**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

Deacon: Rev. Philip Pond E: philippond@rcaos.org.uk T: 07764 845 890

Parish website: www.stcolumbaschurchselsdon.uk

**17th MAY 2020 – 6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)**

Approaching the ninth week of lockdown, we look forward hopefully and placing our trust in God to a possible reopening of St Columba’s in early July. Watch this space…

**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> where you also have an opportunity to chat with fellow parishioners after Mass. Yes, really.

**SUNDAY MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: the Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

The Gloria is said.

**1st Reading: from the Acts of the Apostles**

**8:5-8, 14-17**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 65: 1-7, 16, 20. R: v.1**

Cry out with joy to God all the earth.

**2nd Reading: from the first letter of St Peter: 3:15-18**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: ‘If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Fther will love him, and we shall come to him.’ Alleluia!

**Gospel: John 14:15-21**

**Communion Antiphon:** If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia!

**A MESSAGE AND REFLECTION ON SUNDAY’S READINGS FROM FR ROY**

To love God means to keep His commandments. Think about that…

This command contains insights that are extremely comprehensive. It encompasses every aspect of the life of all followers of Jesus Christ.

One basic interpretation of this command is to recognise its importance for our everyday life. It is not enough for us to claim that our love for God is demonstrated in our prayers and words.

A genuine expression of the love of God consists of a lifetime of fidelity with the teachings of Jesus Christ. It means a wholehearted submission and abandonment of one’s life to God.

Such idealism is easier said than done.

Clearly our human nature is such that we are all vulnerable. Humanly speaking, we are ill equipped to withstand the pressures of life; vulnerable to the temptations we meet in the world.

On our own, persecution is an insurmountable obstacle.

It is for this reason that Jesus promised to send us the Holy Spirit. He knew that, on our own, handicapped as we are, we would struggle to reach the standards of the heavenly kingdom. So the Holy Spirit is the promised hope for all Jesus’s followers.

The love of God, experienced through the Holy Spirit, is consolation for persecuted Christians. The Holy Spirit helps us understand the value of suffering.

As experienced by Jesus’s disciples, suffering should be considered an honour for it brings purification to body and soul.

Our relationship with heaven is made clearer for all of us by the Holy Spirit who helps us recognise that our real home is to be found in the next life.

The sufferings and inconveniences we endure in this life are as nothing compared to the glory of heaven that awaits us. This is one of the lessons we can learn from the coronavirus pandemic.

Heavenly values have become closer to our hearts than ever because it has helped us recognise how temporary is this material world.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED**  Kathleen Evans – may she rest in peace.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND NEEDY** John Davis, Noreen Lawlor, Sebastian Keen, Solveya La Marina, Chris Jones, Maria Reece, Krista Thompson, 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, John Smith and sick residents at the four residential homes usually, in better times, visited by the parish SVP group (St Vincent De Paul).

**IN NEED OF PRAYERS?**

***If you or anyone you know is in great need of our prayers, let Deacon Philip know so that the name(s) can be included in the sick list.***

**MASS INTENTIONS** 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**

Sat 16th 10am Online: Anna & Michael Duignan RIP

Sun 17th 10am Online: Mary Pauline Raguindun

Mon 18th 10am Online: John Tallas

Tues 19th 10am Online: Ray Sweeney RIP

Wed 20th 10am Online: Peter Tame

Thurs 21st 10am Online: The Tame Family

Fri 22nd 10am Online: Pro Populo

Sat 23rd 10am Online Pro Populo

Sun 24th 10am Online: Pro Populo

**CYCLE OF PRAYER: SEASON OF EASTER**

New members of the Church

Vocations

The right use of the media

The Church

Human work

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

Sun 17th: 6th Sunday of Easter (Year A)

Mon 18th: Feria or St John I

Tues 19th: Feria or St Dunstan

Wed 20th: Feria or St Bernardine of Sienna

**Thurs 21st: The Ascension of the Lord, Holyday of Obligation**

Fri 22nd: Feria St Rita of Cascia

Sat 23rd: Feria

Sun 24th: 7th Sunday of Easter, World Communications Day

**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, A HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION**

Thursday, the 21st, is the feast of the Ascension of the Lord. As it is one of the few remaining Holydays of Obligation in the Church’s liturgical calendar, we would normally be expected if at all possible to attend Mass. But these are not normal times so we can’t. At least not physically. Don’t forget, however, that you can ‘attend’ Mass at St Columba’s via the internet. On Thursday, as every day now, there will be Mass at 10am. See above for details of how to access it either via YouTube or Zoom.

**NEIGHBOURS IN NEED?** *Please be aware of elderly or needy parishioners and neighbours at this difficult time and provide assistance, where possible, even if only a phone call so that they don’t feel completely isolated.*

**THE SCOURGE OF DOMESTIC ABUSE**

The Domestic Abuse Group of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales has issued guidance on how Catholic parishes can support victims of domestic abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the UK-wide COVID-19 lockdown began on 23 March, there has been a 49% increase in calls and online requests for help relating to domestic abuse. The guidance includes information about how parishes can raise awareness of the issue, including a list of helplines and information about how to safely get help. It also includes a step-by-step starter guide for how parishes can work to support their local domestic abuse services with donations. [Read more here](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=ceb754c5e4&e=087693309e).

**THE PILGRIM NEWSPAPER: GET UP TO DATE WITH DIOCESAN NEWS**

Following is an electronic version to the [May edition of The Pilgrim.](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=5c123e1eae&e=087693309e), the Southwark diocesan newspaper. See what’s happening in parishes across Southwark diocese. Amongst many excellent articles in this, the Southwark diocesan newspaper, are details of where to find live-streamed Masses in various languages, a first-hand account of what it’s like to minister to victims of the coronavirus as a chaplain at St George’s Hospital, Tooting; and a report of Abp Peter Smith’s funeral.

**PRAYER BUDDIES: COULD YOU BE ONE?**

A prayer buddy ministry is in the process of being set up by the Southwark Diocesan head of hospital chaplains. It is intended to support those working on the front-line that are dealing directly with the current pandemic.

Every hospital chaplaincy within Southwark is invited to ask NHS staff to add their first name and job title to a list, which will be held by the hospital chaplain. We also need parishioners that are prepared to be committed prayer buddies, holding a member of NHS staff and their intentions in prayer on a daily basis.

Parishioners will receive the first name, job title and general hospital location of an NHS worker, whilst the NHS worker will receive your first name, parish name and parish area. It is intended that we also support all our hospital chaplains in prayer at this challenging time.

Rebekah O'Keeffe, a catechist who works within the diocese, will pair people up as prayer buddies placing each one by name into God's care. If you would like to accompany an NHS worker in prayer at this time, please email: rebekah.okeeffe@gmail.com with your name and parish details (name and area only)  No email addresses will be passed on at any point.

**CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE**

Southwark Catholic Youth Service has worked with some 6th form students on a mini-series ‘Christ is Alive’. This is an invitation for young people to focus on staying spiritually healthy and to ponder some of the big questions about life, through journaling and prayer. This may be particularly relevant during this difficult time of lockdown. All young people are encouraged to take a look at: [www.youtube.com/southwarkcatholicyouthservice](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=5bc4d71be9&e=087693309e)

**DID YOU REMEMBER FR ROY’S EASTER OFFERING..?**

Just a reminder, as we approach the end of Eastertide, that there is still time to make your Easter offering to Fr Roy. Easter Sunday is one of only two occasions in the year (the other is Christmas), when the collection at Mass is your personal offering to the parish priest. As the church was closed at Easter because of the coronavirus pandemic, we didn’t have any Masses. So no collection could be taken. But there is still time to make that offering. You can do it by dropping an envelope in at the presbytery (or posting it). Alternatively a payment could be made using online banking. For that you would need the parish bank account details: the sort code is 60-50-01, the account number 79124313. Give the reference Easter Offering.

**THIS NEWSLETTER: IS IT WORTHWHILE?**

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 (address above) with your response and reaction.

**NEEDED BY THE 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. Can you help?

Phone Lesley Holland (07906 097473) to find out what they most need and how to give.

You are also welcome to donate via their JustGiving page which you can find at:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/newaddingtonsalvationarmy>

**SUPPORT FRONT-LINE NHS & CARE HOME WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

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| Our front-line workers in hospitals and care homes all over the UK are giving exceptional service to those who are vulnerable and in need of treatment at this time. In order to show a spiritual solidarity with them each week, bishops across the country will celebrate Mass in their cathedrals which will be live-streamed for people nationwide to join. The Masses are celebrated every Thursday at 7pm. The schedule for the next three weeks is as follows:21 MayBishop Mark Davies[Our Lady Help of Christians and Saint Peter of Alcantara, Shrewsbury](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=9950ff873b&e=087693309e)28 MayBishop Terence Drainey[St Mary’s Cathedral, MiddlesbroughYouTube Channel](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=2c28bfdb5b&e=087693309e)  |

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**DON’T FORGET THE HOLY LAND**Bishop Declan Lang, who chairs [the Holy Land Coordination](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=faffdbfe94&e=087693309e) has urged Catholics to support people in the Holy Land affected by the coronavirus pandemic in order to prevent a major human catastrophe.Not only is this a major healthcare crisis but necessary closures at this time of pilgrimage are also having a devastating impact on the local economy. Regrettably, the healthcare system has collapsed under the strain of coronavirus and people are also suffering from extremely overcrowded conditions.  We are therefore asked to stand in solidarity with the people of the Holy Land through our prayers and, where possible, through donations to the [Friends of the Holy Land Appeal](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=422401603f&e=087693309e).**POPE FRANCIS’S PRAYER INTENTIONS**The Holy Father’s prayer intentions for the month of May are for fraternity: “We pray for Deacons that they be faithful in their service to the Word and to the poor and that they may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.”**COVID-19: A POEM BY MARION DE SOUZA**Suddenly it came - winter darkan invisible plaque that no one could site, Like a thief leaving a mark that no one could fight - it's deadly might. All round the world it did its deedno matter the colour - no matter the creed, Of people here and abroad, it struck millions with its deadly hoard. Behind closed doors we keep to ourselves2 meters apart telling our tales,we cannot be close togetherour ties we must sever. The hospitals are full with all its woes, doctors and nurses - so many who knows, gowns and masks to keep it away from entering our lungs where it stays. People panic - long queues at the shop, the virus is looking to see its next shot, old or young it wends its way, day and night - its here to stay. Will we see the bright lightat the end of a tunnel - dark,we pray and hope that it might,that God will speak from his inner heart. "The world will be as free as a bird"fly around the sweet fresh air before never heard, Then came Covid - 19 to share.**ENDING WITH A LAUGH 😊***There was a plane carrying five passengers: Nicola Sturgeon, Boris Johnson, Donald Trump, the Pope and a 10-year-old schoolboy. The plane’s engines fail and it starts losing altitude. A crash is inevitable. There are only four parachutes on board. Nicola Sturgeon says "I have to live: to sort out Scottish independence." and takes a parachute and jumps. The Pope says "I have to live: to sort out the Catholic Church." and takes a parachute and jumps. Donald Trump says "I have to live: I'm the smartest man in America." and takes a parachute and jumps. Boris Johnson looks at the 10-year-old schoolboy and says "You can have the last parachute. I'm a lot older than you and I've lived my life. Yours has yet to begin." The 10-year-old school boy says "Don't worry, Mr Johnson. There are still two parachutes left. The smartest man in America just took my school bag.”*  |   |

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