**St Columba’s Church**

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**19TH JULY 2020 - 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)**

**ALL MASSES FROM ST COLUMBA’S ONLINE**

You can follow Fr Roy celebrating Mass live on YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYVyZ2Xpfs0NiuU3bxAjsCQ/live>

10am Mass is also live streamed each day on Zoom:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73986660636?pwd=UkJMZHQ0S1ZYUDdOR21MVkpYZElBdz09>

**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.

**1st Reading: the book of Wisdom 12:13,16-19**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 85:5-6,9-10,15-16. R. v.5**

O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

**2nd Reading: from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:26-27**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30**

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

**COMING TO MASS: HELP US TO HELP YOU**

If at all possible, email us in advance ***every time*** you intend coming to Mass. It will save filling up a form with your name and contact details when you arrive and reduce queuing. And please, to avoid transmission of the virus, do not touch any chairs other than the one you are using.

**REMEMBER WHEN COMING TO MASS AT ST COLUMBA’S…**

* You must wear a face mask.
* There is a one-way system – in at the side via the Sacred Heart chapel/confessional, out via the centre back door.
* You must provide a note of your name and contact details (phone number or email or postal address) – why not send an email to selsdon@rcaos.org.uk? That applies every time you come to Mass. It is required by the Government’s Track & Trace scheme – the details are kept for 21 days then destroyed.
* Only come to Mass if you feel comfortable with the idea. Health and safety come first.
* Mass times are just as they were before the lockdown: Saturday 6.30pm, Sunday 8am, 10am and 6.30pm. During the week there is Mass every day at 10am (except Saturday). All Masses are live streamed on YouTube.
* A maximum of 57 people are allowed into the church for Mass. ***If there are already that number inside when you arrive, the stewards will advise that you need to come back to a later Mass.***
* Hand sanitizer is provided for use both on entering and leaving the church.
* Chairs have replaced the benches and are at 1m intervals to ensure the necessary social distancing. Please do not move them.
* There are no votive candles, holy water, singing, Bidding Prayers or Sign of Peace.
* No prayer/hymn books or any other shared items are available. Bring your own.
* There is no Offertory collection. Please place your offering in the baskets at the entrance/exit.
* After the Mass ends, stewards will advise you on when to come forward for Holy Communion which is ***completely silent***. Before coming forward to receive, please turn your chair back to front so that the stewards know which ones to clean afterwards.
* You are asked to leave straight after Holy Communion – do not go back to your seat and do not congregate in the car park.
* ***The toilets cannot be used.***

***STOP PRESS: YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU***

***Volunteer needed to help out with parish secretarial duties and book-keeping. Contact Fr Roy for more details.***

**PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED**

Andrew Martin, Hubert “Pop” Sogeler and Olive Wetherill – may they rest in peace.

**A REFLECTION FROM DEACON PHILIP**

**FOR THE 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

The story is told of an island which always used to be a very peaceful place. The ideal place to live, in fact.

But over time that changed. There was trouble, confusion, fear and unrest.

The good people there were very upset. They blamed the change on a small group of troublemakers.

‘We must get rid of these mischief makers,’ they said.

‘We’ll build a great wall in one part of the island to separate them from everyone else. They can live there.’

It seemed a simple and effective idea.

Everybody knew – or thought they did – who the troublemakers were. The bad people. The sinners. But in practice, it proved no easy task to carry out.

However, the good people persevered, the wall was built and the bad people were sent to live there, even though many resisted, protesting that they didn’t want to be branded as evil.

Now there was a very holy man named Anthony, much admired and respected by everyone. The good people assumed that he would be on their side of the wall.

But no; Anthony took up residence with the bad people.

‘You assume that you are innocent, peace loving and right and all the others are the devil incarnate,’ he told the good people. ‘But you’re deceiving yourselves. Your innocence is only imaginary. Who can claim they are perfect and have never done anything bad? Certainly not me. None of us can. The very things you condemn in others are in yourselves; in all of us.’

That story is a retelling of the parable of the wheat and the weeds which we heard in Matthew’s Gospel this Sunday.

It contains a number of lessons for us.

Firstly, we are all flawed. We all do bad things. We all commit sin. There is no such thing as the perfect society; the perfect family; the perfect anything. And that includes the Church, which is a haven for sinners.

Secondly, we all need to change; to face up to the reality of the presence of weeds in our lives; our brokenness; our sinfulness. And try to do something about it. Which means being open to God’s mercy; reaching out for forgiveness and helping ourselves through prayer and receiving the sacraments.

Thirdly, we must refuse to judge people. That is for God on the Last Day. Remember, Jesus didn’t weed out Judas from the apostles; nor Peter when he denied Jesus three times. He always gave them another chance.

Fourthly, recognise in the parable of the wheat and the weeds that it signifies just how infinitely patient and loving God is. He doesn’t rush to judgement. He is prepared to wait and wait and wait again in the hope that we shall repent, turn away from sin and trust ourselves to Him. Think of the example of Saul, who persecuted Christians throughout much of his life but ended up as a martyr and a pillar of the Church.

To sum up, we shouldn’t be surprised at the presence of evil in the world. We need to remember that the triumph of the wicked is short lived; the reward of the Christian who suffers from that wickedness, everlasting. And God can use that wickedness to perfect his elect.

Remember, no one is excluded from heaven because of their sins but only because they did not repent of those sins while they had the opportunity.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND NEEDY**…

Nina Wade, 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, Margaret Edwards, Jean-Claude Anthony, Ellen Everett, Maureen Coffey, Albert Khayyat, Grant Russell, James Patrick Guckian, Elizabeth Sensano and sick residents at the four residential homes usually, in better times, visited by the parish SVP group.

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

Sun 19TH: 16th Sunday in ordinary time Year A

Mon 20th: Feria or St Apollinaris

Tues 21st: Feria or St Lawrence of Brindisi

Wed 22nd: St Mary Magdalene

Thurs 23rd: St Bridget, patron of Europe

Fri 24th : Feria or St Sharbel Makhluf

Sat 25th: St James, apostle

Sun 26th: 17th Sunday in ordinary time

**KNOW OF SOMEONE IN NEED OF PRAYERS?**

*If you or people you know are in particular need of our prayers, let Deacon Philip know so that the name(s) can be included in the prayer list of people who are sick or needy.*

**WOULD YOU LIKE A MASS SAID?**

If you wish to have a Mass offered for a special intention, you can do so. Use one of the special envelopes at the back of the church. Or email details to Fr Roy. Or write them out 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.

**BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS TO GO AHEAD**

We can now go ahead with celebrating baptisms and weddings again at St Columba’s. We can also now start planning again for First Communions and Confirmations, although organising those is going to take some time.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 18th: 6.30pm Frederick Mills RIP

Sun 19th: 8am Holy Souls

Sun 19th: 10am Tony Russell RIP

Sun 19th: 6.30pm Pro Populo

Mon 20th: 10am Holy Souls

Tues 21st: 10am Holy Souls

Wed 22nd: 10am Holy Souls

Thurs 23rd: Holy Souls

Fri 24th: 10am Holy Souls

Sat 25th: 6.30pm Frederick Mills RIP

Sun 26th: 8am Holy Souls

Sun 26th: 10am Pro Populo

Sun 26th: 6.30pm Holy Souls

**THE SVP CAN HELP**

Are you in need? Struggling to cope? Worried out of your mind?

Take comfort: help is at hand.

The parish St Vincent de Paul (SVP) conference is ready and willing and able to do whatever it can to help you. And in complete confidence.

Give Diane a ring on 01883 627 138.

**HOW SHOPPING ONLINE CAN HELP ST COLUMBA’S BANK BALANCE**

*Deacon Philip writes:* Several parishioners have now signed up for this scheme, me included. It means that you can turn your everyday 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

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) website, 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. 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)

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| **DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE & CAFOD LAUNCH CORONAVIRUS APPEAL**The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), of which CAFOD is an active member, have this week launched a nationwide Coronavirus appeal. Thanks to generous support from the Catholic community, CAFOD are already working across 26 countries to limit food shortages the virus has caused in the poorest communities. The needs are immense, long term, complex and evolving so the response needs to be large scale and multifaceted. As the DEC raises awareness of the global situation, the Catholic community are asked to keep those worst affected in their thoughts, prayers and where possible, their alms giving.To find out more or to donate, click on this link to see [the ways you can do so](https://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer/Volunteer-resources/Parish-volunteers) or phone 07775704546. |  |  |

**KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS…**

These are the intentions the Church asks us to pray for during this current period:

* For a deeper understanding between Christians and Jews.
* Those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights.
* All human life
* Seafarers
* Europe.

**DO YOU NEED TO GO TO SUNDAY MASS?**

Although St Columba’s is now open for the celebration of Mass daily, Archbishop John has confirmed that the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still suspended. Also, as he points out, if you are potentially vulnerable to Covid-19, you may be nervous about attending Sunday Mass because of the number of people likely to be there. In which case – if you are healthy enough – consider going to a weekday Mass instead. Or simply attend a virtual Mass online.

**ST COLUMBA’S & THE COST OF THE LOCKDOWN**

Because of the coronavirus lockdown, you may have been unable to make your usual contribution to the everyday running costs of the parish and our parish priest.

That has badly affected parish finances.

Now that lockdown restrictions have eased, do please, if you have fallen behind, give serious thought to catching up on your contributions.

There are a number of options.

* Put the money in a collection basket when you come to Mass.
* Post an offering through the presbytery letterbox.
* Better still, make a payment online.
* Best of all, set up a monthly standing order: the parish bank account number is 79124313 and the sort code 60-50-01 – you will also need the name of the account which is ‘RCAS St Columba’s Selsdon’.