**St Columba’s Church, Selsdon**

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**18TH JULY 2021**

**16th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**(YEAR B)**

**COVID PRECAUTIONS LATEST: SEE DETAILS OF CHANGES OVERLEAF**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

**A reading from the prophet Jeremiah: 23:1-6**

**Responsorial Psalm PS 22. Rv.1:** The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

**2nd Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians: 2:13-18**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord, I know them and they follow me. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Mark 6:30-34**

**Communion Antiphon:** The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those who fear him.

**COVID: TIME TO TALK?**

What has it been like for you during the various Covid lockdowns? On Saturday July 24 there is a chance to come together with others and reflect on your experiences during the pandemic.

It's being organised by Churches Together in Selsdon & Addington, of which St Columba's is an active member. Venue is St Francis' church, Tedder Road, Monks Hill in Selsdon. The time: 10am - 12 noon.

All are welcome to come and share - or just listen.

How we all are called to be examples of the good shepherd…

*Deacon Philip reflects on Sunday’s readings*

I watched a tv programme this week which was strangely relevant to the theme of today’s scripture readings.

It was the true story of a man who decided to go into sheep farming but without any previous experience. He very quickly discovered the hard way one of the facts of life.

If sheep are to thrive and flourish, day and night they need the tender loving care of a shepherd.

Sheep and shepherds are the dominant feature of today’s readings: in the passage from Jeremiah, in the psalm and in the gospel.

Why is it that they feature so prominently?

Why are there so many references to sheep and shepherds in the New Testament as a whole?

Loads and loads of them: nearly five dozen mentions in total.

Why? Because the society in which Jesus lived was an agricultural society.

Sheep and shepherds were an everyday part of Palestinian life which, to a large extent, depended upon sheep.

***“No wonder Jesus mentions them so often in his teachings…”***

The people then fully understood their importance and what was involved in raising and caring for them. No wonder Jesus mentions them so often in his teachings.

They are such a powerful image of love and care.

In Jesus’s time, the relationship between sheep and shepherd was extraordinarily close.

The shepherd didn’t just go out in the morning or evening to look after his flock.

He stayed with them all day long.

In the evening, making sure none was left behind, he brought them into the sheepfold so that during the night they were protected from wild animals.

And of course during lambing, he was there day and night to ensure the lambs’ safe delivery.

Perhaps most amazingly of all from our point of view, he knew every single one of them by name.

Despite our limited knowledge, on reflection it isn’t difficult for us, in our urban society, to recognize and understand how powerful is the image of the shepherd.

As well as herding the sheep, counting them, shearing them, dipping them, dosing them and protecting them, he rescues them when they are in distress.

In other words, he cares for them, day and night. And he leads them.

Did you know, incidentally, that there are three different ways of being a shepherd?

In this country, the shepherd drives the flock before him, usually assisted by a sheep dog.

In Africa the shepherd walks in the middle of the flock and encourages them to stay close to him.

But in Palestine, the shepherd goes ahead as the leader and the flock follows – they trust him totally. So the relationship between shepherd and sheep is one of knowledge, trust, protectiveness, concern, dependence.

And of course these are all the characteristics of a loving God.

Jesus knows each and every one of us by name.

He feeds us, protects us, rescues us, cares for us.

He is always there with us.

In other words, He loves us, totally.

And through his death on the cross, He has saved us. What more beautiful pastoral image could there be than this.

As Jesus himself says: I am the good shepherd… I lay down my life for my sheep.’

So what is the lesson we need to learn from all this? The answer can be found in the word shepherd, which in Latin is pastor.

The idea of pastoring extends to our schools, where the shepherding side of education is called pastoral care.

But it is not just the young who need ‘pastoring’.

We are called to follow Jesus’s example to care for other people generally, especially the sick, the infirm, the housebound, the elderly; all those in need.

As for parents, what style of shepherding should they adopt with their children?

The answer is: at different times, different styles.

So a little of the English style of shepherding, driving before in the early years; giving way to the Palestinian variety, going ahead as leader in the middle years.

And during the teenage years, walking alongside their offspring in the African style.

To conclude, next time you see a flock of sheep in a field, remember the role of Jesus, the Good Shepherd; who gave his life for his sheep.

For you and me.

**EUGENIE DEDE RIP**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Eugenie Dede, 72, who has died.

Eugenie, who lived on the Ivory Coast, was the mother of parishioner Yves Kpami. He and all the family need your prayers.

May Eugenie rest in peace.

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| **LITURGICAL CALENDAR OF THE WEEK** |
| Sat 17th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time |
| Sun 18th  | 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| Mon 19th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time  |
| Tues 20th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time orSt Apollinaris, Bishop, Martyr |
| Wed 21st  | Weekday in Ordinary Time orSt Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest, Doctor of the Church |
| Thurs 22nd  | St Mary Magdalene |
| Fri 23rd  | St Bridget, Religious, patron of Europe (Eu); Ss Philip Evans and John Lloyd, Priests and Martyrs (opt. mem. (W)) |
| Sat 24th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time orSt Sharbel Makhlūf, Priest |
| Sun 25th  | 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time |

**ELIZABETH FENNELL RIP**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Elizabeth 'Betty' Fennell who died on Sunday evening. A long-time and committed member of the parish, she was 94. We keep her in our prayers, her family also. May she rest in peace. The funeral will be at 12.15pm on August 2.

**REMEMBER THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Please pray for all those who are sick or in need at this time including: Elena Sandland, Anne McDonagh, Martin McDonagh, Martin Reilly, Lily Wei, Douglas & Yvonne Bruce, Mike Bond, Thelma Benn, Cora Litchfield, Judy Freegard, Joan Cunningham, Solveya La Marina, Chris Jones, Maria Reece, Margaret Bolton, Eddie Aldridge, Ellis Warburton, Mary Marks, Jean-Claude Anthony, Ellen Everett, Maureen Coffey, Elizabeth Sensano and sick residents at the four residential homes usually, in better times, visited by the parish St Vincent de Paul group.

***COVID PRECAUTIONS WHEN AT MASS – THE LATEST CHANGES***

Despite the removal of legal restrictions on Monday (July 19), Archbishop John urges us, in the interests of health and safety, to continue to take precautions when coming to Mass.

So, as from Monday, please continue to:

* Remember to bring and wear a face mask covering the nose as well as the mouth
* Meet Track-and-Trace requirements by providing a written note every time you come to church of your name and contact details plus the date and, if relevant, Mass time. To save queuing and filling out a form, send an email to selsdon@rcaos.org.uk
* Use hand sanitizer, provided, both when entering and leaving the church.
* Take a paper marker (during the week, not at the weekend) and leave it on your seat so that the stewards know where to sanitize.
* Bring your own Mass or prayer book – there are no shared items available in church.
* Ensure plenty of social distancing in the benches unless you are in a family group.

Other changes include, as from July 19, the end of the one-way system; also the return of the Offertory collection during Mass and, with the choir back in place, congregational singing at 10am Mass.

In addition Holy Communion will once again be distributed (although still only under one kind) before the end of Mass rather than afterwards.

We shall still refrain from exchanging the Sign of Peace.

Stewards will continue to sanitize the seating after each Mass.

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| **MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK** |
| Sat 17th  | 6.30pm | Frederick Mills, RIP |
| Sun 18th  | 8.00am | The Alvarez Family |
| Sun 18th  | 10.00am | Pro Populo |
| Sun 18th  | 6.30am | Vangie Bayani, RIP |
| Mon 19th  | 10.00am | Joseph Desira, RIP |
| Tues 20th  | 10.00am | Margaret Olele well-being |
| Wed 21st  | 10.00am | Intention of the Alvarez family |
| Thurs 22nd  | 10.00am | John Walsh, RIP |
| Fri 23rd  | 10.00am | Intention of the Alvarez family |
| Sat 24th  | 6.30pm | Myles & Teresa Murphy, RIP |
| Sun 25th  | 8.00am | Pro Populo |
| Sun 25th  | 10.00am | Tina Guida, RIP |
| Sun 25th  | 6.30pm | Mr Irenius Joseph, RIP |

**WANT TO GO TO CONFESSION?**

Well you can – and at the same time be confident that you are safe from Covid. Simply give Fr Roy a ring and make an appointment. He will hear your confession in private in the hall.

**THINK YOU HAVE A VOCATION?**

The Beda College in Rome is running a discernment weekend for men between the ages of 30 and 55 from September 3-5. It takes place at St Beuno’s Spirituality Centre in North Wales. The weekend is a first step for those who may be exploring the possibility of priestly vocation in later life.

Information and registration forms are at: <https://www.pathwaystogod.org/courses-events-retreats/discernment-weekend-older-men-1>

***SHOP ONLINE AND HELP ST COLUMBA’S***

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 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. Then, in future, every 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. Shopping, Online, E-Commerce, FashionHave 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) **ANNUAL MARRIAGE MASS**Are you celebrating your 1st, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or any later wedding anniversary this year? Or did you last year? If so, Archbishop John invites you to join him in celebrating a Mass for married couples at noon on Saturday October 9 at St George’s Cathedral. You need to book in advance and by doing so you will then receive a personal written invitation from Archbishop John. To book or for more details email mflsw@rcaos.org.uk**SO WHAT’S YOUR VERDICT?****On our newsletter, that is. Your comments, thoughts, suggestions, ideas and contributions would be most welcome.** **They will also enable us to know whether this newsletter is considered helpful and useful – or not. Email Deacon Philip – the deadline for each weekend’s newsletter is the Wednesday before.**  |  |  |

**GOT YOUR GIFT AID ENVELOPES?**

**There are still plenty waiting to be collected… All members of the Gift Aid scheme are invited this weekend to collect their boxes of envelopes for the coming year.**

**The boxes, with your names on, can be collected at the entrance to the sacristy in the Sacred Heart chapel after all Masses. Don’t forget to take yours…**

**KNOW OF ANYONE IN NEED?**

Are you aware of any parishioners living alone or in need? If so, as well as phoning them yourself occasionally to see if they need anything, let Fr Roy or Deacon Philip know of their situation.

That way, we can work together to support and help them at this difficult time.

***GOING INTO HOSPITAL? TELL US***

If you or a member of your family go into hospital, 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.

Make sure also to let Fr Roy or Deacon Philip know beforehand if possible of your admission or that of a family member into hospital. We can then keep you in our prayers.

**HAVE YOU LOST A LOVED ONE?**

‘Grief and Loss, Hope in Christ’ is the title of a weekend for those who have lost a loved one through death. The weekend provides a time to mourn and share with others. The venue: Aylesford Priory. Date: October 8-10. For more information phone 01622 717272 or email enquery@thefriars.org.uk

**GUILD OF ST STEPHEN**

The Guild will be holding its annual rally for altar servers, their 43rd, on September 18 at Aylesford Priory. For more details email the Guild’s chairman at john.bonnici@btopenworld.com

***KNOW YOUR FAITH BETTER***

The Archbishop’s Certificate (ArchCert) is an online course for all in Southwark who wish to know their Catholic faith more deeply.

Participants will take a two-year journey through the Church’s teaching to understand their faith in a more

profound way and be able to share it with confidence and joy.

The course will commence in October 2021 and the cost will be £365 per year.  Registration must be completed in advance.  Further details can be found here: [https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/archcert](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=60d238c547&e=7d4ac57aff)

**SUMMERTIME IS BACK**

Following last year's cancellation, this annual activity for altar servers, boys and girls aged 10 - 15 within Southwark diocese, will take place from August 3-6.

The venue is the Oratory School in Reading, Berkshire and the event opens with Mass celebrated by Archbishop John.

Activities will include talks, discussions, prayer and daily Mass as well as sport, a trip to Thorpe Park and swimming.

For more details phone 01322 220075 or email dartford@rcaos.org.uk

**MARCH FOR LIFE**

The next March for Life will take place on September 4: please save the date.

Posters and more details are available from [http://www.marchforlife.co.uk/](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=c89fd441d0&e=7d4ac57aff)

***PRAYERS FOR THE SICK***

We have a prayer list of names of those who are sick which appears in the newsletter every week.

If you know of anyone, a parishioner or family member, you would like to be included, please let Fr Roy or Deacon Philip know.

If you previously asked for someone to be included in the list but who is now recovered, do let us know.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS**

The Offertory collection of July 4 totalled £503.21 of which £260.01 was Gift Aided and £243.20 not.

The Offertory collection of July 11 totalled £472.90 of which £234.20 was Gift Aided and £238.70 not.

Many thanks.