**St Columba’s Church, Selsdon**

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: 020 8651 4653

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

**25TH JULY 2021**

**17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**(YEAR B)**

**COVID PRECAUTIONS: SEE OVERLEAF FOR WHAT HAS - AND HASN’T - CHANGED**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

**A reading from the second book of Kings: 4:42-44**

**Responsorial Psalm PS 144:10-11. 15-18. Rv.16:** You open wide your hand, O Lord, and grant our desires.

**2nd Reading: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians: 4:1-6**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

**Gospel: John 6:1-15**

**Communion Antiphon:** Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

**JOIN OUR SUMMER FAMILY RAMBLE**

Don’t miss the summer family ramble being held on Saturday August 7. All are welcome.

The meeting place is the car park at the entrance to Selsdon Wood nature reserve, postcode CR2 8QF.

Meet at 10.15am for a prompt departure at 10:30am.

The walk is a short, only around 5.5km, and there will be no pub lunch.

If you have any questions ring Mike on 07764 666 764. Organisers are Churches Together in Selsdon & Addington. We look forward to seeing you.

Just what exactly is the Mass?

*A reflection on Sunday’s Gospel by Fr Roy*

In this Sunday’s readings John the evangelist helps us to understand the meaning of the eucharist.

Unlike other evangelists, John provides no institution narrative of the eucharist in his Gospel. The multiplication of loaves, however, provides us with a profound insight into this great mystery.

Today’s Gospel is effectively a detailed description of the Mass. We need to read it in the light of the rubrics of the Mass.

The first line says let us go up the mountain. The mountain in Scripture is the place where man encounters Yahweh - God.

God comes down and people go up to listen to Him.

So the Mass is a mountain top experience where God comes down to speak to us. Transfiguration is a clear example of our going up to see God revealing to us the transfigured divinity of Jesus Christ.

Once they reach the top of the mountain, Jesus sits and teaches the people.

That was the practice in ancient times: the teacher sitting to teach.

So the first part of the Mass - a mountain top experience – we call the liturgy of the word. God speaks to his people, to us, through the different readings – the first and second readings and the Gospel – which are all taken from the Old and New Testaments.

When we respond to the psalm we are responding to the word of God.

In a way, the Gospel is Jesus sitting down, teaching; and us arranging ourselves around his feet, listening to him.

The homily, which follows the Gospel, is meant to be the application of the divine word, an unpacking of Scripture.

That is the first part of the Mass.

In Sunday’s Gospel John mentions that the Jewish feast of Passover is near.

It was on the eve of Passover that the Last Supper was celebrated.

Passover was the day that the paschal lamb was slaughtered. Christ himself becomes the lamb of sacrifice.

Remember that John the Baptist introduced Jesus Christ as ‘the lamb of God’.

In other words, Jesus has come to be sacrificed.

The second part of the Mass is the liturgy of the eucharist. Its climax is the representation of the sacrifice of Jesus as the lamb of God.

So you can see that the Passover takes place at every Mass. Every time we celebrate Mass there is the slaughtering of the Passover lamb.

Thus Jesus offers his body and blood for the salvation of the world.

A special moment in the Mass prior to the consecration is the preparation of gifts, when a basket is passed around for people’s offerings which are then taken up to the altar.

Remember how, in John’s account of the feeding of the 5,000, the apostle Andrew presented Jesus with five loaves and two fish, given to him by a boy in the crowd?

“Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks.” Then he did the same with the fish.

Likewise, Christ feeds his people at every Mass.

At the same time, he invites us to share the little we have.

Elevating it, He gives thanks and transubstantiates it into his own body and blood.

The point here is Christ calling us to give whatever we have, no matter how small.

He then transfigures that offering to become food for eternal life.

The eucharistic prayer at Mass is essentially the words that Jesus uttered the night of the Last Supper. “Take this all of you and eat it: this is my body. Take this all of you this is the cup of my blood.”

It is a prayer of thanksgiving, the moment the little we have offered is transformed so as to feed the multitude.

Remember that when he celebrates Mass, the priest acts in the very person of Christ. He is not acting in his own name.

This explains why he wears vestment which cover up his individuality and personality.

And of course transubstantiation is effected at every Mass.

Nothing in this world can satisfy us other than Christ himself in the Mass.

One can only wonder why so many Catholics deprive themselves of this eternal food.

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| **LITURGICAL CALENDAR OF THE WEEK** | | | |
| Sat 24th | | Weekday in Ordinary Time orSt Sharbel Makhlūf, Priest | |
| Sun 25th | | 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time | |
| Mon 26th | | Ss Joachim and Ann, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary | |
| Tues 27th | | Weekday in Ordinary Time | |
| Wed 28th | | Weekday in Ordinary Time | |
| Thurs 29th | | St Martha | |
| Fri 30th | | Weekday in Ordinary Time or St Peter Chrysologus, Bishop, Doctor of the Church | |
| Sat 31st | | St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest | |
| Sun 1st | | 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time | |
| **MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK** | | | |
| Sat 24th | 6.30pm | | Myles & Teresa Murphy, RIP |
| Sun 25th | 8.00am | | Pro Populo |
| Sun 25th | 10.00am | | Tina Guida, RIP |
| Sun 25th | 6.30am | | Mr Irenius Joseph, RIP |
| Mon 26th | 10.00am | | Geoffrey Dodwell, RIP |
| Tues 27th | 10.00am | | Lily Wei |
| Wed 28th | 10.00am | | Reverend Father Patrick Joseph Murtagh, RIP |
| Thurs 29th | 10.00am | | Intention of the Alvarez Family |
| Fri 30th | 10.00am | | Father Murtagh |
| Sat 31st | 6.30pm | | Nuala Maguire, RIP |
| Sun 1st | 8.00am | | Giuseppe Sarracino, RIP |
| Sun 1st | 10.00am | | Sheila Wheaton, RIP |
| Sun 1st | 6.30pm | | Pro Populo |

***COVID PRECAUTIONS: SEE WHAT HAS - AND HASN’T - CHANGED***

Despite the removal of legal restrictions on July 19, Archbishop John strongly urges us, in the interests of health and safety, to continue to take precautions when coming to Mass.

So please continue to:

* Remember to bring and wear a face mask covering the nose as well as the mouth
* Meet Track-and-Trace requirements by providing a written note every time you come to church of your name and contact details plus the date and, if relevant, Mass time. To save queuing and filling out a form, send an email to selsdon@rcaos.org.uk
* Use hand sanitizer, provided, both when entering and leaving the church.
* Take a paper marker (during the week, not at the weekend) and leave it on your seat so that the stewards know where to sanitize.
* Bring your own Mass or prayer book – there are no shared items available in church.
* Ensure plenty of social distancing in the church and in the benches unless you are in a family group.

Other changes include the return of the Offertory collection during Mass and, once the choir returns, congregational singing at 10am Mass.

In addition Holy Communion is once again being distributed (although still only under one kind) before the end of Mass rather than afterwards.

We shall still refrain from exchanging the Sign of Peace.

Stewards will continue to sanitize the seating after each Mass.

**REMEMBER THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Please pray for all those who are sick or in need at this time including: Elena Sandland, Anne McDonagh, Martin McDonagh, Martin Reilly, Lily Wei, Douglas & Yvonne Bruce, Mike Bond, Thelma Benn, Cora Litchfield, Joan Cunningham, Solveya La Marina, Chris Jones, Maria Reece, Margaret Bolton, Eddie Aldridge, Ellis Warburton, Mary Marks, Jean-Claude Anthony, Ellen Everett, Maureen Coffey, Elizabeth Sensano and sick residents at the four residential homes usually, in better times, visited by the parish St Vincent de Paul group.

**WANT TO GO TO CONFESSION?**

Well you can – and at the same time be confident that you are safe from Covid. Simply give Fr Roy a ring and make an appointment. He will hear your confession in private in the hall.

**THINK YOU HAVE A VOCATION?**

The Beda College in Rome is running a discernment weekend for men between the ages of 30 and 55 from September 3-5. It takes place at St Beuno’s Spirituality Centre in North Wales. The weekend is a first step for those who may be exploring the possibility of priestly vocation in later life.

Information and registration forms are at: <https://www.pathwaystogod.org/courses-events-retreats/discernment-weekend-older-men-1>

***SHOP ONLINE AND HELP ST COLUMBA’S***

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

Or perhaps you need a new vacuum cleaner or intend ordering a book or dvd or other items.

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 to logon to the following 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. Then, in future, every time you buy something – anything – 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.  Shopping, Online, E-Commerce, Fashion  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)  **ANNUAL MARRIAGE MASS**  Are you celebrating your 1st, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or any later wedding anniversary this year?  Or did you last year?  If so, Archbishop John invites you to join him in celebrating a Mass for married couples at noon on Saturday October 9 at St George’s Cathedral.  You need to book in advance and by doing so you will then receive a personal written invitation from Archbishop John.  To book or for more details email [mflsw@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflsw@rcaos.org.uk)  **SO WHAT’S YOUR VERDICT?**  **On our newsletter, that is. Your comments, thoughts, suggestions, ideas and contributions would be most welcome.**  **They will also enable us to know whether this newsletter is considered helpful and useful – or not. Email Deacon Philip – the deadline for each weekend’s newsletter is the Wednesday before.** |  |  |

**GOT YOUR GIFT AID ENVELOPES?**

**There are still plenty waiting to be collected… All members of the Gift Aid scheme are invited this weekend to collect their boxes of envelopes for the coming year.**

**The boxes, with your names on, can be collected at the entrance to the sacristy in the Sacred Heart chapel after all Masses. Don’t forget to take yours…**

**KNOW OF ANYONE IN NEED?**

Are you aware of any parishioners living alone or in need? If so, as well as phoning them yourself occasionally to see if they need anything, let Fr Roy or Deacon Philip know of their situation.

That way, we can work together to support and help them at this difficult time.

***GOING INTO HOSPITAL? TELL US***

If you or a member of your family go into hospital, ask the Ward Sister or Staff Nurse to notify the hospital’s Roman Catholic hospital chaplain direct.

That will make it much more likely that you have the opportunity of receiving Holy Communion (or any other sacraments) while in hospital.

Make sure also to let Fr Roy or Deacon Philip know beforehand if possible of your admission or that of a family member into hospital. We can then keep you in our prayers.

**HAVE YOU LOST A LOVED ONE?**

‘Grief and Loss, Hope in Christ’ is the title of a weekend for those who have lost a loved one through death. The weekend provides a time to mourn and share with others. The venue: Aylesford Priory. Date: October 8-10. For more information phone 01622 717272 or email [enquery@thefriars.org.uk](mailto:enquery@thefriars.org.uk)

***KNOW YOUR FAITH BETTER***

The Archbishop’s Certificate (ArchCert) is an online course for all in Southwark who wish to know their Catholic faith more deeply.

Participants will take a two-year journey through the Church’s teaching to understand their faith in a more

profound way and be able to share it with confidence and joy.

The course will commence in October 2021 and the cost will be £365 per year.  Registration must be completed in advance.  Further details can be found here: [https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/archcert](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=60d238c547&e=7d4ac57aff)

**SUMMERTIME IS BACK**

Following last year's cancellation, this annual activity for altar servers, boys and girls aged 10 - 15 within Southwark diocese, will take place from August 3-6.

The venue is the Oratory School in Reading, Berkshire and the event opens with Mass celebrated by Archbishop John.

Activities will include talks, discussions, prayer and daily Mass as well as sport, a trip to Thorpe Park and swimming.

For more details phone 01322 220075 or email [dartford@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:dartford@rcaos.org.uk)

**MARCH FOR LIFE**

The next March for Life will take place on September 4: please save the date.

Posters and more details are available from [http://www.marchforlife.co.uk/](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=c89fd441d0&e=7d4ac57aff)

**GUILD OF ST STEPHEN**

The Guild will be holding its annual rally for altar servers, their 43rd, on September 18 at Aylesford Priory. For more details email the Guild’s chairman at [john.bonnici@btopenworld.com](mailto:john.bonnici@btopenworld.com)

***PRAYERS FOR THE SICK***

We have a prayer list of names of those who are sick which appears in the newsletter every week.

If you know of anyone, a parishioner or family member, you would like to be included, please let Fr Roy or Deacon Philip know.

If you previously asked for someone to be included in the list but who is now recovered, do let us know.