**St Columba’s Church**

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**24th MAY 2020 – 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)**

Today is World Communications Day, a reminder, as we approach the tenth week of lockdown, of the importance of establishing and keeping open lines of communication. That applies just as much to us as individuals (especially bearing in mind the poor and needy and those who are isolated) as it does to the Church as a whole.

**DAILY MASS ONLINE FROM ST COLUMBA’S**

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:** O Lord, hear my voice for I have called to you; of you my heart has spoken: seek his face; hide not your face from me, alleluia.

The Gloria is said.

**1st Reading: from the Acts of the Apostles**

**1:12-14**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 26: 1,4,7-8. R: v.13**

I am sure I shall see the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living.

**2nd Reading: from the first letter of St Peter 4:13-16**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord; I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy Alleluia!

**Gospel: John 17:1-11**

**Communion Antiphon:** If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia!

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

The prayer of Jesus which we read in today’s Gospel is nothing if not deeply moving and inspiring.

Jesus has glorified the Father through his sacrifice and the cross. Now it is the turn of the Father to glorify and reward him for his good deeds.

Jesus claims from the Father the return of the glory that was his before the world began. Just think about that….

The mission of Jesus is revealed here in this Gospel in all its magnificence. It was part of the grand plan of God for Jesus to become a human being just like us, die on the cross, rise from the dead and ascend into heaven.

Our task, as followers of Jesus Christ, is to recognise this and embody the same pattern in our own lives.

The embodiment of this pattern in our lives is crucial because it is the central focus of Jesus’s message to us.

Our purpose is not to pursue our personal ambitions but to incorporate the message of Jesus into our daily life. We are called to abandon our selfish desires and hand ourselves over to Jesus, allowing him to control our decisions so as to keep them in line with gospel values.

To follow Jesus will not just cost us an arm and a leg: he asks us for everything, the whole of our existence.

Let’s be honest: wholeheartedly following Jesus in the way we live is extremely demanding. But the reward that awaits us will surpass all our expectations. This is the primary point of our gospel today.

The certainty of eternal life is not an issue. It’s our capacity to surrender our lives totally to Jesus that is the primary question.

Are we willing to give up everything for the kingdom of God?

Our capacity and willingness to do so increase and develop as we mature in our friendship with Jesus. The lives of the early Christians demonstrate conclusively that it is not impossible to do so. However, there is no denying that patience and perseverance are essential if we are to achieve this noblest of destinations.

The fundamental question we need to ask ourselves today is: where can we find permanence in life?

Jesus reveals to us that the real value of life is not found here on earth. Our true home is in the kingdom of the Father.

All of Jesus’s life is an attempt to help us understand that we are living on borrowed time.

I repeat: permanence cannot be found here on earth. The passing of time, minute by minute, hour by hour, day by day, is a constant reminder for us that life is mortal and temporary. (*continued overleaf*)

If we will only listen to Jesus we will never allow ourselves to fall into the trap set by earthly pleasures and mortality.

All the evidence of life points us towards the eternal but that can be achieved only by embracing the life and teachings of Jesus.

Let us pray that the wisdom of Christ will guide us to overcome all the empty promises of worldly pleasures and lead us into the glory of the kingdom of God.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED**  Kathleen Evans – may she rest in peace.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND NEEDY** 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, John Smith and sick residents at the four residential homes usually, in better times, visited by the parish SVP group (St Vincent De Paul).

**IN NEED OF PRAYERS?**

***If you or anyone you know is in particular need of our prayers, let Deacon Philip know so that the name(s) can be included in the sick list.***

**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**

Sat 23rd 10am Online: Pro Populo

Sun 24th 10am Online: Pro Populo

Mon 25th 10am Online: Geoff Turner RIP

Tues 26th 10am Online: Holy Souls

Wed 27th 10am Online: John Albertini RIP

Thurs 28th 10am Online: Holy Souls

Fri 29th 10am Online: Holy Souls

Sat 30rd 10am Online Holy Souls

Sun 31st 10am Online: Pro Populo

**CYCLE OF PRAYER: SEASON OF EASTER**

New members of the Church

Vocations

The right use of the media

The Church

Human work

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

Sun 24th: 7th Sunday of Easter (Year A)

Mon 25th: St Bede the Venerable

Tues 26th: St Philip Neri

Wed 27th: St Augustine of Canterbury

Thurs 28th: Feria

Fri 29th: Feria or St Paul VI

Sat 30th: Feria

Sun 31st: Pentecost Sunday

**ARCHBISHOP JOHN’S INVITATION**

Our Archbishop, John, has invited us all, on the feast of St Augustine of Canterbury, 27 May, at 7pm, to join him in livestreamed May Devotions and a Scripture rosary of the Mysteries of Light from St George’s Cathedral, Southwark. “It would be wonderful if we could unite across the Archdiocese in this act of prayer,” he says. There is more information on the Archdiocese of Southwark website and Facebook page.

**GREEN ENCYCLICAL’S 5TH ANNIVERSARY**

As well as World Communications Day, this Sunday (the 24th) also marks the fifth anniversary of Pope Francis’ encyclical letter *Laudato si* – ‘On care for our common home’. Several resources are available to mark this anniversary including a prayer which people are invited to join in on at noon on Sunday. See: <https://laudatosiweek.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/PRAYCARD-DISCATERIO_EN-1.png>

**NEIGHBOURS IN NEED?** *Please be aware of elderly or needy parishioners and neighbours at this difficult time and provide assistance, where possible, even if only a phone call so that they don’t feel completely isolated.*

**THE SCOURGE OF DOMESTIC ABUSE**

How can parishes best support victims of domestic abuse? Since the COVID-19 lockdown began, there has been a 49% increase in calls and online requests for help relating to domestic abuse. Following is guidance and information about what you can do and how parishes can raise awareness of the issue, including a list of helplines and information about how safely to get help if you yourself are a victim. [Read more here](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=ceb754c5e4&e=087693309e).

**THE PILGRIM NEWSPAPER: GET UP TO DATE WITH DIOCESAN NEWS**

Here you can access an electronic version of the [May edition of The Pilgrim](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=5c123e1eae&e=087693309e), the Southwark diocesan newspaper.  Amongst many excellent articles are details of where to find live-streamed Masses in various languages, a first-hand account of what it’s like to minister to victims of the coronavirus as a chaplain at St George’s Hospital, Tooting; and a report of Abp Peter Smith’s funeral.

## **TODAY: WORLD COMMUNICATIONS SUNDAY – WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?**

Today, Sunday 24th May, is World Communications Day. The Bishops’ Conference has several resources you can access to find out what that means. They includes links to Pope Francis’ letter:   
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/01/Pope-Francis-WCD-2020.pdf>

Other prayer resources can be found at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/wcd20/wcd20-prayer/>  
And there is a donations page:  
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/wcd20/donate-world-communications-day-2020/> 

**FR ROY’S EASTER OFFERING..?**

Just a reminder, as we approach the end of Eastertide, that there is still time to make your Easter offering to Fr Roy. Easter Sunday is one of only two occasions in the year (the other is Christmas), when the collection at Mass is your personal offering to the parish priest. As the church was closed at Easter because of the coronavirus pandemic, we didn’t have any Masses. So no collection could be taken. But there is still time to make that offering. You can do it by dropping an envelope in at the presbytery (or posting it). Alternatively a payment could be made using online banking. For that you would need the parish bank account details: the sort code is 60-50-01, the account number 79124313. Give the reference Easter Offering.

**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. Can you help? Phone Lesley Holland (07906 097473) to find out what they most need and how to give.

You can donate via:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/newaddingtonsalvationarmy>

**SUPPORT KEY WORKERS AND FAMILIES**

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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Front-line workers in hospitals and care homes all over the UK are giving exceptional service. In order to show a spiritual solidarity with them each week, bishops across the country have been celebrating Mass in their cathedrals live-streamed for people nationwide to join. The Masses are celebrated every Thursday at 7pm. The next one is on 28 May (Bishop Terence Drainey) on  [St Mary’s Cathedral, Middlesbrough YouTube Channel](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=2c28bfdb5b&e=087693309e) | | |   **GET READY FOR PENTECOST**  The Bishops’ Conference has provided some resources for parishioners to use in preparation for the celebration of Pentecost, next Sunday: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/focus/> They include the text of a Pentecost Novena: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/05/Pentecost-Novena.pdf>  **POPE FRANCIS’S PRAYER INTENTIONS**  The Holy Father’s prayer intentions for the month of May are for fraternity: “We pray for Deacons that they be faithful in their service to the Word and to the poor and that they may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.”  **THIS NEWSLETTER: IS IT WORTHWHILE?**  Well, is it? 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 IN CROYDON**  General visiting is still very restricted at Croydon University Hospital. Families are allowed only one visit for no more than 15 minutes to patients at the end of their lives. The chaplaincy team provides care 24/7 to all patients in the hospital. If you know of anyone in the hospital that you feel will benefit from a visit by a priest email [Andrew.dovey@nhs.net](mailto:Andrew.dovey@nhs.net) or phone 0208 401 3105 or 07557 014 739 |  | |  | | --- | |  | |