# 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 MARCH 2025 – EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C**

**TODAY'S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.

**First Reading:** Sirach 27:4-7

**Responsorial Psalm:** It is good to give thanks to you, O Lord.

**Second Reading:** I Corinthians: 15:54-58

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia. Shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life. Alleluia.

**Gospel:** Luke: 6:39-45

**Communion Antiphon:** I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me, sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.

**THIS WEEK’S MASSES**

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| **Date** | **Mass** | **Time** | **Intention** |
| Sun 2 Mar | **EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR**  *Day for the Unemployed* | 6pm (Sat) | Alfred & Josephine Dickey, RIP |
| 9am | Pro Populo |
| 11am | Czeslaw Lawicki |
| Mon 3 Mar | Weekday | 10am | Kathleen Hogan, RIP |
| Tues 4 Mar | St. Casimir *Shrove Tuesday* | 10am | Howard & Nina Freegard, RIP |
| Wed 5 Mar | **ASH WEDNESDAY**  *Day of Fasting & Abstinence* | 10am  7.30pm | Bridget Chacko, RIP  Pat Davis, RIP |
| Thurs 6 Mar | Lenten Weekday | 10am | Graham Arnold, RIP |
| Fri 7 Mar | Lenten Weekday  *Women`s World Day of Prayer (SS. Perpetua & Felicity)* | 10am | Josephine Hannan, RIP |
| Sat 8 Mar | Lenten Weekday *(St. John of God)* | 10.30am | Priest`s Intention |
| Sun 9 Mar | **FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT** | 6pm (Sat) | Patrick O`Donoghue, RIP |
| 9am | Mary Johnson, RIP |
| 11am | Pro Populo |

* Weekday Masses are preceded by Morning Prayer at 9.40am
* Tuesday`s Mass is followed by Exposition & Benediction until 11am.
* Friday`s Mass is followed by the Rosary.
* Stations of the Cross on Fridays in Lent at 7.30pm
* There are devotions to Our Lady on Saturday morning at 10am.
* Confessions: on Saturday after the 10.30am Mass and from 5.30-5.45pm.

**ASH WEDNESDAY: A DAY OF FASTING & ABSTINENCE** It’s this Wednesday (the 5th), the first day of Lent, a time of giving, praying, fasting in preparation for the great mystery of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord at Easter. So be more generous to those in need, commit more to your relationship with God in prayer and fast, perhaps giving up things (food, drink, social outings) you would normally enjoy. Fasting & Abstinence: it means that if aged 18-60 we eat only one main meal and a snack daily. Catholics of any age should abstain from meat (fish and vegetarian meals are fine). We are encouraged to maintain this on Fridays in Lent as well, as part of Friday penance.

**MONEY MATTERS** 22/23 February: basket £1,020.50 (Gift Aid £615.82), card machines £259 (Gift Aid £219). Clergy Support Fund: basket £492.31 (Gift Aid £239.50), card machines £258 (Gift Aid £168). Building Fund: card machines £10 (Gift Aid £10). Repository: £6. Thank you for your generosity. Gift Aid envelopes for the new tax year have arrived and are available for collection in the repository: please help yourself.

**ST COLUMBA COMMUNITY GROUP** Enjoy tea, coffee and biscuits after the 9am Mass today (Sunday)

**NEXT WEEKEND’S READERS, BIDDING PRAYERS WRITER & EUCHARISTIC MINISTER** Readers: Saturday 6pm Richard. Sunday 9am Irene. 11am Beatrice. Bidding Prayers: Stephen & Brigid. Eucharistic minister 9am Mass: Cathy.

**A MAN AFTER GOD’S HEART** Among the many outsize characters in Scripture, David is one of the most compelling and controversial; a writer of psalms still sung today, the king who established Jerusalem and the monarchy, the man who defeated giants and the one from whom the messianic line proceeds. David is memorably described as ‘a man after God’s heart’ and yet he was also someone capable of the most appalling behaviour. How can we square the circle of his character and make sense of how God used someone so gifted but also flawed? That is the theme of a house-group Lent course starting on March 10. Use this link to choose a day of the week and venue in Selsdon that suit you best: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdThgb0AjDnWfhqBhcjHh7YiFxDlohXWukWAWfu-xRI3B5BQw/viewform?usp=sharing> Alternatively phone Deacon Philip for details and to book.

**CAFÉ COLUMBA** It’s open on Wednesday (the 5th) 10am-1:15pm for teas/coffees ☕️ and cakes 🍰 followed by a 3-course lunch from 11:45am. Come and share quality time with each other, meet new friends and be warm! During 2024 we were able to donate over £600 to deserving charities such as Brainwave, the Alzheimer’s Society, Crisis, Dementia UK, Selsdon Centre, Contact, Marie Curie and The Children’s Cancer Trust. Plus one of our Cafe team’s family made some fabulous Christmas table decorations raising another £600 which was donated to Crisis.

**GOING INTO HOSPITAL?** If you or a family member are admitted to Croydon University Hospital, let Fr Julian or Deacon Philip know so that the Catholic chaplaincy can ensure you are visited and receive Holy Communion and the Sacrament of the Sick. In an emergency telephone the CUH switchboard (020 8401 3000) and ask for the on-call Catholic chaplain to be paged, giving the name of the person to be visited and their ward.

**LALEHAM LEA SCHOOL** Open week is March 10-14. To book places at the school or a tour ring 020 8660 3351.

**HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR ARCHDIOCESE** That’s the invitation and challenge in a consultation booklet made available by our Archbishop to all parishioners – and that means you. It follows a pastoral letter from Archbishop 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 it on the parish website. Copies of the consultation booklet can be collected at church. A parish meeting is going to be arranged.

**BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE** 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. It starts at 9.30am on March 15 in East Sheen. More details: email [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk)

**FOR THE BEREAVED** *Grief In Loss: Hope In Christ* is a weekend for those who have been bereaved. This weekend, from March 21-23, will take place away from the pressures of day-to-day life and can help one begin to come to terms with bereavement. It is a time for quiet, prayer, talking and acceptance. Due to the special nature of this weekend retreat, held at Aylesford Priory in Kent, places are limited and subject to a telephone call to determine if it is right for you – 01622 717 272 or email [reception@thefriars.org.uk](mailto:reception@thefriars.org.uk)

**FOOD BANK** Most urgent needs are: soup, tinned meats (meals), pasta sauce, tinned fruit, tinned veg, pasta, tuna, porridge/oats and other cereals, toilet rolls, bleach and washing-up liquid. Place in the boxes in the porch.

**SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR LENT** Come along to St John the Baptist parish hall, Dale Rd, Purley, on Wednesday evenings starting 12 March at 7pm to watch a series of beautiful films while learning how St Francis of Assisi, Catherine of Sienna and Michelangelo shaped the Church and changed the world. Details: annejspragg@gmail.com

**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, Eoin Egan, Bernardo Fernandes, Judy Freegard, Tony Melvin, Veronica Moor, Jill & Jim O`Donnell, Roselyn Ping, Pedrinha Ramos, Elida Scasso and Sean Walsh. Also pray for family and friends of parishioners: Isobel Barbour, Margaret Bolton, Ann Brennan, 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](mailto:email:%20selsdonsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk) Richard Mills E: [selsdonsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:selsdonsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk) Clare Morgado E: [selsdonsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:selsdonsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk) and Patsy McFarlane E: [selsdonsg4@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto: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 issues 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.