary hygiene and social distancing measures have been put in place. We welcome this first step towards the restoration, in due course, of public liturgical celebrations with a congregation.

The Government’s permission to open our churches for visits for individual prayer enables us to draw closer to Christ who is really and truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. Our sacramental yearning, for the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation, now finds deeper anticipation as, once again, we are able to pray in the presence of our Eucharistic Lord. It is a beautiful providence that our churches are allowed to open the day after *Corpus Christi*, the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ. There is a longstanding Catholic tradition of visits to the Blessed Sacrament and prayers before the Tabernacle. We are now invited to revive these with new devotion.

For any church to open from 15 June, strict requirements must be put in place which have been communicated to every parish in the Archdiocese. To be allowed to open their church, each parish will need to satisfy all the necessary conditions outlined.

This means that not every church will open immediately, and some churches may remained closed for the time being. The days and times which churches can open will also vary. I know that many people have been frustrated that our churches have been closed. Together, patiently, we can now begin opening them, wherever possible, and as soon as possible. We share the same desire to unlock the doors to the Lord’s house. This must, however, be managed properly and safely.

During this time of pandemic, I am immensely grateful for the remarkable ways in which parishes, schools, individuals, and families are sustaining the life of faith. I want to express a special word of thanks to the priests in the Archdiocese who have continued to celebrate Holy Mass each day in closed churches, without congregations, some of them live-streaming the liturgy, catechesis, prayers and devotions. We all look forward to being able to gather again in our churches, especially for the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist. Until this is possible, as best we can, we will open our churches for individual prayer.

As we enter our churches, to *‘adore the Lord in his holy court,’* we carry with us, in our prayer and in our hearts, the needs of everyone in the communities where we live, that peace, justice, and healing will touch our lives and our world.

With the assurance of my prayers and every blessing

Yours devotedly in Christ



The Most Reverend John Wilson

Archbishop of Southwark

Given at Archbishop’s House, Southwark, 11 June 2020,

the Memoria of St Barnabas the Apostle