**St Columba’s Church, Selsdon**

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**15 NOVEMBER 2020**

**33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you. And I will lead back to your captives from every place.

**1st Reading from the book of Proverbs:** 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 127:1-5. Rv1:** O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

**2nd Reading: from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians: 5:1-6**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew: 25:14-30**

**Communion Antiphon:** To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

**THE WEEK AHEAD: WHAT’S HAPPENING**

From Thursday 6th November 2020 the use of our church will be restricted to private prayer and the recording of online worship only.

Mass will be held at 10am every day for the time being, except Saturday when Mass will be at 6.30pm.

We will update you with changes as and when they happen.

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| **MASS ONLINE FROM ST COLUMBA’S** |
| Follow Fr Roy celebrating Mass live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYVyZ2Xpfs0NiuU3bxAjsCQ/live> |

**FACING THE FACTS OF LIFE – AND DEATH**

**33rd Sunday in Ordinary time**

This Sunday’s gospel reminds us of some unavoidable facts of life. We shall all have to face death and judgement. These are truths that no one can ignore, even non-believers. As we get close to the end of the Church’s calendar year in two weeks’ time, our attention is drawn this Sunday to the mortality of man. Considering the things happening around us at this present difficult time, there is an added urgency to this because it will help get us into a better frame of mind. That may sound uncomfortable. But the truth is that facing up to things squarely will help us align our lives with Gospel values. We may have ignored the issue in the past and wish to continue doing so. But the fact is that reality will inevitably catch up with us at some point in our lives. The sooner we accept that, the better. We cannot keep running away from it for ever. If these truths, namely death and judgement, are inevitable (and they are), what is the best way of dealing with this situation? Acceptance of our mortality is a good starting point. We are, after all, just creatures and must bow to the plan laid down by our creator. Acceptance of God’s will acknowledges that He is the primary determining factor in our lives. Experience teaches us that we can never fully trust our instincts. Looking back on our lives, we can all identify events, decisions, choices which went against the values that Jesus Christ showed us. As a lifestyle they represented a foolish exercise of freedom.

Having accepted God’s will, it is crucial also to reflect on the fact that we shall one day have to give an account of ourselves. Standing before the divine judgment seat, we are going to have to account for how we used the talents God gave us. So ask yourself the question: how did you use your talents? Remember that they are never for our own personal advantage. These talents are primarily meant to advance the interest of the kingdom of God. Remember the New Testament account of how Jesus rewarded the righteous with admission into heaven? How He told them: ‘When I was hungry, you gave me food. When I was thirsty you gave me drink. When I was naked, you clothed me. When I was in prison and sick you came to visit me. When I was a stranger you welcomed me…’ The righteous were surprised at His words. So they asked Jesus: ‘Lord, when did we see you naked and clothe you? When did we see you sick and in prison and came to visit you?’ You all know Jesus’s reply. So long as you did it to one of the least of your brothers and sisters, you did it to me. In other words, the standard for our entrance into heaven is summed up in the corporal works of mercy. Getting into heaven depends on our responding to the needs of other people. So using our talents to this end will take us to the kingdom of God. It’s a practical guide to reaching heaven. Think about that. It’s not rocket science. Simply follow Jesus’s advice and heaven is yours.

**PHILIPPINES HIT BY A SECOND DISASTER: PLEASE HELP**

Last week it was a typhoon. This week it is a cyclone, the 21st to hit the Philippines this year. And it is my home island in the Philippines which has been worst affected, with more than 50 people killed, dozens injured and missing and huge numbers left homeless. The flooding has been extensive, several churches have been destroyed and a huge proportion of homes have been raised to the ground. With the agreement of Archbishop John, I am launching an appeal for the victims and donating money received to celebrate my 25th anniversary of ordination last month. If you too can help, please do. And remember the many victims in your prayers.

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| **LITURGICAL CALENDAR OF THE WEEK** |
| Sat 14th  | Feria or St Dyfrig, Bishop (W) |
| Sun 15th t | 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| Mon 16th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time or St Margaret of Scotland; or St Gertrude, Virgin; or St Edmund of Abingdon, Bishop (E) |
| Tues 17th  | St Elizabeth of Hungary, married woman, Religious (mem (W)); or Weekday in Ordinary Time or St Hilda, abbess (E); or St Hugh of Lincoln, Bishop (E) |
| Wed 18th | Weekday in Ordinary Time or The Dedication of the Basilicas of the Ss Peter and Paul, Apostles |
| Thurs 19th | Feria |
| Fri 20th | Feria |
| Sat 21st | The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin mary |
| Sun 22nd | Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe |

**DEACON PHILIP: POST-OP**

Deacon Philip is at home recovering following his triple heart-bypass. He thanks everyone for their prayers and support: much appreciated. He will be out of action for approximately three months.

**REMEMBER THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Please pray for all those in great need at this time including: Judy Freegard, John Smith, Elena Sandland, Imogen Fernando, Joan Charman, 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, Jean-Claude Anthony, Ellen Everett, Maureen Coffey, Albert Khayyat, James Patrick Guckian, Elizabeth Sensano, Margit Symons, Stephen Beck 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 14th  | 6.30pm | Mr & Mrs Roque Goveia, Wedding Anniversary |
| Sun 15th  | 10.00am | Pro Populo |
| Mon 16th  | 10.00AM | Eileen Collins, RIP |
| Tues 17th  | 10.00AM | Patrick Staunton, RIP |
| Wed 18th | 10.00AM | Holy Souls |
| Thurs 19th | 10.00AM | Tommy Doherty, RIP |
| Fri 20th  | 10.00AM | Holy Souls |
| Sat 21st | 6.30pm | Oonagh Koeppern’s Mother, RIP |
| Sun 22nd  | 10.00AM | Pro Populo |

**OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS**

Thank you for your kind offerings. The Offertory collections over the weekends of 25th October and 1st November amounted to £893.29 in total. The figures for the weekend of 8th November will be included in the newsletter next week.

For 25th October the total was £370.50, of which £172.00 was gift aided and £198.50 not.

For 1st November the total was £522.79, of which £261.11 was gift aided ( including a £20 Easter Offering) and £261.68 not.

If you are a taxpayer and not already signed up for Gift Aid (which, at no cost to you, enables St Columba’s to reclaim from the Government tax you have already paid) contact Fr Roy or Deacon Philip for details of how to join the scheme.

**MAKE YOUR OWN GIFT AID ENVELOPES**

We have not been able to distribute new Gift Aid envelopes because of the coronavirus. There is a way round that, however, to ensure that St Columba’s continues to benefit from Gift Aid which adds an extra 25p to parish income for every pound that you give to the Offertory collection. All you need to do is to put your offering in any blank envelope on which you then write ‘Gift Aid’ plus your name. Then place that envelope in the Offertory collection box/basket at church. Better still, set up a standing order. (See ‘Make A Pledge For Our Parish’.)

**PRAYING FOR THE HOLY SOULS**

We are unable to carry out our traditional gathering at Greenlawn Cemetery for the blessing of the graves this year. However we have been encouraged to continue to pray for all who have died with these particular instructions we have received from the Diocese: The plenary indulgence for those who visit a cemetery and pray for the departed, which is normally applicable between 1 to 8 November, will now apply to the entire month of November and need not be on consecutive days. The plenary indulgence of All Souls’ Day, 2 November, whereby the faithful may visit a church, chapel or oratory to pray the Our Father and the Creed, can be transferred not only to the preceding or successive Sunday, or, indeed, the solemnity of All Saints’, but may now also be gained on any other day within the month of November, too. Those faithful who are shielding, or for whatever genuine reason are unable to leave their homes, may also achieve the plenary indulgence by offering prayer for the departed and offering any hardships they may presently be enduring. The following provisions would also apply: viz. spiritually uniting themselves with all other faithful; detachment from sin; and, having the intention as soon as possible to meet the three usual conditions of sacramental Confession, Holy Communion and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father.



***HOW TO HELP ST C’S WHEN SHOPPING ONLINE – AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOURSELF***

Thinking of buying something online? Anything? A new washing machine or fridge or freezer or tumble dryer or any other white goods? Or perhaps you need a new vacuum cleaner or intend ordering a book or dvd or, in fact, any other items you need? 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 visit the 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 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)  |  |  |

**MAKE A PLEDGE FOR OUR PARISH**

The dramatic fall in the numbers attending Mass has, not surprisingly, had a knock-on effect on parish finances. With significantly fewer people at Mass on Sunday, the Offertory collection is much reduced.

But regular parish bills still have to be paid and the amount of money available from the Offertory collection to do so is now much less than it was a year ago, before the pandemic lockdown.

So, to ensure the future financial wellbeing of St Columba's, we are asking all parishioners to review their offerings to support the work and mission of the parish. This, of course, is in the light of the fifth commandment of the Church which is 'To contribute to the support of our pastors.'

There are various ways of giving, whether you are coming to church or not. As well as cash in the basket at Mass, they include payment by cheque and standing order. For taxpayers, there is also the option of signing up for Gift Aid which boosts your offering by 25p for every £1 you pay - and at no extra cost to yourself.

Attached is a form inviting you to make a pledge of support for St Columba's and which also sets out all the options. It includes a standing order form.

Do give some thought to this: we all need our church, we all need to support the work and mission of the parish - and we all need to take responsibility for supporting St Columba's financially.

 

**RED-BOX HOLDERS**

There are several ways you can still choose to make contributions to the MISSIO red box scheme:

1. by bank transfer: account name MISSIO, sort code 16-00-16, account no. 10824230
2. online at missio.org.uk/redbox
3. by posting a cheque – payable to MISSIO-Mill Hill and sent to Red Box, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU
4. by telephone call to MISSIO on 020 7821 9755 and using your credit or debit card

Please note for St Columba’s to be credited as the source of your donation, when you pay you need to include a note of your postcode or, even better, our parish MISSIO code number, SOU 130.

Some of you will have received *Mission Today* direct from MISSIO. Whether you did or not, be aware of the Pope’s emergency fund to support the Church overseas (via MISSIO) in the fight against Covid-19. This is the latest example of the Church responding to the needs of those who don’t have the support network we take for granted in the developed world. We are asked to give what we can but also to pray for them.

**CAN YOU RISE TO THE CHALLENGE?**

Our local St Vincent de Paul (SVP) conference does excellent work helping and supporting people in this parish.

Traditionally the SVP runs a nationwide Awareness Month programme every September to coincide with the feast days of Bl Frederic Ozanam (on the 9th) and St Vincent de Paul (on the 27th).

The coronavirus pandemic has put paid to that. Instead, there is a new online-based campaign picking up on their forthcoming Rise to the Challenge programme. Its focus is the amazing work of the SVP’s members, staff and volunteers during the pandemic, with thousands of hungry people fed and friendship and support offered to the lonely and isolated.

If you would like to help or simply find out more or if you yourself need help, contact our very own Andrea Lightman on 020 8657 9394.

Remember: confidentiality is assured.

**WARNING - CYBERCRIME**

Please be aware of the increasing risk of cybercrime and online fraud. If you ever receive an email stating a change in bank account details purporting to be from the Archdiocese or any of our Parishes, we recommend you contact us immediately by telephone on 0208 682 7880 before transferring any funds to the account, in order to verify that the email is genuine and not a scam.

**DEALING WITH DOMESTIC ABUSE**

A useful resource pack compiled by the National Board of Catholic Women on "Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse" is available on their website. It can be downloaded here:

<https://safeguarding.rcaos.org.uk/raising-awareness-of-domestic-abuse/>

**FINDING A SAFE SPACE**

Victim Support have introduced a free and independent support service called Safe Spaces. It's a joint Catholic/Anglican project to provide a vital specialist support service for survivors of church-related abuse. Visit this link for more details: [www.SafeSpacesEnglandandWales.org.uk](http://www.SafeSpacesEnglandandWales.org.uk)

**UCM MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING (with a difference)**

We have raised a magnificent £560 for the charity with many friends and parishioners donating on line to the Just Giving page. We topped last year’s total which was £360 with the coffee morning in the hall. Thank you so much for all those who gave so generously.

**UCM MEETINGS**

Our UCM Meetings restarted in October with a zoom meeting where 12 members attended, which was great.

The November meeting was held on Wednesday, 4th, at which there was an “Evening of Recollection” with guest speaker, Sister Sheila Maloney.

We are continuing with these meetings at present, via Zoom, and hope you will join us.  All you have to do is download the app Zoom.us then click on the link (<https://zoom.us/>) and “connect with audio” – at the proposed time of the meeting.

Please put in your diaries the Christmas Party for the UCM via zoom to be held on Wednesday 2nd December at 7:30pm. Please join us if you can. It’s very heart warming to see our friends on the screen and know they are keeping well.

*“Make us understanding and caring to all experiencing difficulties and generous in support so that, one day, we may ALL rejoice together in our eternal home – AMEN”*

**THE NEWSLETTER: ANY FEEDBACK?**

Comments, suggestions, contributions: all are welcome. Items for publication should be emailed to kyrabarone@aol.com by Thursday evening at the latest.

