**St Columba’s Church, Selsdon**

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**SEPTEMBER 20, 2020**

**25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)**

**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.

**1st Reading: from the prophet Isaiah 55:6-9**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18.**

**R: v.18**

The Lord is close to all who call him.

**2nd Reading: from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 1:20-24. 27**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens! Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16**

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

**WHAT’S HAPPENING THIS WEEK**

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still suspended. But if you are able to come, all are welcome to Mass at St Columba’s every day of the week (see Mass times overleaf).

There is Mass every day at 10am except Saturday, plus 8am and 6.30pm Mass every Sunday, as well as a vigil Mass at 6.30pm on Saturdays.

Don’t forget either that Adoration in front of the exposed Blessed Sacrament has resumed every Tuesday. It is limited in time to one hour from 10.30-11.30am. If you are staying on for Holy Hour after Mass simply return to your seat after Holy Communion.

**WITH GOD, IT’S NEVER TOO LATE**

**A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE 25th SUNDAY BY DEACON PHILIP**

The story is told of a young man from a very well-off family who was on the point of graduating from university.

For months he had had his eye on a sleek-looking sports car in a local dealer’s showroom. As his father could well afford it, he told him that this was what he would like as a graduation present.

On graduation day, the father handed his son a beautifully wrapped gift box. Inside was a lovely leather-bound Bible.

The son was overcome with anger. ‘With all your money, you give me a Bible?’ he said to his father, angrily, and stormed out of the house.

Many years passed. The son, estranged from his father, built up a successful business, married and had a family.

***‘…the son had left it too late…’***

He hadn’t seen his father since graduation day and began to have regrets. But the son had left it too late.

Before he could act, a telegram arrived to say that the old man had died – leaving him everything. When he arrived at his father’s house, the son was filled with regret. Looking through his father’s possessions, he came across the Bible, still inside its box.

He took it out. And as he opened it, a car key dropped from the back of the Bible. Attached was a tag with the date of his graduation, the words ‘Paid in full’ and the car dealer’s name.

It was the same dealer who had had the sports car he had so desired all those years before.

Which brings us to today’s Gospel. Because its message is simple. It is that, unlike with that young man, it’s never too late for God. Never too late. And, like the father in the story, God’s generosity is unlimited.

Now it’s easy when reading today’s Gospel to get distracted from the message and come to the wrong conclusion.

***‘…even on one’s death bed…’***

How many of you thought to yourself, hearing about the landowner paying his workers all the same no matter how long they had worked in the vineyard: that’s not fair?

To do so is entirely to miss the point. Jesus’s parable isn’t about social justice and working conditions.

No: He wanted to get across the simple point that it’s never too late to turn to God. Even at the eleventh hour. Even on one’s death bed.

That applies no matter what we have done that we shouldn’t during our lives or haven’t done that we should.

It’s never too late to repent; never too late to receive a fair wage. And that fair wage is of course the reward of eternal life; the reward of God’s infinite loving mercy and forgiveness.



**ST COLUMBA'S NEEDS YOU**

The only way we are able to keep St Columba's open for Mass during this pandemic is because of the generosity, with their time and commitment, of our team of stewards.

They are essential in our complying with the requirements agreed between the Church and our government for keeping churches open.

A small number of parishioners at St Columba's are keeping the show on the road. But they need help.

Are you willing to volunteer as a steward? We certainly need you.

All it entails is checking people in before Mass - just one a week, which you would probably be attending anyway - and, afterwards, helping to clean up. Not a big ask.

Contact Deacon Philip if you are willing to help. All offers gratefully received.

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 19th: Feria or St Theodore of Canterbury

Sun 20th: 25th Sunday in ordinary time year A

Mon 21st: St Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist

Tues 22nd Feria

Wed 23rd: St Pio of Pietrelcina

Thurs 24th: Our Lady of Walsingham

Fri 25th: Feria

Sat 26th: Feria or Ss Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs

Sun 27th: [26th Sunday in Ordinary Time](https://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/Sunday/OT5Sunday.shtml#OT26)

***REMEMBER THE NEW RULES WHEN COMING TO CHURCH…***

Don’t forget, whether coming to Mass or to Tuesday Adoration, that we must all comply with the following rules:

1. Remember to bring and wear a face mask.
2. Enter the church via the side door leading into the Sacred Heart chapel/confessional, observe the one-way system and leave via the centre back door.
3. Provide a written note – and this applies every time you come to church – of your name and contact details (phone number or email or postal address) plus the date and, if relevant, Mass time. To save queuing, why not send an email to selsdon@rcaos.org.uk?
4. Use hand sanitizer, provided, both when entering and leaving the church.
5. Do not move the chairs which have replaced our benches and are at 1m intervals to ensure the necessary social distancing.
6. Don’t expect to find Mass or prayer books or any other shared items: bring your own. That applies to readers as well.
7. Remember that singing is not allowed.
8. Don’t forget that Holy Communion is silent – come forward when directed by the stewards and receive with arms fully outstretched, palms upwards.
9. Before leaving the church (i.e. before you come up to receive Holy Communion), turn your chair back to front so that the stewards know which ones to clean afterwards.
10. Unless staying for Adoration, on Tuesdays, leave the church straight after Holy Communion.
* ***Please note: the toilets at church cannot be used.***

**ARRANGING TO HAVE A MASS SAID**

If you wish to have a Mass offered for a special intention, you can do so.

Email the 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.

**70 NOW ALLOWED IN CHURCH**

Originally the number was lower but as a result of some more rearranging of benches we can now accommodate up to 70 people in church.

***If there are already that number inside when you arrive, the stewards will advise that you cannot come into the church.***

So far that situation has not arisen – 63 is the largest number we have had at St Columba’s and that was last weekend’s 10am Sunday Mass.

**REMEMBER THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Please pray for all those in great need at this time including: John Smith, Elena Sandland, Imogen Fernando, Baby Tommy, Joan Charman, 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, 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.

**PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER**

During September we are asked to pray for the following intentions: students and teachers; the spread of the Gospel; the harvest, the fruits of human work and the reverent use of creation; justice and peace; all victims of war; young people; and prisoners and their families.

Please remember them in your prayers.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 19th: 6.30pm O’Dowd Family Intentions

Sun 20th: 8am For Conversion of Children

SUN 20th: 10am Pro Populo

Sun 20th: 6.30pm Bill Tolhurst RIP Anniversary

Mon 21st: 10am Maureen Melvin RIP

Tues 22nd: 10am Betty Welch Well Being

Wed 23rd: 10am Judy Freegard

Thurs 24TH: 10am For Conversion of Children

Fri 25th: 10am For Conversion of Children

Sat 26th: 6.30pm Goveia Family

Sun 27th: 8am Michael Abiodun 60th Birthday

SUN 27th: 10am Pro Populo

Sun 27th: 6.30pm For Conversion of Children



***HOW TO HELP ST C’S WHEN SHOPPING ONLINE – AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOURSELF***

Thinking of buying something online? Anything? A new washing machine or fridge or freezer or tumble dryer or any other white goods?

Or perhaps you need a new vacuum cleaner or intend ordering a book or dvd or, in fact, any other items you need?

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 – not just of white goods but anything – 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 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.

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:

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| [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) **MARGARET EDWARDS RIP** |  |  |

The funeral of the late Margaret Edwards will take place at 11.15am on Tuesday October 6 followed by a short service at Croydon Crematorium. May she rest in peace.

**ST MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL W. CROYDON**

There will be an open evening for entry to year 7 in 2021 on 6 October with school tours from 5-7pm and the headteacher’s speech at 5.15pm. The school will also be open for visits every day between September 21-25 from 9-10am and, by appointment, at other times too.

Parents and children will have the opportunity to meet the headteacher, senior staff and classroom teachers as well as existing students. More information from admissions@stmaryscroydon.co.uk or, by phone, on 020 8686 3837. Social distancing measures will be in place.

**THANK YOU, RED-BOX HOLDERS**

Belated thanks from MISSIO for your red mission box donations for 2019: £1,763. 76. An excellent result and a great increase over 2018!

For 2020 the total is likely to be less because of the pandemic. There was no half-year emptying and counting of the money in red boxes in the summer for that reason.

However, there are several ways you can still choose to make contributions to the MISSIO red box scheme:

1. by bank transfer: account name MISSIO, sort code 16-00-16, account no. 10824230
2. online at missio.org.uk/redbox
3. by posting a cheque – payable to MISSIO-Mill Hill and sent to Red Box, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU
4. by telephone call to MISSIO on 020 7821 9755 and using your credit or debit card

Please note: for St Columba’s to be credited as the source of your donation, when you pay you need to include a note of your postcode or, even better, our parish MISSIO code number, SOU 130.

Some of you will have received *Mission Today* direct from MISSIO. Whether you did or not, be aware of the Pope’s emergency fund to support the Church overseas (via MISSIO) in the fight against Covid-19. This is the latest example of the Church responding to the needs of those who don’t have the support network we take for granted in the developed world. We are asked to give what we can but also to pray for them.

**MAKE YOUR OWN GIFT AID ENVELOPES**

We have not been able to distribute new Gift Aid envelopes because of the coronavirus.

There is a way round that, however, to ensure that St Columba’s continues to benefit from Gift Aid.

All you need to do is to put your offering in any blank envelope on which you then write ‘Gift Aid’ plus your name.

Then place that envelope in the Offertory collection box/basket at church. Better still, set up a standing order.

**CAN YOU RISE TO THE CHALLENGE?**

Our local St Vincent de Paul (SVP) conference does excellent work helping and supporting people in this parish.

Traditionally the SVP runs a nationwide Awareness Month programme every September to coincide with the feast days of Bl Frederic Ozanam (on the 9th) and St Vincent de Paul (on the 27th).

The coronavirus pandemic has put paid to that. Instead, there is a new online-based campaign picking up on their forthcoming Rise to the Challenge programme.

Its focus is the amazing work of the SVP’s members, staff and volunteers during the pandemic, with thousands of hungry people fed and friendship and support offered to the lonely and isolated.

If you would like to help or simply find out more or if you yourself need help contact our very own Diane English on 01883 627 138.

Remember: confidentiality is assured.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS MASS**

The date has been confirmed for our parish First Holy Communion Mass.

It will take place on Saturday October 3 at 11am.

Because of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, only the parents of First Holy Communion children will be able to attend the Mass.

Please remember in your prayers the 15 children who will be involved. Don’t forget the catechists, Patsy and Kirsten as well – they also need our prayers.

**JOB VACANCIES IN THE DIOCESE**

The new diocesan Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis is looking to appoint an Evangelisation and Outreach Advisor to join its team. They will support the parishes of the Archdiocese through the development of resources and the recruitment and training of a broad team of volunteers. [*Click here for PDF of Job description.*](http://rcsouthwark.co.uk/AOCE_Evang_JD2020.pdf) The Agency is also seeking to recruit a Local Leadership Resource Co-ordinator whose responsibilities will include the support and development of the volunteer network, the management of data held by the Agency and working with the advisory team to develop resources for parish support. [*Click here for PDF of Job description.*](http://rcsouthwark.co.uk/AOCE_SupportCoord_JD2020.pdf)
For more information email marknash@rcaos.org.uk Closing date for applications to both posts is 23 September.

**WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS & REFUGEES**

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| The 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees will be celebrated on **September 27**.As the title for his [annual message](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=7567a62fca&e=7d4ac57aff), the Holy Father has chosen **“Forced like Jesus Christ to flee”.** The message will focus on the pastoral care of internally displaced people, who currently number over 41 million worldwide.For more details visit <https://youtu.be/oS5SvUWlsZo> |

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**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Make a note in your diary: three online lectures are to be given by Fr Nick King SJ from 7.45pm - 9pm on the following dates:

* 7th October (Evangelisation)
* 14th October (Discipleship)
* 21st October (Fellowship)

There will be a limited number of participatory webinar tickets but the Centre for Catholic Formation plans on live-streaming the talks on either YouTube or Facebook so that more people can view each occasion.

More details will follow in due course, but do save the dates in your diary.

**UNITY – BUT IN A DIFFERENT FORM**

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| **“Together in Christ”,** the Southwark Christian unity bulletin, is to end in printed form but it will nevertheless continue as an annual via [christianunity.rcaos.org.uk](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=11329e5370&e=7d4ac57aff) the brand new Southwark Unity Commission's website. This larger site replaces the Commission’s former page on the diocese of Southwark website.Though “Together in Christ” is no longer to be produced in printed form, most back issues can be downloaded from the “Together in Christ” archive on the website If you have any interesting ecumenical items to go on the website, please send details to christianunitycommission@rcaos.org.uk. **MASS ONLINE FROM ST COLUMBA’S** Follow Fr Roy celebrating Mass live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYVyZ2Xpfs0NiuU3bxAjsCQ/live> 10am Mass is also live streamed daily (except Saturday) on Zoom:<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73986660636?pwd=UkJMZHQ0S1ZYUDdOR21MVkpYZElBdz09> **SAY IT WITH POSTERS**Forming Missionary Disciples has, as its aim, developing projects that support young adults in creating networks and communities of fellow Catholics.Now FMD have created some posters that make it easy to thank all those in our communities who have given their support throughout the pandemic in the last few months. [You can download them for free here.](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=5bbf85b211&e=7d4ac57aff)If you would like to support this group in thanks for these free posters their [donation details](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=203e490d59&e=7d4ac57aff) are here.**NOT RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION?** If you are not receiving Holy Communion at Mass, for whatever reason, please do come forward with the communicants and receive a blessing. Indicate in the usual way: by crossing your arms across your chest.**THE NEWSLETTER: ANY COMMENT?**Comments, suggestions, contributions: all are welcome. Items for publication should be emailed to Deacon Philip by Thursday evening at the latest.  |

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