**St Columba’s Church**

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Parish telephone number: 020 8657 3747

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**3rd MAY 2020 – 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A) VOCATIONS SUNDAY**

Today has been designated World Day of Prayer for vocations to the priesthood and religious life

**MASS ONLINE FROM ST COLUMBA’S EVERY DAY**

You can follow Fr Roy celebrating Mass live at 10am every day on YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYVyZ2Xpfs0NiuU3bxAjsCQ/live>

**SUNDAY MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

**1st Reading: from The Acts of the Apostles 2:14,36-41**

**Responsorial Psalm 22:1-6, R.v.1:** The Lord is my shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.

**2nd Reading: from the first letter of St Peter: 2:20-25**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my ownsheep and my own know me. Alleluia!

**Gospel: John 10: 1-10**

**Communion Antiphon:** The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid ddown his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia!

**A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS SUNDAY**

God our Father  
You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ.  
We ask that you inspire your people  
whom you call to priesthood and consecrated life,  
to courageously follow Your will.  
Send workers into Your great harvest  
so that the Gospel is preached,  
the poor are served with love,  
the suffering are comforted,  
and your people are strengthened by Your gifts.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

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

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday. Jesus reminds us of the unique responsibility of a pastor to look after his flock in the same way that a shepherd looks after their sheep. The primary role of the shepherd is to ensure the well-being of their flock.

As your pastor, I am reminded this Sunday of this fundamental role; also that even in a period of quarantine such as this pandemic I must try to ensure that your spiritual needs are fulfilled. For this reason, I have started on-line Masses using the Zoom app. I myself find this helpful, not least because it provides an opportunity to interact with you before and after the Mass. I just hope and pray that this will not become the new normal because what I value much more is your real presence in the church in the same way that you long for the real reception of the body of Christ in Holy Communion. There is no substitute for it.

A kind parishioner from St Teresa’s church in Morden has helped us to install and extend the internet connection in the church in order to facilitate an online Mass using YouTube as a medium. We are hoping to start the YouTube Mass at 10am this Sunday. (You can see how to connect in the item above.)

No one can anticipate what will happen in the next few weeks or months. What is important is that we are able to reach out to every parishioner and nourish the spiritual hunger that we are all experiencing now. We as a parish community are all in the same boat, struggling to come to terms with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on our lives. Without doubt, for all of us, life in future will not be the same as it was in the past. However, this is not the time to feel sorry for ourselves. Instead this is an ideal opportunity for all of us to display the genuine Christian spirit of resilience.

The second reading in this Sunday’s Mass speaks of the suffering that Christians experience following Jesus Christ. Peter says that suffering for doing what is good is a grace from God. Jesus exemplified this in his life. His good deeds were never repaid by others’ good deeds. Instead he was made to suffer because of his good deeds. Jesus’s message in the Sermon on the Mount was simple yet powerful: loving only the people that do good to us makes no spiritual difference to our lives. It does not benefit us.

Christ did not cause suffering to those who did him wrong. He loved them nonetheless. Love your enemies, was Jesus’s message. Turn your cheek to those who hate you.

The question is: why? The ultimate test of love is to love those who cannot or will not or do not love you. So the answer to the question ‘Why?’ is because that way you will experience the cross and see things from the point of view of Jesus Christ.

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

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** John Davis, Noreen Lawlor, Sebastian Keen, Solveya La Marina, Chris Jones, Maria Reece, Krista Thompson, 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 OFFERINGS:** If you wish to have a Mass offered, even though St Columba’s is currently closed, you can still do so. Either email details of the intention direct to Fr Roy 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 or if there is a specific anniversary or 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 though not essential to make an offering to the priest when asking for a Mass to be celebrated.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Sat 2nd 10am Online: Pro Populo

Sun 3rd 10am Online: Mr Baladasan RIP

Mon 4th 10am Online: Myrna Walsh RIP

Tues 5th 10am Online: Mary Charman RIP

Wed 6th 10am Online: The Well being of Ellen Everitt

Thurs 7th 10am Online: The well being of Wynn Sayers

Fri 8th 10am Online: Daphne Brown RIP

Sat 9th 10am Online: Francil Lokosul RIP

Sun 10th 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**

Mon: The English Martyrs; men and women martyred for the Catholic faith in the period 1535-1680 and beatified or canonized.

Tues: Feria

Wed: Feria

Thurs: Feria

Fri: Feria;

Sat: Feria.

**NEEDY NEIGHBOURS?** *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.*

**MARRIAGE WEEK**

11th – 17th May is the week that is nationally set aside to celebrate commitment to the Sacrament of Marriage. The theme this year is "The Forever Conversation," recognising the need for continual open communication to enable a marriage to be long lasting. Marriage Encounter is working in partnership with Marriage Week UK to promote events and celebrate marriage. For more information see <https://marriage-week.org.uk/> or or  https://wwme.org.uk/

and https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7aPwW6AlOVszW3yjFIbrOA/

**A THANK YOU TO MIGRANTS**

Every year the migrant communities of Southwark, Brentwood and Westminster dioceses gather for a truly joyful Mass that is full of song, dancing, colour and diversity. The theme for 2020 is: ***‘You are clapping for us, now pray with us’.***

We value the immense contribution of migrants to so many services that are now being recognised and honoured as essential, with many of them amongst ‘frontline staff" in the NHS and Social Services.

This is a moment to support them in prayer and at this time we are also asked to remember our Catholic Social Teaching, which recognises everyone as “our brothers and sisters", and calls us to tear down borders that divide and exclude.

This year, Brentwood diocese are due to host the service but sadly it is not possible for us all to be present in person due to lockdown restrictions.  Brentwood Youth Service have remained undeterred and will be live-streaming this celebration on [Instagram Live](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=ddb40f3924&e=087693309e) and [YouTube](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=e3c1875a23&e=087693309e). Join in praying for those who enrich our parishes and local communities through their skills, knowledge and diversity. They are aiming to offer an energetic service, with intercessions in a variety of languages (translated on screen) and a range of songs recorded by a local school.

**DOMESTIC ABUSE**

The Domestic Abuse Group of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales has issued guidance on how Catholic parishes can support victims of domestic abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the UK-wide COVID-19 lockdown began on 23 March, there has been a 49% increase in calls and online requests for help relating to domestic abuse. The guidance includes information about how parishes can raise awareness of the issue, including a list of helplines and information about how to safely get help. It also includes a step-by-step starter guide for how parishes can work to support their local domestic abuse services with donations. [Read more here](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=ceb754c5e4&e=087693309e).

**THE PILGRIM**

We are pleased to attach an electronic PDF of the [May edition of The Pilgrim.](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=5c123e1eae&e=087693309e) Amongst many excellent articles in this, the Southwark diocesan newspaper, are details of Masses in various language.

**PRAYER BUDDIES**

A prayer buddy ministry is in the process of being set up by the Southwark Diocesan head of hospital chaplains. It is intended to support those working on the front-line that are dealing directly with the current pandemic.  
  
Every hospital chaplaincy within Southwark is invited to ask NHS staff to add their first name and job title to a list, which will be held by the hospital chaplain. We also need parishioners that are prepared to be committed prayer buddies, holding a member of NHS staff and their intentions in prayer on a daily basis.  
  
Parishioners will receive the first name, job title and general hospital location of an NHS worker, whilst the NHS worker will receive your first name, parish name and parish area. It is intended that we also support all our hospital chaplains in prayer at this challenging time.  
  
Rebekah O'Keeffe, a catechist who works within the diocese, will pair people up as prayer buddies placing each one by name into God's care. If you would like to accompany an NHS worker in prayer at this time, please email: [rebekah.okeeffe@gmail.com](mailto:rebekah.okeeffe@gmail.com) with your name and parish details (name and area only)  No email addresses will be passed on at any point. 

**STAYING AT HOME: A NEW RESOURCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

Southwark Catholic Youth Service has worked with some 6th form students on a mini-series ‘Christ is Alive’. This is an invitation for young people to focus on staying spiritually healthy and to ponder some of the big questions about life, through journaling and prayer. This may be particularly relevant during this difficult time of lockdown. All young people are encouraged to take a look at: [www.youtube.com/southwarkcatholicyouthservice](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=5bc4d71be9&e=087693309e)

**NEWSLETTER** We need contributions – comments, suggestions, experiences and, yes, jokes too would be welcome – to make this online newsletter work. Items for publication should be emailed to [Deacon Philip](mailto:kyrabarone@aol.com).

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| **THE VINE FOODBANK**  Here is an update from the Salvation Army’s Vine Foodbank at New Addington which we at St Columba’s have regularly supported over the years:  “To all our regular donors, I can't thank you enough for what you are doing to support us at the moment. We have a steady flow of food donations coming in which is great. In particular the donation boxes in Sainsbury's Selsdon and West Wickham are filling up regularly, so that's really helpful for us - I think some of you are placing donations in there while you can't donate at church, so thank you.  At the moment, we are seeing an increased number of families being referred to us for support. We only see families who are in financial need - anyone needing support with shopping, prescriptions etc is being referred on to the New Addington Residents Association who are doing a great job helping out the community with their army of volunteers.  Since we set up our JustGiving page just a few weeks ago, we have raised an amazing £1700+! If you were one of these donors, thank you so much! While people have been willing to donate money, food donations have been harder to come by with people self-isolating and food just not being available to purchase in bulk. Therefore we are more reliant than usual on members of the public buying individual donations. We really feel that the longer this crisis continues, the more The Vine will see demand rising and our stocks will need replenishing even more quickly than usual.  For those of you who are looking to donate food at the moment, the items we're most in need of are:  **FOOD**  Tinned potatoes and vegetables (including carrots, sweetcorn, peas, tomatoes)  Tinned fruit (desperately short)  Instant mash (none left)  Tinned meat and meat meals (corned beef, hot dogs, meatballs, chilli etc)  Pasta sauces (almost out)  Rice (dried long-grain or basmati is most popular)  Instant coffee and hot chocolate  Sugar  Cereals (Weetabix and Cheerio types are most popular, porridge isn't!)  Puddings (custard, rice pudding, jelly...)  Savoury biscuits  **HOUSEHOLD**  General cleaning products  Washing up liquid  Laundry tablets or capsules  Toilet roll  Shampoo/conditioner  Shower gel  Toothpaste  Soap  Sanitary towels (not tampons)  You are also welcome to donate to our JustGiving page which you can find at:  <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/newaddingtonsalvationarmy>  As usual, please don't feel under any obligation to give in any way, but this is simply a little guidance for any of you who would like to at the moment.  We are still open as usual for donations Tuesday and Friday evenings 7-8pm. The Vine is located in Salcot Crescent New Addington CR0 0JJ. We are down a narrow driveway between houses 11 and 13, next to Tharreo House school.  Many thanks again!  Blessings x  Lesley Holland  Mobile: 07906 097473 |  | |  | | --- | |  | |