**St Columba’s Church, Selsdon**

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

Parish telephone number: 020 8657 3747

Parish Priest: Father Roy Tablizo

E: selsdon@rcaos.org.uk

Deacon: Rev. Philip Pond E: philippond@rcaos.org.uk

T: 07764 845 890

Parish website: [www.stcolumbaschurchselsdon.uk](http://www.stcolumbaschurchselsdon.uk)

**17 JANUARY 2021**

**2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High?

**1st Reading from the First book of Samuel: 3:3-10. 19**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R vv.8-9:** Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

**2nd Reading: from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians: 6:13-15. 17-20**

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

**Gospel: John 1:35-42**

**Communion Antiphon:** You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

***ST COLUMBA’S IS STILL OPEN FOR DAILY MASS***

St Columba’s will continue to stay open for daily Mass during the latest lockdown.

Mass times are as they were prior to the lockdown (see ‘Mass Intentions for the Week’ below).

We shall continue to follow Government guidelines to ensure a safe environment at Mass. See ‘Precautions When Coming to Church’ below.

Please note, however, that there will be no exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday mornings until further notice.

**EACH OF US HAS BEEN GIVEN A MISSION…**

***A REFLECTION ON SUNDAY’S READINGS BY DEACON PHILIP***

We hear a lot of talk these days about the lack of priests. Pray for vocations, people say.

The two words ‘priest’ and ‘vocation’ are often used together. Many people think they are effectively one and the same.

The truth is that they are not.

Yes, we do indeed need to pray for vocations to the priesthood. But vocation is about much more than simply priesthood.

As today’s readings make clear, vocation is not just for the chosen few.

It is something that applies to us all, men and women alike. Because what it means is a calling; a call from God. A call to do something for others with our lives.

As we heard in the first reading, God called Samuel to serve him in a particular way – as a prophet.

Then, in the Gospel, we heard about how Jesus called Andrew and Peter as the first of the apostles.

Likewise, in the same way that God called Samuel, Andrew and Peter, He also calls us.

Every single one of us is called to be his disciple. To a vocation; not necessarily as a priest but in whatever way our particular unique set of talents can best serve him.

We all have talents, gifts from God; particular things we do particularly well.

St John Henry Newman summed it up beautifully when he said:

 ‘*God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life but I shall be told it in the next…*’

So, in conclusion, all of us have a vocation, a calling from God to serve him in a particular way.

And that calling can change over time, depending upon our situation.

Finally, let me leave you with two questions to ponder.

Firstly, what is God calling me to do, to be, now, today?

Secondly, am I listening to hear what He wants to say to me?

**YES, LENT WILL SOON BE HERE – WHY NOT START PREPARING NOW…?**

The season of Lent will shortly be upon us – Ash Wednesday is less than five weeks away.

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>

***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 16th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time |
| Sun 17th  | 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| Mon 18th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time |
| Tues 19th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time or St. Wulstan, Bishop |
| Wed 20th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time or St Fabian, Pope, Martyr, St Sebastian, Martyr |
| Thurs 21st | St Agnes, Virgin, Martyr |
| Fri 22nd  | Weekday in Ordinary Time or St Vincent< Deacon, Martyr |
| Sat 23rd  | Weekday in Ordinary Time |
| Sun 24th  | 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time |

**CHURCH TOILETS: NOW OPEN AGAIN**

The toilets at St Columba’s were closed on the instructions of the Government. Along with all the other restrictions like using hand sanitiser, wearing face masks and providing notification that you were coming to church, that was one of the pre-conditions they laid down for allowing churches to reopen after the first Covid-19 lockdown.

However, toilets at church have now been reopened on condition that they are thoroughly cleaned after use to avoid any possible spread of Covid-19.

There are notices in the toilets to this effect along with spray bottles of cleanser and kitchen rolls. Please make sure to spray and wipe over any surfaces you touch – including door handles and taps – when visiting the toilets. Thank you for your cooperation.

**REMEMBER THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Please pray for all those in great need at this time including: Alan Huzzey, Julie Ballesteros, Cora Litchfield, Sean Walsh, Lily Wei, Judy Freegard, Imogen Fernando, Joan Charman, Roger Fenton, Joan Cunningham, Noreen Lawlor, 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.

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| **MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK** |
| Sat 16th  | 6.30pm | Private Intention |
| Sun 17th  | 8.00am | Michael McGarvey, RIP |
| Sun 17th  | 10.00am | Pro Populo |
| Sun 17th  | 6.30pm | Private Intention |
| Mon 18th  | 10.00am | Gerry Maguire, RIP |
| Tues 19th  | 10.00am | Bill & Anna Tolhurst, RIP |
| Wed 20th  | 10.00am | Intention of the Alvarez Family |
| Thurs 21st  | 10.00am | Jim Proctor, RIP |
| Fri 22nd  | 10.00am | Ron Bradnam, RIP |
| Sat 23rd  |  6.30pm | Private Intention |
| Sun 24th  |  8.00am | George Stuart Barclay, RIP |
| Sun 24th  | 10.00am | Pro Populo |
| Sun 24th  | 6.30pm | Mrs Lana Manley, RIP |

***THE EUCHARIST: JUST WHAT EXACTLY DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?***

Here is an opportunity to gain greater insight into and understanding of the eucharist, that great wonder and mystery of our faith.

Fr Tomasz Margol from St Joseph’s & St Swithun’s parish, Bromley, has prepared a series of talks on the Eucharist.

You can access them, without charge, on YouTube. Here are the links for the four talks:

1 [https://youtu.be/HJH-rNoK-wM](https://youtu.be/HJH-rNoK-wM?fbclid=IwAR0MyIQEp64cAhJ9lycNSWu-4As5_IHzxfzkX3xdman67zgEGx32Jv_yQAI)
2 [https://youtu.be/dP\_JLVObDAI](https://youtu.be/dP_JLVObDAI?fbclid=IwAR06TlUwbyXx5mXSFhE3Lwvn7_yFol_pYcAI491klEgYQytfvqQGkf80yPs)
3 [https://youtu.be/6Vjz9-Od8Ss](https://youtu.be/6Vjz9-Od8Ss?fbclid=IwAR0PjS2ldLWls6ww9CDzfv4P0eCpqGtktkzmPHt9lBql-7Mev3NJl6SBpWY)
4  [https://youtu.be/UW5K6d1vPtk](https://youtu.be/UW5K6d1vPtk?fbclid=IwAR38L43sDABVYDcTc0eT4ZI86u6tkRXpkeXa-yBk9kDumZnleGR_iKZf8WA)

**THE NEWSLETTER: WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Comments, suggestions, contributions: all are welcome. Email them to kyrabarone@aol.com by Wednesday evening at the latest.

**THE LATEST LOCKDOWN: IT’S A CHALLENGE FOR MANY MARRIAGES**

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)

**GLUTEN-FREE HOSTS**

Do you, or any parishioners you know, suffer from coeliac disease and so are unable to receive Holy Communion?

If so, please let Fr Roy or Deacon Philip know because gluten-free hosts are now available at all Masses at St Columba’s.

**GOING INTO HOSPITAL?**

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.

**MAKE A PLEDGE FOR OUR PARISH**

The dramatic fall in the numbers attending Mass during the pandemic has, not surprisingly, had a knock-on effect on parish finances.

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.

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.

Below 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.

 



***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)  |  |  |