**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: 020 8651 4653

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

**19 SEPTEMBER 2021 – 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)**

**URGENT! OUR AUTUMN FAYRE IS ON OCTOBER 3: HOW CAN YOU HELP? SEE BELOW**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

**A reading from the book of Wisdom: 2:12. 17-20**

**Responsorial Psalm PS 53:3-6. 8. Rv.6:** The Lord upholds my life.

**2nd Reading: A reading from the letter of St James: 3:16-4:3**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Mark 9:30-37**

**Communion Antiphon:** You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

**AUTUMN FAYRE: OCTOBER 3**

Our Autumn Fayre on October 3 will start after 10am Mass. But we need your help. Email Debbie Martin at stcolumbasselsdon\_ucm@outlook.com to find out how to help, maybe as a stall holder.

We need lots of good things for the stalls, such as bottles, jewellery, plants, nearly new bric-a-brac, handicrafts, homemade cakes, sweets and cosmetics. Please leave your donations in the box at the back of the church.

We will be setting up stalls on Saturday the 2nd.

What we are called to be is servants

*Deacon Philip reflects on Sunday’s Gospel*

A class of children in a Catholic primary school were asked to write a letter to God.

One little girl wrote as follows.

“Dear God, It must be hard to love the whole world.

“There are only four people in my family and it’s hard.”

I smiled when I read that.

I also smiled when I read Sunday’s Gospel. The bit about the disciples.

If ever there was an example of humanity in the raw, that was it.

There was Jesus heading for Jerusalem to keep a date with death.

He was trying to explain to the disciples what was going to happen.

He would be murdered, he told them. But three days later he would rise from the dead.

They couldn’t understand what he was talking about. And they were afraid to ask him.

That’s when we come to the funny bit.

While all this is going on, while Jesus is telling the disciples about these momentous, world changing events, what are they doing?

Arguing with each other about which of them is the greatest.

Really! You couldn’t make it up. No wonder this passage brings a smile to the face.

If you wanted proof that the disciples were ordinary people just like us, with faults and failings, there you have it.

So what’s the message for us, at St Columba’s? What is this Gospel trying to tell us?

The answer is simple.

We are not called to be the greatest.

Instead, we are called to humility, to simplicity, to service.

In other words we are called to be servants. Because only by being servants can we be like Jesus who, to quote his own words, came not to be served but to serve.

The next question is: to whom should we be acting as servants?

The answer given in this Gospel is very obvious indeed. Those most in need: the powerless, the vulnerable, the weakest members of society.

We are called to help those from whom we can benefit the least.

Taking that to its logical conclusion, we are talking about reaching out to those the world rejects and despises.

To be a Christian, to be a Catholic, it’s not enough simply to go to Mass every Sunday. Our faith demands more than that.

As St James points out, faith by itself, if it isn’t backed up by good works, is dead.

Jesus’s own life shows us what being a servant looks like. He gave us examples.

One was washing the feet of the disciples. Another was forgiving sinners, healing the sick and doing good.

The best example of all was when he died for us all on the cross.

It’s pretty obvious from all this that being a servant entails a certain frame of mind.

And again Jesus spells that out for us in Sunday’s Gospel.

* At its heart are the qualities of vulnerability and trust typified by a small child.
* At its heart are a willingness to recognize and accept our human limitations.
* At its heart is placing our trust in God.

To conclude, we may think we are in control in our lives. The truth is: we aren’t.

And Jesus calls us to embrace that, not shy away from it; and to place our trust in God.

We are also called to image Christ in our lives. To act as He did and show our love to other people in concrete ways, particularly those in need, particularly those we may not like.

Finally, as that little girl pointed out in her letter, doing that isn’t easy.

All we can do is to try our best.

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| **LITURGICAL CALENDAR OF THE WEEK** |
| Sat 18th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time  |
| Sun 19th  | 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| Mon 20th  | Ss Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs |
| Tues 21st  | St Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist |
| Wed 22nd  | Weekday in Ordinary Time |
| Thurs 23rd  | St Pio of Pietrelcina |
| Fri 24th  | Our Lady of Walsingham (E) |
| Sat 25th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time |
| Sun 26th  | 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time |

***COVID PRECAUTIONS: SEE WHAT HAS - AND HASN’T - CHANGED***

Despite the removal of legal restrictions in July, Archbishop John strongly urges us, in the interests of health and safety, to continue to take precautions when coming to Mass. So 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 church and in the benches unless you are in a family group.

In addition, Holy Communion is once again being 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 and Stewards will continue to sanitize the seating after each Mass.

**REMEMBER THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Please pray for all those who are sick or in need at this time including: Nicola Gingell, Albert Mackay, Judy Freegard, Christine Marchant, Anne McDonagh, Martin McDonagh, Martin Reilly, Lily Wei, Douglas & Yvonne Bruce, Thelma Benn, 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, Patrick Acholonu, Kate Acholonu, Christopher Onyeachom and sick residents at the four residential homes usually, in better times, visited by the parish St Vincent de Paul group. All are in great need of our prayers.

**CAFÉ COLUMBA REOPENS**

After a gap of 18 months because of the lockdowns, Café Columba has reopened.

Make a note of the open times: the first Wednesday of every month, from 10am until 1:15pm.

We will be serving scones and cakes with coffees and teas first thing; also lunches, a main dish and dessert, from 11:45am.

Should you wish to visit, bring your friends – it’s a community cafe for the whole of Selsdon, remember. Everyone is more than welcome.

Our prices are low and all profits are given to charities, local and national.

If you would like to volunteer to help or bake a cake, please get in touch with Gill Tomei: email g.tomei@btopenworld.com

We look forward to seeing you.

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

Don’t forget: all candidates to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation need to attend weekly meetings on Sunday. The meetings, in the church, start at 5.30pm and last for around 45 minutes.

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| **MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK** |
| Sat 18th  | 6.30pm | Holy Souls |
| Sun 19th  | 8.00am | Pro Populo |
| Sun 19th  | 10.00am | Jo & Alan Maguire, RIP |
| Sun 19th  | 6.30pm | Mary Lamell |
| Mon 20th  | 10.00am | Maureen Melvin, RIP |
| Tues 21st  | 10.00am | Eucharistic Service |
| Wed 22nd  | 10.00am | No Mass |
| Thurs 23rd  | 10.00am | Eucharistic Service |
| Fri 24th  | 10.00am | Nicola Gingell, wellbeing |
| Sat 25th  | 6.30pm | Pamela Maguire, RIP |
| Sun 26th  | 8.00am | Holy Souls |
| Sun 26th  | 10.00am | Pro Populo |
| Sun 26th  | 6.30pm | Maureen Melvin, RIP |

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

Have you joined easyfundraising yet? So far 28 parishioners have signed up and, at no cost to them, St Columba’s has benefitted to the tune of £175. Not bad, eh?

How does it work? It’s simple.

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. 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) ***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.***PRAYERS FOR THE SICK***We have a prayer list of names of those who are sick which appears in the newsletter every week and is included in the Bidding Prayers at all Sunday Masses.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. |  |  |

**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.

**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



**COME TO OUR COFFEE MORNING**

Our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning will take place on Friday (the 24th) from 10-11.30am.

There will be a prize raffle and homemade-cakes stall plus of course teas, coffees, scones and biscuits.

Items for the raffle are needed: you can leave them in the hall kitchen this weekend (the 18th/19th) or any time during the coming week. Cakes should be delivered before 9.30am on the 24th please.

Do come along and support this annual charitable event, which has been running for at least eight years. Thanks in advance for your support.

**A MESSAGE FROM BROWN OWL**

Do you like young people? Have you thought about volunteering to help at a Brownie unit?

You would be most welcome if you did: we need you.

We are a thriving Brownie unit in need of help. One of our leaders is retiring and we are looking for helpers and leaders to join our team so we can keep the unit open.

We have 19 girls in our unit, all very enthusiastic about guiding, who want you to come along and help. We have a great programme of activities ranging from learning camping skills to craft, baking to science and engineering activities.

The girls help in the community, learn skills for the future, have fun and play games.

There are all sorts of ways you might help: admin, accounts, keeping our database up to date, sending emails, helping to plan activities…

Please help us prevent the unit closing, for the sake of our girls. Email meg.passey@gmail.com to find out more. - *Brown Owl*

**LITTER PICK**

That’s what is happening on Saturday September 25: a litter pick.

Parishioners of St Columba’s are invited to join members of other churches in the area for a couple of hours cleaning up Selsdon. In other words, making this a pleasanter place to live.

If you are interested, just turn up at St Mary’s, Addington, at 11am.

Bring some disposable gloves – refuse bags and picking sticks will be provided.

A number of specific areas have been identified for litter picking – you will get the details when you arrive at St Mary’s.

The event is being organised by Churches Together in Selsdon & Addington, of which St Columba’s is an active member.

**SITUATION VACANT**

Good Shepherd Catholic Primary & Nursery School in New Addington is looking to appoint an Administration Assistant. The position, available immediately, is permanent.

For full details and an application form visit the school website [www.goodshepherdprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.goodshepherdprimaryschool.co.uk)

**HELP AFGHAN REFUGEES**

Croydon Refugee Day Centre is making an appeal for new and good quality pre-worn clothing for refugees from Afghanistan. Here's the list of clothing needed:

* New men’s underwear - boxers please
* New women’s and children’s underwear
* New socks - all sizes
* Men’s hats - good condition
* Trainers for children and men and women
* Men’s jeans - all sizes
* Men’s and women’s t-shirts
* Small and medium size men’s jackets
* Small and medium size men’s jumpers
* Men’s hoodies and tracksuit bottoms

They are also requesting the following for children: pads of paper, crayons, pencils, sharpeners.

Ring Ivanka on 07802 631023 for more details.

**UNITED WE STAND**

The Christian Unity Commission (CUC) does what it says on the tin: it works for unity among Christians. How would you like to become involved?

You don’t need any previous experience or special qualifications, just a desire to help and serve the Church.

Contact Deacon Michael Baldry for more information by emailing michaelbaldry@rcaos.org.uk

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

Give Fr Roy or Deacon Philip the name of anyone who is sick so that it can be included in the newsletter and in the Bidding Prayers at Sunday Mass.

**KEEP FIT CLASSES**

Classes have returned, on Monday from 11am - 12 noon. Everyone welcome, whatever fitness level you are at.

We will be using floor mats, weights and stretch bands - if you have these please bring them along as you are now expected to supply your own equipment at all fitness classes after COVID.

We are a safe environment in the church hall: we just ask you be sensible about your health.

We Look forward to seeing you there - come and have a trial session. Contact Gill, the fitness tutor on g.tomei@btopenworld.com for more details.

**CELEBRATING CREATION**

From the G7 to CoP26 we have a wonderful opportunity to highlight the beauty of the Earth and our place within it during the Sunday Liturgy.

The Diocesan Liturgy Commission would like to offer some suggestions and resources for worship particularly for (but not excluded to) the Season of Creation which runs from 1st September to 4th October.  It is hoped that these resources would bring out the rich expressions of creation within the Liturgy, leading the worshipping community to a deeper awareness of our responsibility and the inevitable gratitude to God for the gift of all of creation.

Please the attached document for details:  Seven Ways to Bring Creation to Mass



**A MILLION GESTURES OF KINDNESS**

The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is seeking a million gestures of kindness to address the trail of poverty and loneliness left in the wake of Covid-19.

Launching its Awareness Month campaign, which runs throughout September and includes the feast days of SVP founder Blessed Frédéric Ozanam and the Society’s patron saint, St Vincent de Paul, on September 9 and 27 respectively, the SVP has called for parishioners in the Southwark dioceseto become member, volunteer a few hours of their time or donate to support people in need.

For more details contact our own parish SVP group by emailing andrealightman@hotmail.co.uk

**A WILL TO HELP ST CHRISTOPHER’S**

Do you need to make or update your will? Take advantage of St Christopher’s Will Week, 20-24 September, and support your local hospice at the same time.

During Will Week local solicitors waive their usual fee to write a simple will, in return for a donation to the hospice.

Simply call one of the listed solicitors on the first day of Will Week to make an appointment (which can be taken at a later date).

Once your will is made, the solicitor will ask you to make the donation to St Christopher’s. For more information visit [www.stchristophers.org.uk/willweek](http://www.stchristophers.org.uk/willweek) or call 020 8768 4575.

**THE ARCHBISHOP’S CERTIFICATE**

How about signing up for the Archbishop’s Certificate (ArchCert), an online course for all in Southwark who wish to know their Catholic faith more deeply?

To obtain it, participants 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 both confidence and joy.

The course will commence on October 9 and the cost is £365 per year. 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=7e2b3ef9a7)

**THANKS FROM DEACON PHIL & MARY**

Deacon Phil and Mary Pond would like to say a very big ‘Thank you’ to all those parishioners who sent greetings and cards to mark their golden wedding anniversary last Saturday. Yes, 50 years of marriage.

**COME FOR A COUNTRY RAMBLE**

Fancy a country ramble? Then make a note of the date: Saturday October 2.

The rendezvous for this family walk, at 9.45 for 10am, is St Christopher’s, Chelsham Rd, Warlingham (postcode CR6 9EZ if you are using sat-nav). That’s near Sainsbury’s.

The circular walk is seven miles long through beautiful Surrey countryside. And it will finish between 3.30 and 4pm.

If you would like a shorter route, you can join at The Harrow on Farley Common where there will be a lunch break from 1.30-2.30pm.

More details: 07951 701 692.