**St Columba’s Church**

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**28 JUNE 2020: SS PETER & PAUL (YEAR A)**

Today we celebrate those two great pillars of the Church: Peter, chosen despite his obvious human weaknesses, as the rock on which the Church was built; and Paul, former persecutor of the Church turned Apostle of the Gentiles, the man who spread the Good News around the known world.

**DAILY MASS ONLINE FROM ST COLUMBA’S (10AM EVERY DAY EXCEPT SATURDAYS)**

You can follow Fr Roy celebrating Mass live at 10am every day (except Saturdays) 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:** These are the ones who, living in the flesh, planted the Church with their book; they drank the chalice of the Lord and became the friends of God.

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

**12:1-11**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 33:2-9. R v.5**

From all my terrors the Lord set me free

**2nd Reading: from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy 4:6-8,17-18**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew 16:13-19**

**Communion Antiphon:** Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church.

***PUBLIC MASSES TO RESTART AT ST COLUMBA’S FROM JULY 4***

As from Saturday (July 4), St Columba’s will be open again for daily Mass with everyone invited.

Weekend Mass times will be as before the three-month lockdown: Saturday 6.30pm, Sunday 8am, 10am and 6.30pm. During the week there will be Mass every day at 10am (except Saturday).

After14 weeks of lockdown, churches now have permission from the Government to reopen – but with strict rules which must be met.

* To ensure effective social distancing, a maximum of 90 people only can enter the church at any one time. ***If there are already that number inside, you will need to come back to a later Mass.*** 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.
* Everyone will be required to wear face masks which will be available if you cannot bring your own.
* Chairs have replaced the benches and will be at 1m intervals to ensure the necessary social distancing. Please do not move them.
* Stewards will guide and advise you on when and how to come forward for Holy Communion.
* No holy water, prayer/hymn books or any other shared items will be available. Bring your own.
* The toilets cannot be used.

**TO OPEN FOR MASS ST COLUMBA’S NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

*In order to comply with Government guidelines, we must have stewards on duty at every Mass from July 4 onwards. So we need volunteers. If you are willing to help, please contact Deacon Philip without delay and he will explain what is required and when.*

**A MESSAGE & REFLECTION FROM FR ROY**

**FOR THE 13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

There is a lovely story in the second book of Kings in the Old Testament.

The prophet Elisha is shown great hospitality by a couple, long married but with no children. Sensing their great desire for a family, he intercedes on their behalf with God.

The prophet promises the couple that they will have a child at the same time the following year.

Having children was extremely important because it meant that the chain of generations would not be interrupted.

The Jewish people believed that the absence of children was a sign of God’s displeasure and a punishment.

An answer to the couple’s prayer for a child would signify that they had won God’s approval and their sins had been forgiven.

This story clearly confirms how God is sensitive to the needs of His people. God listens to our prayer and responds to our petitions.

However, we need to realise also that the couple in the story did something to deserve God’s grace.

To deserve a reward from God we are expected to be faithful to His commandments. The covenant between God and man is a constant reminder to all of us that we have the obligation to be faithful to His teachings.

It means that in all our transactions in life this covenant should be our top priority. In other words, we need to be loyal to God in all aspects of our lives.

There is no area reserved for our personal use. Every aspect ought to be dedicated to God. Total commitment is needed if we are to be completely committed to this covenant.

Such fidelity means our making sacrifices. That is crucial because it is what gives spiritual meaning to the act of sacrifice. There is value in suffering only if we unite our sacrifice with God.

Thus, an act of sacrifice becomes an act of faith. We solidify our relationship with God through this act of sacrifice and by our act of faith.

Without an act of faith our sacrifice would be meaningless because it would be devoid of a spiritual dimension.

In other words, the act of faith is the motivating factor for being faithful to the covenant.

It is for this reason that there is value in suffering: it becomes the sweet odour of sacrifice to God following the example of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Hence, to be a Christian we have to accept a life without the happiness identified with the values of this world.

That’s because Christian values totally contradict the values of this world.

Ultimately, therefore, life is a choice. We all must choose between comfort now and suffering later or a life of suffering now so that the reward of eternal life is guaranteed.

**PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED**

Aden (Patrick) Mackay and 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).

**MASS AT ST COLUMBA’S AFTER THE LOCKDOWN: WHAT WILL CHANGE**

Mass at St Columba’s from next weekend will be a little different from what we were used to previously.

* Face masks are compulsory: bring your own (we have some available if you forget).
* To comply with Government guidelines on social distancing, there can be no more than 90 people in the church. That won’t be a problem at any of the Masses apart from 10am Sunday. ***If, when you arrive for that Mass, there are already 90 people inside, you will need to come back to a later Mass.*** Stewards will be there to guide you.
* There will be no holy water at the doors, no altar servers, Bidding Prayers, Offertory procession or sign of peace and no singing.
* Readers will be required to wear disposable gloves (provided).
* There will be no Offertory collection. Instead you are asked to place your offering in the basket at the entrance or exit. Better still, set up a monthly standing order with your bank. The parish account number is 79124313 and the sort code, 60-50-01.
* The distribution of Holy Communion will be directed by stewards: please follow their directions.
* Holy Communion will be distributed in silence, with no ‘Body of Christ / Amen’. Please receive with your arms at ‘full stretch’.

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

Sun 28TH: SS Peter & Paul Year A

Mon 29th: Feria

Tues 30th: Feria or The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

Wed 1st: Feria or St Oliver Plunket

Thurs 2nd: Feria

Fri 3rd: St Thomas, apostle

Sat 4th: Feria or St Elizabeth of Portugal or Our Lady

Sun 5th: 14th Sunday in ordinary time

**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 28th: 10am Online: Pro Populo

Mon 29th: 10am Online: Fabian Carrasco RIP

Tues 30th: 10am Online: Santana D’Silva RIP

Wed 1st: 10am Online: Vincent & Piadade Dias RIP

Thurs 2nd: 10am Online: Holy Souls

Fri 3rd: 10am Online: Holy Souls

Sat 4th: 6.30pm Live: Holy Souls

Sun 5th: 8am Live: Holy Souls

Sun 5th 10am Live & Online: Pro Populo

Sun 5th: 6.30pm Live: Holy Souls

**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.

**HOW 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)

**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**  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. |  | |  | | --- | |  | |
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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: COUNTING THE COST OF THE LOCKDOWN**

Because of the three-month 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. There are a number of options. Put the money in a collection basket when you come to Mass next weekend. Post an offering through the presbytery letterbox. Better still, make a payment online or, best of all,

set up a monthly standing order: the parish bank account number is 79124313 and the sort code 60-50-01.

**OPEN TIMES FOR ST COLUMBA’S TO CHANGE AFTER JULY 3**

***With St Columba’s opening every day for Mass from July 4, the church will no longer be open daily from 11-12.30: Friday July 3 will be the last day for opening then.***

PASTORAL LETTER ON REOPENING CHURCHES FOR PUBLIC MASSES

A Message from the Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

On Tuesday we heard the announcement that, from the 4th July this year, places of worship will be able to reopen for prayer and services. We welcome this news with great joy. Since the lockdown began, members of all faiths have faced restrictions on how they have been able to celebrate important religious festivals. Our own experience of Easter was unlike any other we have known. Now, in our churches, and with our people, we can look forward again to celebrating the central mysteries of our faith in the Holy Eucharist.

The recent reopening of our churches for individual private prayer was an important milestone on our journey towards resuming communal worship. Our churches that have opened have put in place all the measures needed to ensure the risks of virus transmission are minimised. This includes effective hand sanitisation, social distancing, and cleaning. We remain committed to making sure these systems of hygiene and infection control meet Government and public health standards.

We want to thank everyone within the Catholic community for sustaining the life of faith in such creative ways, not least in the family home. We thank our priests for celebrating Mass faithfully for their people, and for the innovative ways in which they have enabled participation through live-streaming and other means. We are grateful for the pastoral care shown by our clergy to those for whom this time of lockdown has been especially difficult, and, in particular, towards those who have been bereaved. We recognise too the chaplaincy services that have played a vital role in supporting those most in need. Gaining from the experience of all that we have been through, and bringing those lessons into the future, we must now look forward.

With the easing of restrictions on worship with congregations, we tread carefully along the path that lies ahead. Our lives have been changed by the experience of the pandemic and it is clear that we cannot simply return to how things were before lockdown. We remain centred on the Lord Jesus and His command at the Last Supper to "do this in memory of me." We must now rebuild what it means to be Eucharistic communities, holding fast to all that we hold dear, while at the same time exploring creative ways to meet changed circumstances.

It is important to reaffirm that, at present, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended. A significant number of churches may remain closed as they are unable to meet the requirements for opening for individual prayer. Fulfilling these requirements is a precondition for any church opening after the 4th July for the celebration of Mass with a congregation.

Please be aware that there will be a limit on the number of people who can attend Mass in our churches. This will determined locally in accordance with social distancing requirements. We therefore need to reflect carefully on how and when we might be able to attend Mass. We cannot return immediately to our customary practices. This next step is not, in any sense, a moment when we are going 'back to normal.'

We ask every Catholic to think carefully about how and when they will return to Mass. Our priests may need to consider whether it is possible to celebrate additional Masses at the weekends. Given there is no Sunday obligation, we ask you to consider the possibility of attending Mass on a weekday. This will ease the pressure of numbers for Sunday celebrations and allow a gradual return to the Eucharist for more people.

Moving forward, there will still be many people who cannot attend Mass in person. We therefore ask parishes, wherever possible, to continue live-streaming Sunday Mass, both for those who remain shielding and vulnerable, and also for those unable to leave home because of advanced age or illness.

When we return to Mass there will some differences in how the celebration takes place. For the time being, there will be no congregational singing and Mass will be shorter than usual. None of this detracts from the centrality of our encounter with the Risen Christ in the Eucharist. We ask everyone to respect and follow the guidance that will be issued and the instructions in each church.

"As I have loved you," said the Lord Jesus, "so you must love each other." (Jn 13:34) The lockdown has brought forth remarkable acts of charity, of loving kindness, from Catholics across our communities as they have cared for the needy and vulnerable. We have seen love in action through charitable works, and through the service of many front-line keyworkers who are members of our Church. Now we can begin to return to the source of that charity, Christ himself, present for us sacramentally, body, blood, soul and divinity, in Holy Communion. As we prepare to gather again to worship, let us, respectful of each other, come together in thanksgiving to God for the immense gift of the Holy Eucharist.

Yours devotedly in Christ

Vincent Cardinal Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool

Bernard Longley, Archbishop of Birmingham

John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark