**St Columba’s Church, Selsdon**

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**SEPTEMBER 27, 2020**

**26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

**1st Reading: from the prophet Ezekiel 18:25-28**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9. R v.6**

Remember your mercy, Lord.

**2nd Reading: from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 2:1-11**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me he will keep my word. and My Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32**

**Communion Antiphon:** Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

**LOOKING FORWARD TO THE WEEK AHEAD**

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.

**COUNTING THE COST OF FOLLOWING JESUS**

**A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE 26th SUNDAY BY FR ROY**

The demands of the Gospel are exceptional. God wants us to live up to the values of the Gospel and be faithful to it till our last breath.

All Christians should have recognised this demand from the very first moment they came to know the name of Jesus Christ. However, not everyone gets the benefit of a sound Christian initiation.

To be honest, this aspect of Church practice was neglected for many centuries. It was presumed to happen but the reality fell far short of what was necessary.

The process is called initiation into the faith or evangelisation.

It was believed for a long time that the basic instruction provided during sacramental preparation provided sufficient insight to educate and initiate Christians into the faith. Its failure adequately to do so was exacerbated by the assumption – not born out – that every family did its evangelical duty to initiate their children into the faith.

**“…the chain of transfer of the faith was easily broken …”**

Likewise for many centuries the cultural situation magnified the dilemma by its strong observance of religious customs.

Industrialisation and secularism exposed the weakness of external observance of religious customs. The absence of genuine initiation and conversion demonstrated the weakness of a programme that depended so heavily on the external observance of customs.

The chain of transfer of the faith delivered by custom was easily broken by the new mindset of the younger generation.

They took advantage of a freedom to reject the religious observances which had been prescribed by the Church for many centuries.

Unfortunately, life is more attractive to many people without the active presence of Jesus Christ. The absence of proper initiation and evangelisation explains the current weakening of commitment to the faith.

The troubles of our present situation can be traced back to this great vacuum in the development of our faith. The current situation demands that we review the foundation of our faith. It challenges us to ask ourselves the fundamental question: is our commitment to Jesus Christ really rooted in the person of Jesus?

How do we introduce proper evangelisation and initiation into the faith for all baptised Christians? That is essential if an individual is going fully to commit his/her life to the demands of the Gospel of Christ.

We are not talking here about commitment solely on the part of an individual but also about the support of their family and the community in general.

This journey of faith needs combined action by all concerned.

The support of family and community are essential in this journey because the road ahead involves challenges with which individuals alone are unable to cope.

At this point we need to consider the structure of our parish community. If we are honest, we must admit that it is far from the ideal set by Gospel standards. We need to improve.

Here we have a challenge to create a community where every member is fully initiated into the faith. **“…the complacency that is so evident in our present situation…”**

All of us need to make a free and conscious decision to embrace the life of Jesus Christ – without condition.

Working together as a community we can defeat the complacency that is so evident in our present situation.

Being initiated into the faith involves sacrifice by every member of the community. But only that way will our community become firmly rooted in the person of Jesus Christ.

Let us pray that everyone will appreciate the role they have in contributing to a community of Christians fully initiated into the life of Jesus Christ.

**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.



**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 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)

Mon 28th: Feria or St Wenceslaus, Martyr; or Ss Lawrence Ruiz, and Companions, Martyrs

Tues 29th: Ss Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels

Wed 30th: St Jerome, Priest, Doctor of the Church

Thurs 1st: St Therese of the Child Jesus, Virgin, Doctor of the Church

Fri 2nd: The Holy Guardian Angels

Sat 3rd: Feria

Sun 4th: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

***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.***

**DO YOU WISH 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.

Include also the date on or near which you would like the Mass to be celebrated; plus your own name and phone number/email address.

* There is no charge for having a Mass aid. However, it is customary to make an offering to the priest when asking for a Mass to be celebrated.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

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

Mon 28th: 10am Una Loughran RIP

Tues 29th: 10am Maureen Melvin RIP

Wed 30th: 10am Private Intention of Angela

Thurs 1st: 10am Bill Hickey RIP

Fri 2nd: 10am Lora RIP & Wellbeing of Stanislava

Sat 3rd: 6.30pm Thanksgiving for Our Priests

Sun 4th: 8am Victor Sampson RIP

SUN 4th: 10am Pro Populo

Sun 4th: 6.30pm Private Intention of Angela

**70: THE TOTAL 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.

**OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS**

Keep in your prayers the 14 children from our parish who will be making their First Holy Communion on Saturday (October 3).

The Mass will take place at St Columba’s at 11am.

But please do not come to the church on Saturday morning.

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

Don’t forget the catechists, Patsy and Kirsten – they also need our prayers as well as our thanks.



***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.

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](mailto: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.

**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.

**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> | | |

**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.

**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](mailto: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>  **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.  **OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS**  Thank you for your kind offerings at Mass.  The collection for August 23 and 30 combined amounted to £632.43 of which £257 was gift aided and £375.43 was not.  For September 6 the total figure was £950.95 of which £695 was gift aided and £255.95 not.  For September 13 the total figure was £273.59 of which £92 was gift aided and £181.59 not.  For September 20 the total figure was £378.25 of which £185 was gift aided and £193.25 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.  **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](mailto:kyrabarone@aol.com) Philip by Thursday evening at the latest. | | |