**St Columba’s Church**

37 Queenhill Road, Selsdon, South Croydon, CR2 8DW

Parish telephone number: 020 8657 3747

Parish Priest: Father Roy Tablizo E: [selsdon@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:selsdon@rcaos.org.uk)

Deacon: Rev. Philip Pond E: [philippond@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:philippond@rcaos.org.uk)

T: 07764 845 890

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

**21 JUNE 2020: 12th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)**

Today is dedicated as a day of prayer for human life. We are reminded of the sacredness of life, all life, from conception until natural death. In normal times there would be a second collection to assist life-related activities supported by the Church…

**DAILY MASS ONLINE FROM ST COLUMBA’S (EVERY DAY EXCEPT MONDAY JUNE 22)**

You can follow Fr Roy celebrating Mass live at 10am every day on YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYVyZ2Xpfs0NiuU3bxAjsCQ/live>

Mass is also live streamed at the same time on Zoom:

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

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage and govern them for ever.

**1st Reading: from the prophet Jeremiah: 20:10-13**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 68:8-10,14,17,33-35. R.v.14**

In your great love, answer me, O God.

**2nd Reading: from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 5:12-15**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew 10:26-33**

**Communion Antiphon:** The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season.

***ST COLUMBA’S TO REOPEN ON MONDAY***

As from Monday (June 22), St Columba’s will be open from 11-12.30 every day except Wednesday.

After13 weeks of lockdown, churches now have permission from the Government to reopen – although for private prayer only.

However, there are strict rules which must be met.

There will be no celebration of Mass, nor any organized services. Certain other limitations will also apply:

* To ensure effective social distancing, a maximum of 40 people only can enter the church at any one time. If there are already that number inside, you will need to wait outside until somebody leaves. Stewards will be there to guide you.
* Access is only via the side door leading into the Sacred Heart chapel/confessional and people must leave via the main central rear doors. Follow the signs.
* Hand sanitizer will be provided for use both on entering and leaving the church and you are asked to use it at both points. There will also be face masks and gloves available.
* Chairs have replaced the benches and will be at 2m intervals to ensure the necessary social distancing. Please do not move them.
* No holy water, prayer/hymn books or any other shared items will be available. Bring your own.
* The toilets cannot be used.

It is hoped that we shall be able to come together at St Columba’s to celebrate Mass (which continues to be live-streamed via YouTube and Zoom) and receive Holy Communion in early July. Watch this space…

**A MESSAGE AND REFLECTION ON THIS SUNDAY’S READINGS FROM FR ROY**

We are now back to the ordinary period of the calendar of the Church.

This Sunday the prophet Elijah gives us a shining example of how to do God’s will.

The era of Elijah was one of the most challenging times in the history of the Jewish people.

Being in Babylonian captivity and the oppressive situation he lived in never distracted Elijah from his mission. He remained focused on preaching the Word of God and inviting people to turn away from sin.

Babylonian exile was a consequence of the obstinacy of the people of God. Their stubbornness led to them totally abandoning the path God had marked out for them. Hence, God punishing them in order to help them realize their sinfulness and correct their sinful situation.

The Ten Commandments had revealed the will of God. But the people had disregarded them, rejected God’s guiding hand and allowed themselves to be driven by their whims; dominated by their senses.

Their rejection of God’s will was the primary reason for the Babylonian captivity. Because of their sins, God exiled them from the promised land.

He did that because He wanted them to realise that their stubbornness was alienating them from God.

Their selfish and self-centred attitude was never going to allow them to fulfil their mission because it was totally contradictory to the life God wanted them to embrace.

Sin brings alienation from God and so, not surprisingly, the sinful lifestyle of the people of Israel alienated them from God.

The most painful result of sin is the realisation of being alienated from God. The gap between Him and His sinful people was totally unacceptable to all parties.

So God initiated a rescue package by exiling his people and thus giving them the opportunity to realize the truth. Which was that, alienated from Him, they could never achieve or even make progress towards God’s kingdom.

We have to seek forgiveness from God and put our lives right in His eyes. We can never do that individually or independently from one another.

Community cooperation is absolutely crucial because sin is not just individual but communal as well. God calls us to him not only individually but also as a community.

It was disobedience that destroyed the healthy relationship between God and the people of Israel.

Having observed the results of disobedience in the community life of Israel, we should reflect on the spiritual lessons we can learn in our own lives; in our present situation.

We have seen how the coronavirus pandemic has caused destruction not just in the lives and livelihoods of the people around us but also around the world.

My hope is that this will not cause lasting damage to our spiritual well-being.

It is a fitting reminder for all that God indeed is the boss not just of our lives but of the whole universe as well. This is in fact a welcome opportunity for all of us to set things right in the eyes of God. To recognise that God is the most dominant power in our lives and to let Him guide us to His heavenly kingdom.

Accept the truth that key to following the road to eternal happiness, to God’s kingdom, is to forget ourselves and never allow the attractions of this world to distract us from that road.

**PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED**

Marlene Fontenelle whose funeral takes place at Beckenham Crematorium on Monday (June 22) also all victims of Covid-19 – may they rest in peace.

**PRAY FOR THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Roger Fenton, John Smith, Deacon John Letley, Joan Cunningham, John Davis, Noreen Lawlor, Sebastian Keen, 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 (St Vincent De Paul).

**COMING BACK TO ST COLUMBA’S?**

*The church will reopen for private prayer on Monday (June 22) and be open every day from 11-12.30 apart from Wednesday. So will you be there? Do you intend coming to St Columba’s for a visit once it reopens? It would be helpful to know in advance if possible. That way we can make sure to have enough seating (which will be limited because of the coronavirus social distancing). Drop Deacon Philip an email or make a phone call to let us know. See you there…?*

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

Sun 21st: 12th Sunday in ordinary time Year A

Mon 22nd: SS John Fisher & Thomas More

Tues 23rd: Feria or St Etheldreda

Wed 24th: The Nativity of St John the Baptist

Thurs 25th: Feria

Fri 26th: Feria

Sat 27th: Feria or St Cyril of Alexandria

Sun 28th: SS Peter & Paul

**DO YOU HAVE A MASS INTENTION?** If you wish to have a Mass offered for a special intention, even though St Columba’s is currently closed you can still do so. Either email details of the intention direct to Fr Roy (address above) or write out the details 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 for a special intention.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sun 21st: 10am Online: Pro Populo

***Mon 22nd: NO MASS ONLINE***

Tues 23rd: 10am Online: Vincent & Lupacia Carasco RIP

Wed 24th: 10am Online: Silvia Windhager RIP

Thurs 25th: 10am Online: Vera Curry RIP

Fri 26th: 10am Online: Basil Carrasco

Sat 27th: 10am Online Thanksgiving

Sun 28th: 10am Online: Pro Populo

**ARE YOU STRUGGLING?**

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.

**YOU CAN SUPPORT ST COLUMBA’S WHEN YOU GO SHOPPING ONLINE**

*Deacon Philip writes:* You can turn your everyday shopping into free donations to our parish. It’s simple. It’s straightforward. And it will cost you nothing. I know because I have signed up for it. 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)

**THE POPE’S JUNE PRAYER INTENTIONS**

The Holy Father’s prayer intentions for the month of June are: universal. ‘We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.’

**CAN YOU HELP THE FOODBANK?**

Calls on the Salvation Army’s Vine Foodbank at New Addington which we at St Columba’s have regularly supported over the years have increased significantly.

The demand has rocketed during the lockdown and, of course, we can no longer hand in items at the church. You can still help. Phone Lesley Holland (07906 097473) to find out what they most need and how to give. You can donate via this website:

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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/newaddingtonsalvationarmy> | | |   **WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT SO FAR…?**  This newsletter, that is. We need contributions – comments, suggestions, experiences, even complaints and, yes, jokes too would be welcome – to make this online newsletter work. Do you find it useful? What else might we include in it? Is it worth continuing? Contact [Deacon Philip](mailto:kyrabarone@aol.com) (address above) with your response and reaction.  **HOSPITAL VISITS NOW ALLOWED IN CROYDON**  It is now possible once more to visit family and loved ones in hospital. More good news is that, as we went to press, there had been no new cases of Covid-19 in Croydon since May 31. Routine elective surgery will recommence on July 6. If you know of anyone in hospital that you judge will benefit from a visit by a priest or eucharistic minister contact the Croydon University Hospital chaplaincy by emailing [Andrew.dovey@nhs.net](mailto:Andrew.dovey@nhs.net) or phoning 0208 401 3105 or 07557 014 739.  **PASSING ON THE FAITH TO OUR KIDS**  This short online course is for parents wishing to encourage their children in the practice of their faith. And of course families can participate from the comfort of their homes. For more details email Lisette Blanchet-Ball on [mflse@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflse@rcaos.org.uk) |  | |  | | --- | |  | |
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**WHAT’S HITTING THE HEADLINES?**

Have a look at the latest, June, issue of *Pilgrim*, Southwark diocese’s very own newspaper. What is hitting the headlines? See for yourself by double clicking on this link:

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**WHO IS 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.***

**THE CHURCH’S CYCLE OF PRAYER DURING ORDINARY TIME**

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

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

**ST COLUMBA’S FINANCES HARD HIT BY THE 13-WEEK LOCKDOWN**

Because of the 13-week lockdown, many people have been unable to make their usual contribution to the everyday running costs of the parish and our parish priest. Not being at Mass has meant no opportunity to put money in the Offertory collection basket. (Likewise Fr Roy’s Easter offering, your personal gift to your parish priest.) That lack of income is beginning to have a serious effect. Now that lockdown restrictions have eased somewhat, do please, if you have fallen behind, give serious thought to catching up on your contributions and posting an offering through the presbytery letterbox. Better still, set up a monthly standing order: the parish bank account number is 79124313 and the sort code 60-50-01.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**

We asked for your feedback in response to this newsletter. Here are some comments from parishioners…

* The most important item is the reflection from Fr Roy. In the early days it was as if the parish closed with the church, with no spiritual input – until Fr Roy’s message at Easter and then the newsletter.
* Black Lives Matter: racism exists everywhere but the police have always been singled out as if all of them are racist and this is completely untrue. The large majority do a good job in difficult circumstances.
* Really missing St Columba’s – going to Mass, meeting up with friends, having a good chat –

can’t wait for the church to get back to normal.

**NO PLACE FOR RACISM**

A Message from your bishops to the young people in

Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Southwark

17 June 2020

Dear Young Friends

The events surrounding the death of Mr George Floyd have caused outrage and anger, not only in the United States, but also in cities across the world, including London. Mr Floyd was an African American who died while being restrained by police in Minneapolis on 25 May 2020. In shocking video footage he is heard to have said repeatedly ‘I can’t breathe.’

The way in which Mr Floyd died sparked demonstrations and protests. It raises important questions about the reality of racism in our society here and now. We know that many people feel very strongly about this, especially young people. This is why we wanted to write to all the students in our Catholic schools across the Archdiocese. We are united with you in asking for justice and equality for every person, no matter what colour their skin happens to be. We believe that every human life is sacred, from its first beginning to its natural end. The Lord Jesus commanded us to ‘love one another.’ (Jn 15:12) He did not allow for any exceptions and we should not make any exceptions.

Racism is incompatible with the Catholic Faith. Whether expressed by the attitudes or behaviour of an individual, or the behaviour of a group, or through unjust structures in society that exclude and discriminate, there is no place for racism at any time or in any place. We say this again: there is no place for racism.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches very clearly that: ‘Every form of social or cultural discrimination in fundamental rights on the grounds of sex, race, colour, social conditions, language or religion must be eradicated as incompatible with God’s design.’ (CCC 1935) Commenting on the death of Mr Floyd, Pope Francis said ‘we cannot tolerate or turn a blind eye to racism and exclusion in any form.’ He also went on to speak about the violent protests following Mr Floyd’s death: ‘[violence] is self-destructive and self-defeating. Nothing is gained by violence and so much is lost.’ (General Audience, 3 June 2020)

Our Catholic faith does more than condemn racism; it also calls us to challenge racism, to eliminate its causes, and to heal the wounds it brings. We each have a part to play in this, first by making sure that we always think of every other person as someone worthy of respect. We must uphold the rights, the equality, and the sanctity of every human life. To God, and to us, every life is a gift and irreplaceable. We affirm that every person’s life matters and that the life of every black person matters.

Back in 1979, before you, the young people in our schools were born, the bishops of the United States said this: ‘Racism is not merely one sin among many; it is a radical evil that divides the human family and denies the new creation of a redeemed world. To struggle against it demands an equally radical transformation, in our own minds and hearts as well as in the structure of our society.’ (Pastoral Letter on Racism) These are powerful words and they apply today.

We cannot be silent about racism. It must be challenged. In doing so, our first responsibility is to recognise that racism does exist, whether in individuals, in groups, in organisations, or in society. We need to decide the best way to overcome racism, knowing that violence never solves anything, even when injustice makes us angry. Let the energy that comes from our anger be channelled into changing hearts and minds, beginning with our own, to speak the truth in the service of peace.

We are committed to making sure that our parishes, schools, and communities are places where everyone is welcomed, where everyone is affirmed, where everyone is encouraged; where everyone is respected for the person God has created them to be and for the person God is calling them to become. We have, in our Church, some inspiring examples of people who spoke out against slavery and worked to overcome the sufferings of those enslaved. Their voices must be alive in us today. One of these was Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese woman who was sold into slavery, eventually brought to Rome, and cared for by a community of nuns. She became such an outstanding example of what it means to be a Christian that she was declared a saint in the year 2000.

Our Archdiocese covers all of South London, Kent, and the Medway Unitary Authority. It is beautifully diverse. People in our parishes and schools represent a rich variety of cultural, ethnic and racial backgrounds, from countries in Africa, the Caribbean, Asia, Latin America, and from Western and Eastern Europe. We believe that this diversity is a gift and that there is a place for everyone in our Church.

Dear young friends, we want you to use your passion for justice to make a difference to your schools and parishes, your neighbourhoods and communities. Make them places where the gifts and skills, the experience and heritage, of all people, of every background, are honoured, valued, cherished and celebrated. There is no place for racism. Let us work side by side to make it part of our history, not part of our present or of our future together.

With our prayers and best wishes

Yours sincerely in Christ

✠ John Wilson

Archbishop of Southwark

✠ Patrick Lynch ss.cc

Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark,

Area Bishop in South East London

✠ Paul Hendricks

Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark,

Area Bishop in South West London

Canon John O’Toole

Episcopal Vicar in Kent