#  St Columba’s Church, Selsdon

37 Queenhill Road, Selsdon, South Croydon, CR2 8DW Parish website: [www.stcolumbaschurchselsdon.uk](http://www.stcolumbaschurchselsdon.uk)

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**2 FEBRUARY 2025 – THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD, YEAR C**

**TODAY'S MASS READINGS (DON’T FORGET: THE CHURCH IS CLOSED TILL LATE FEBRUARY)**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

**First Reading:** Malachi: 3:1-4

**Responsorial Psalm:** The Lord of hosts, He is the king of glory!

**Second Reading:** Hebrews: 2:14-18

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel. Alleluia.

**Gospel:** Luke: 2:22-40

**Communion Antiphon:** My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

**MASS AT ST COLUMBA’S**

There will be Mass in the hall on Tuesday (the 4th) at 10am.

**CHURCH CLOSURE: AN UPDATE** Fr Julian writes: On Wednesday I was invited to examine the progress of the works from the elevated platform. I do not have a good head for heights so, after climbing the ladder, I avoided looking down. All the old tiles have been removed from the ‘nave’ section of the roof, and half of the new tiles, with insulation, installed. It was estimated then that the roof would be complete by the end of the week, perhaps allowing the scaffolding to be removed tomorrow (Monday). Once the church is clear the pews can be put back, but a deep-cleaning company will be required before Mass can resume owing to the amount of dust. Work will then begin on the side chapels and, once they are complete, the redecoration can start. It is hoped that SundayMasses *may* resume later in February and weekday Masses after that once the side chapels are complete. Although redecoration will take some time, Masses (both weekday and Sunday) ought to be possible as the decorator will only need to work in one small part of the church at a time, which can be taped off. Good news is that no serious issues have been discovered in the rafters (concealed by the tiles since 1962), although it has been noted that the high-level brickwork dividing the side chapels from the nave was never completed. So extra insulation will need to be inserted to exclude any draughts. In the meantime the church remains strictly out of bounds for all members of the public for the obvious reasons of health and safety – it is, at present, a building site.

**WHAT NEXT?** See the parish website for updates or telephone the parish office. While the church is closed please attend Mass at any parish you wish – they all have websites and telephone numbers for you to check Mass times.

**MASS INTENTIONS WHILE CHURCH IS CLOSED** If you have made a donation towards a Mass intention then there are two options: *either* the donation can be refunded (contact the parish office) *or* the intention will be offered after the church reopens on a first-come-first-served basis. You can check developments on the parish website.

**CAFÉ COLUMBA** It reopens (10am – 1.15pm) in our hall on Wednesday (the 5th), a great opportunity to meet up with parishioners you may not have seen since the church closed as well as other friends old and new. As usual there will tea, coffee and cake followed by lunches. All profits go to charity. Do come and support this worthwhile cause.

**PREMA MEEWELLA RIP** Please keep Prema in your prayers. Her funeral will take place at 11.15am on February 13 at the East Chapel of Croydon Crematorium/Cemetery. Pray also for her husband, Chrys, and their family.

*Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.*

**MONEY MATTERS** January 28: basket £45 (all gift aided). Thank you for your generosity.

**MASS AT CROYDON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL** It is celebrated every Wednesday in the hospital chapel at 12 noon.

All are welcome to attend.

**HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR ARCHDIOCESE** That’s the invitation and challenge in a consultation booklet being made available by our Archbishop to all parishioners – and that means you. It follows a pastoral letter from Abp John circulated at St Columba’s just before the church closed for building work. That pastoral letter was about the latest phase of *Called To Bear Fruit*, an initiative he launched in 2023. You can read more about *Called to Bear Fruit* on the parish website. Copies of the consultation booklet can be collected from the hall at Mass on Tuesday.

**FOOD BANK WHILE THE CHURCH IS CLOSED?** It is not be possible to donate items to the Food Bank via the boxes in the porch until the church reopens. So please store any donations at home for the time being.

**TELEPHONE CALLS** If you leave a message with a phone number on the parish office answerphone it is vital to speak clearly, slowly and distinctly. Too many numbers are gabbled. Then it becomes impossible to return the call.

**FAN THE FLAME OF HOPE** CYMFed Flame is the largest Catholic youth event in the UK. It’s aimed at young people in school year 9 up to university age and takes place this year on March 15 from 11am-6pm in Wembley Arena. A block booking by by our Archdiocese means tickets cost £29 each but you need to book now. For more information visit https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/

**LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE** Interested in learning more about the Bible and reflecting on Scriptural themes? Why not join a virtual Bible study group which meets online every Friday evening at 7.30pm? Once a month, on the second Friday, the group also meet in person at the SDC House at 38 Ryefield Rd, Upper Norwood, SE19 3QU. The focus for 2025 is the Jubilee Year. To join online visit the website pwa.zoom.us/wc and enter the Zoom ID 4454292726.

**CELEBRATE THE JUBILEE YEAR** This year, 2025, has been designated a Jubilee Year for the Catholic Church across the whole world. You can make a good start finding out what that means by visiting this website: <https://cafod.org.uk/news/events/a-year-of-hope-an-introduction-to-the-jubilee-year>

**PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES?** It’s being organised by the Handicapped Children’s Pilgrimage Trust, leaving on Easter Sunday, April 20-26. The all-inclusive price is £825. Email group14@hcpt.org.uk for details – don’t delay.

**BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE** This is a one-day marriage-enrichment course aimed at couples with average-to-good marriages who would like to make them better. There is no charge and no group sharing. Couples have the opportunity individually to explore their relationship and levels of communication, which is the key to relationship. These BABM days start at 9.30am and finish by 4.30pm. Dates and venues for 2025 are: March 15, East Sheen; April 12, West Croydon; June 28, Kingston-upon-Thames; July 5, Dulwich; September 13, Amigo Hall, Southwark; and October 4, Catford. More details – T: 07983 524 727 or E: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

**WORD ON FIRE** Join Bp Robert Barron and thousands of Catholics from across the UK for a Bible conference, *Evangelisation & Culture: The Bible* at the Excel Centre in East London on February 21-22. Other speakers include N.T. Wright and Professor Tracey Rowland. More information: wordonfire.org/the-bible-event.

**PRAY FOR THE SICK AND NEEDY** Rob Adams, Jean-Claude Anthony, Alice Barclay, Maria Baretto, Rene Barrett, John Belli, Maureen Coffey, Joan D`Souza, Vera de Souza, Una Dunne, Irena Dziewulak, Eoin Egan, Bernardo Fernandes, Judy Freegard, Joan Hammett, Tony Melvin, Veronica Moor, Jill & Jim O`Donnell, Roselyn Ping, Pedrinha Ramos, Elida Scasso, Sean Walsh and Jacqueline Wheatley. Also pray for family and friends of parishioners: Isobel Barbour, Margaret Bolton, Ann Brennan, Mike Goodwin, Michael Medhurst, Christopher Onyeachom, Jonathan Raki, Kathleen Sampson, Michael Skinner, Pat Taylor, David Wallace and Linda & Michael Watson.

**SAFEGUARDING** Our four Parish Safeguarding Reps are: Gill Tomei email selsdonsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk Richard Mills E: selsdonsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk Clare Morgado E: selsdonsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk and Patsy McFarlane E: selsdonsg4@safeguardrcaos.org.uk You can also contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator on 020 7261 1606. If you need help, information or advice concerning possible safeguarding issue involving children or vulnerable adults, contact any of the above. Your concerns will be dealt with discreetly and efficiently. For more information about Safeguarding please see the posters in the porch and church hall.