**St Columba’s Church, Selsdon**

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**22 NOVEMBER 2020**

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

**(YEAR A)**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour, To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

**1st Reading from the prophet Ezekiel:** 34:11-12. 15-17

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 22:1-3. 5-6. Rv1:** The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

**2nd Reading: from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians: 15:20-26. 28**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew: 25:31-46**

**Communion Antiphon:** The Lord sits as King forever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

**THE WEEK AHEAD: WHAT’S HAPPENING**

During the lockdown, the public use of our church is restricted to private prayer: so it is open for that purpose only from 10.30-11.30am every day except Wednesday and Saturday.

Fr Roy will celebrate Mass alone every day at 10am except Saturday when Mass will be at 6.30pm.

We will update you with changes via this newsletter as and when they happen.

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| **MASS ONLINE DAILY FROM ST COLUMBA’S** |
| Follow Fr Roy celebrating Mass live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYVyZ2Xpfs0NiuU3bxAjsCQ/live> |

**WHAT IS OUR ROLE AS SERVANTS OF CHRIST THE KING?**

**A REFLECTION ON THIS SUNDAY’S READINGS BY FR ROY**

On this, the last weekend of the liturgical year, we celebrate the feast of Christ the King.

In Sunday’s first reading – from the prophet Ezekiel, who lived around 600 BC – we hear about the darkest period in the history of Israel. The nation of the Lord was defeated by her enemies.

This is considered as having been the most humbling experience of the Jewish nation.

Ezekiel attributes the disaster in part at least to the negligence of the shepherds of Israel, its leaders. The shepherds failed to do their job, foremost of which was feeding the people. The shepherds looked after themselves and neglected their duties.

Ezekiel prophesied that God Himself would come to shepherd his people. He would bring back the lost sheep and care for them.

It is impossible to understand the New Testament without knowledge of this prophecy from the Old Testament.

Jesus presented himself not as one of the prophets but rather as the one who came to shepherd his own people.

As the evangelist John says of Jesus: “I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and mine know me.”

That is unlike the shepherds mentioned by Ezekiel: “you did not strengthen the weak, you did not heal the sick, you have not bound up the wounded.”

In contrast, Jesus fulfilled everything that Ezekiel had prophesied: “he reached out for the lost sheep.”

Jesus, having sought out the abandoned, is the fulfilment of Ezekiel’s prophecy.

The command of the Risen Christ to his apostles was: “Go and baptise them in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

The great shepherd now raises a shepherd after His own heart, one who will continue His work. That means healing, binding up wounds and calling home the lost sheep.

That work, the work of the Church and the work of Christ the King, are celebrated this Sunday on the feast of Christ the King.

We are servants of the King and our role as His servants is to continue the work of the Good Shepherd.

In today’s Gospel. Matthew provides us with the answer to the question: what does the Good Shepherd, Christ the King, expect of us?

To be a good shepherd, we must respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters, especially the poorest and the neediest.

Jesus identified himself with the poor, the stranger, the wounded, the naked, the thirsty and those in prison.

Our primary role as shepherd is to look for every opportunity where we can realise this task of doing concrete good deeds – to anyone.

Needs are met in many ways.

So, for example, a phone call to an isolated person is a huge reassurance. A simple message or note during this pandemic and lockdown will bring comfort to anyone struggling to cope. Jesus’s message is simple and practical: be sensitive to the needs of our brothers and sisters, especially the neediest.

**PHILIPPINES HIT BY ANOTHER DISASTER: PLEASE HELP**

Two weeks ago it was a typhoon. Last week it was a cyclone, the 21st to hit the Philippines this year. And it is my home island in the Philippines which has been worst affected, with well over 50 people killed, dozens injured and missing and huge numbers left homeless.

The flooding has been extensive, several churches have been destroyed and a huge proportion of homes have been raized to the ground. With the agreement of Archbishop John, I am launching an appeal for the victims and myself donating money received to celebrate my 25th anniversary of ordination last month. If you too can help, please contact me. And remember the many victims in your prayers. – Fr Roy

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| **LITURGICAL CALENDAR OF THE WEEK** | |
| Sat 21st | The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin mary |
| Sun 22nd t | Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe |
| Mon 23rd | Feria or St Clement I, Pope, Martyr; or St Columban, abbot, missionary |
| Tues 24th | Ss Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs |
| Wed 25th | Feria orSt Catherine of Alexandria |
| Thurs 26th | Feria |
| Fri 27th | Feria |
| Sat 28th | Feria |
| Sun 29th | 1st Sunday of Advent |

**DEACON PHILIP: POST-OP**

Deacon Philip is at home recovering following his triple heart-bypass. He thanks everyone for their prayers and support: they were much appreciated. He hopes to return to light duties shortly.

**REMEMBER THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Please pray for all those in great need at this time including: Judy Freegard, John Smith, Elena Sandland, Imogen Fernando, 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, James Patrick Guckian, Elizabeth Sensano, Margit Symons, Stephen Beck and sick residents at the four residential homes usually, in better times, visited by the parish St Vincent de Paul group.

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| **MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK** | | |
| Sat 21st | 6.30pm | Oonagh Koeppern’s mother, RIP |
| Sun 22nd | 10.00am | Pro Populo |
| Mon 23rd | 10.00AM | Vera Reilly, RIP |
| Tues 24th | 10.00AM | Holy Souls |
| Wed 25th | 10.00AM | Private intention of Angela |
| Thurs 26th | 10.00AM | Holy Souls |
| Fri 27th | 10.00AM | Deceased friends of the Skinner family |
| Sat 28th | 6.30pm | Mrs Rose Saminathar, RIP |
| Sun 29th | 10.00AM | Christopher Sampson, RIP |

**OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS**

Thank you for your continued kind offerings. The Offertory collections over the weekends of 25th October and 1st November amounted to £893.29 in total. The figures for the weekend of 8th and 15th November will be publsihed when available.

For 25th October the total was £370.50, of which £172 was gift aided and £198.50 not.

For 1st November the total was £522.79, of which £261.11 was gift aided (including a £20 Easter offering) and £261.68 not.

If you are a taxpayer and not already signed up for Gift Aid (which, at no cost to you, enables St Columba’s to reclaim from the Government tax you have already paid) contact Fr Roy or Deacon Philip for details of how to join the scheme.

**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 which adds an extra 25p to parish income for every pound that you give to the Offertory collection. 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. (See ‘Make A Pledge For Our Parish’.)

**PRAYING FOR THE HOLY SOULS**

We were unable to have our traditional gathering at Greenlawns Cemetery for the blessing of the graves on Remembrance Sunday this year.

However we are encouraged to continue to pray for all who have died with these particular instructions we have received from Archbishops House…

The plenary indulgence for those who visit a cemetery and pray for the departed, which is normally applicable between 1 to 8 November, will now apply to the entire month of November and need not be on consecutive days.

The plenary indulgence of All Souls’ Day, 2 November, whereby the faithful may visit a church, chapel or oratory to pray the Our Father and the Creed, can be transferred not only to a successive Sunday but may now also be gained on any other day within the month of November.

Those faithful who are shielding, or for whatever genuine reason are unable to leave their homes, may also achieve the plenary indulgence by offering prayer for the departed and offering up any hardships they may presently be enduring.

The following provisions would also apply: spiritually uniting themselves with all other faithful; detachment from sin; and having the intention as soon as possible to meet the three usual conditions of sacramental Confession, Holy Communion and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father.

**WARNING - CYBERCRIME**

Please be aware of the increasing risk of cybercrime and online fraud. Only this week several parishioners have received emails asking for money and purporting to come from Fr Roy.

Note that if the sender’s email address is not the one at the head of this newsletter it is almost certainly fraudulent.

If in doubt telephone 0208 682 7880 in order to verify that the email is genuine and not a scam.



***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 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.

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| 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) |  |  |

**MAKE A PLEDGE FOR OUR PARISH**

The dramatic fall in the numbers attending Mass has, not surprisingly, had a knock-on effect on parish finances. With significantly fewer people at Mass on Sunday, the Offertory collection is much reduced.

But regular parish bills still have to be paid and the amount of money available from the Offertory collection to do so is now much less than it was a year ago, before the pandemic lockdown.

So, to ensure the future financial wellbeing of St Columba's, we are asking all parishioners to review their offerings to support the work and mission of the parish. This, of course, is in the light of the fifth commandment of the Church which is 'To contribute to the support of our pastors.'

There are various ways of giving, whether you are coming to church or not. As well as cash in the basket at Mass, they include payment by cheque and standing order. For taxpayers, there is also the option of signing up for Gift Aid which boosts your offering by 25p for every £1 you pay - and at no extra cost to yourself.

Attached is a form inviting you to make a pledge of support for St Columba's and which also sets out all the options. It includes a standing order form.

Do give some thought to this: we all need our church, we all need to support the work and mission of the parish - and we all need to take responsibility for supporting St Columba's financially.



**RED-BOX HOLDERS**

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.

**DEALING WITH DOMESTIC ABUSE**

A useful resource pack compiled by the National Board of Catholic Women on "Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse" is available on their website. It can be downloaded here:

<https://safeguarding.rcaos.org.uk/raising-awareness-of-domestic-abuse/>

**FINDING A SAFE SPACE**

Victim Support have introduced a free and independent support service called Safe Spaces. It's a joint Catholic/Anglican project to provide a vital specialist support service for survivors of church-related abuse. Visit this link for more details: [www.SafeSpacesEnglandandWales.org.uk](http://www.SafeSpacesEnglandandWales.org.uk)

**UCM MEETINGS: WHY NOT ZOOM IN?**

Our UCM Meetings restarted in October with an online Zoom meeting which 12 members attended. That was great.

The November meeting was held on Wednesday, 4th, at which there was an “Evening of Recollection” with guest speaker, Sister Sheila Maloney.

We are continuing with these meetings at present, via Zoom, and hope you will join us.  All you have to do is download the app Zoom.us then click on the link (<https://zoom.us/>) and “connect with audio” – at the proposed time of the meeting.

Please put in your diaries the Christmas Party for the UCM via Zoom to be held on Wednesday 2nd December at 7:30pm. Please join us if you can. It’s very heart warming to see our friends on the screen and know they are keeping well.

*“Make us understanding and caring to all experiencing difficulties and generous in support so that, one day, we may ALL rejoice together in our eternal home – AMEN”*

**THE NEWSLETTER: ANY FEEDBACK?**

Comments, suggestions, contributions: all are welcome. Items for publication should be emailed to kyrabarone@aol.com by Thursday evening at the latest.

