**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

Deacon: Rev. Philip Pond E: philippond@rcaos.org.uk

T: 020 8651 4653

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

**4TH JULY 2021**

**14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**(YEAR B)**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst if your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

**A reading from the prophet Ezekiel: 2:2-5**

**Responsorial Psalm PS 122. R v.2:** Our eyes are on the Lord till he show us his mercy.

**2nd Reading: A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians: 12:7-10**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Mark 6:1-6**

**Communion Antiphon:** Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

**FIRST COMMUNIONS THIS SUNDAY**

Last Sunday, 15 children from St Columba’s received their first Holy Communion. Please keep them all in your thoughts and your prayers. We ask God to bless them all.

**COVID PRECAUTIONS RELAXED**

We can now once again have the Prayer of the Faithful (Bidding Prayers).

Holy Communion can be distributed with the usual invitation by the minister and response by the communicant: ‘Body of Christ – Amen’.

Holy Communion will still continue to be given after Mass ends but it can now be received on the tongue as an alternative to receiving it in the hand.

**14TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**

**WE ARE ALL CALLED TO BE A PROPHET**

Ezekiel reveals to us his prophetic calling to speak the word of the lord to his people. It is important for all of us to listen to this story because every baptised person is a prophet. Each is called to speak about the word of God. The church invites us to listen attentively to the same message of God. “He the Lord said to me; son of man stand on your feet and I will speak to you.” Standing is an attitude of prayer, he stands in the temple to pray, to stand in the presence of the lord. It also speaks of attention and full engagement. God wants us to be fully engaged in his mission. God asks Ezekiel to stand on his two feet and attentively engage with the message of the Lord.

The lord said “I will speak to you.” The scripture is definitely interested for us to listen to the message of the lord. This simply implies that our business as a prophet is to listen to what the lord says and speak the message of the lord. Hence, what is important is what God wants and what God says. God said, “I am sending you to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me.” This time, Ezekiel is exiled in Babylon, God sends him to his own people who have rebelled against the Lord.

This message of the lord to Ezekiel has a special lesson to our generation. As baptised, we are all prophets and we are all sent to our own people. We read the signs of the time today, we are called to speak the message of the lord to our generation who have completely rebelled against the will of the Lord. Remember the call of the Second Vatican Council for evangelisation. Evangelisation means preaching the word of God to those who have heard it and rebelled. Looking at the characteristics of the culture of the west, they are the people who have heard the word of God but have rebelled against it. Secularism is turning away from the values of the gospel and turning toward the world radically. God sends us to the culture that knows the gospel but have turned against it.

This mission is not going out to be easy because we are called to prophesy to a nation of rebels. We have to realise that they are not going to like the message. It is not difficult to find this resentment to the gospel message in our culture today. What is important we do the will of God. This reminds us of the word of Mother Theresa once she said, “we are not called to be successful but to be faithful to the word of God.” God sends us to the world and speak the word of God. Which means that as a prophet we are not meant to convey our own words but the word of God. As a prophet, it is not proper to share our own ideas or experience but the word of the lord. This means that the sacred scripture shapes our speech, it implies also that the dogmas and doctrines of the church should be the guiding star of our speech. If we all say are the things that people want to hear from the popular culture, hence we are not speaking the word of the lord. Finally, the most important lesson in the readings this Sunday is we have to let the world know is that we have prophesied in the name of the lord, it does not matter if they have listened to us or not.

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| **LITURGICAL CALENDAR OF THE WEEK** |
| Sat 3rd  | St Thomas, Apostle |
| Sun 4th  | 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time |
| Mon 5th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time orSt Anthony Mary Zaccaria, Priest |
| Tues 6th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time orSt Maria Goretti, Virgin, Martyr |
| Wed 7th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time  |
| Thurs 8th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time  |
| Fri 9th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time orSs Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest and companions, Martyrs |
| Sat 10th  | Weekday in Ordinary Time |
| Sun 11th  | 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time |

**REMEMBER THE SICK AND NEEDY**

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

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| **MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK** |
| Sat 3rd  | 6.30pm | John Piadade & Michael D’Souza, RIP |
| Sun 4th  | 8.00am | God’s abundant blessings / happy marriage of Miss Abiodun & her partner |
| Sun 4th  | 10.00am | Tina Guida, RIP |
| Sun 4th  | 6.30am | Father Barry Hughes, wellbeing |
| Mon 5th  | 10.00am | Sarah Ysart, RIP |
| Tues 6th  | 10.00am | Kathleen Pond, RIP |
| Wed 7th  | 10.00am | Pro Populo |
| Thurs 8th  | 10.00am | Intention of the Alvarez Family |
| Fri 9th  | 10.00am | Dennis Cooney, RIP |
| Sat 10th  | 6.30pm | Pro Populo |
| Sun 11th  | 8.00am | Eden Dallimore, RIP & the Dallimore Family |
| Sun 11th  | 10.00am | Lucia Di Maio, RIP |
| Sun 11th  | 6.30pm | The Cooney Family |

***PROTECTING YOURSELF WHEN YOU COME TO MASS***

We know we must take precautions when coming to Mass.

So every time you come to church make sure to:

* Remember to bring and wear a face mask covering the nose as well as the mouth. There are some available in church if you forget.
* 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.
* 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.
* Leave where they are the chairs which have replaced some of our benches and are at 1m intervals to ensure the necessary social distancing.
* Bring your own Mass or prayer book – there are no shared items.
* Leave the church straight after Holy Communion, which is distributed at the end of Mass, and don’t congregate outside to socialise.

**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.

***IF YOU TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID…***

Should that happen and you have been to Mass at St Columba’s in the preceding week, let Fr Roy or Deacon Philip know. For track’n’trace purposes, they may then need to contact anyone else who was at the same Mass. That’s when the track’n’trace forms which everyone attending Mass has to complete (unless they send an email) come into play.

**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. 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) **DEAR HUSBAND & WIFE…**You are invited to give each other a gift by spending July 10 online between 9am and 1pm exploring and improving your relationship. The event, entitled ‘Building A Better Marriage’, will provide you with valuable insights into your communication skills and the call of the Church to the married. There is no group sharing. This is not marriage counselling but a chance to make average-to-good marriages a bit better – whether you married five years ago or 50. Booking is essential: telephone 07983 524 727 or email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk Recent online ‘Building a Better Marriage’ courses attracted the following comments from couples: ‘The topics were chosen well and we could really relate to them… The personal stories you shared were very insightful and helped us to reflect on our own relationships more deeply… It was relaxed and you put us at ease, being friendly and personable... We thoroughly enjoyed attending the course.’**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**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.** **HOW DID COVID AFFECT YOU?**Our diocesanAgency for Evangelisation and Catechesis has partnered with other dioceses to produce and promote a survey which aims to find out about the experiences of Catholics over the period of the Coronavirus pandemic. To complete the survey, select our Archdiocese from the drop-down menu so that we can hear about what God has been doing and what He wants to say to us about the future of the Church in this part of England and Wales. This important survey should take about 10 minutes to complete and the deadline for submissions for Southwark is July 4. Click on this link:<https://forms.rcaos.org.uk/covid-19-survey-form/> |  |  |

**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…**

**PLEASE DON’T FORGET…**

Keeping everyone safe when they come to Mass at St Columba’s is essential.

Using the defogger, a piece of machinery we now have for sanitizing the benches after Sunday Mass, is part of that.

It’s much easier and quicker for the stewards to use this electrically-operated spray than cleaning and drying by hand as they did before.

At Mass, remember to leave plenty of space between you in the bench.

There should be no more than three people – unless you are a family or in a bubble – ideally one person at each end, one in the middle.

During the week, take a marker paper when arriving and leave it on the seat so that it’s obvious which part of the bench needs manual cleaning.

Do please be prepared to lend a hand helping the stewards clean the benches after weekday Masses.

**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.

**ST PHILOMENA’S OPEN EVENING**

An open evening for entry to year 7 in September 2022 will take place at St Philomena’s Catholic High School for Girls on July 6.

There will be sessions at 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 5.30pm and 6.30pm.

One parent and one year 5 student per family only will be able to attend because of Covid restrictions.

Advance booking via the school website is essential: [www.stphils.org.uk](http://www.stphils.org.uk)

**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

**WANTED: DEANERY MENTORS**

The Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis is developing a model of parish support called *Some Definite Service* and is looking for people who might be willing to volunteer as deanery mentors!

This is an exciting opportunity to serve the Church and your fellow parishioners.

As you serve, you will also receive formation, training, be accompanied and invested in.

For more information, please visit: aec.rcaos.org.uk/sds

**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



**THIS IS HOW YOU HELPED…**

Thanks to your support, CAFOD, our bishops’ official third-world charity, has been helping communities around the world cope with the pandemic.

In Zambia alone, in the past year, 1,234,200 people were helped with messages on COVID-19 and 13,312 provided with access to safe water.

Some 392 frontline health workers from Zambia’s 11 dioceses were trained in how to prepare for and respond to COVID-19 in their local communities.l A total of 1,000 handwashing hygiene stations were set up in communities to support handwashing measures.

Thank you for standing alongside people in Zambia and for supporting people in more than 30 other countries worldwide.

**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)

**THE BEAUTY OF MARRIAGE**

Pope Francis’s prayer intention this month, part of his World Prayer Network, is for young people preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community.

His prayer is that they may grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.

Here are the Pope’s own words of reflection:

“Is it true, what some people say—that young people don’t want to get married, especially during these difficult times?

Getting married and sharing one’s life is something beautiful.

It’s a demanding journey, at times difficult, and at times complicated, but it’s worth making the effort. And on this life-long journey, the husband and wife aren’t alone; Jesus accompanies them.Marriage isn’t just a “social” act; it’s a vocation that’s born from the heart; it’s a conscious decision for the rest of one’s life that requires specific preparation.

Please, never forget this. God has a dream for us —love— and He asks us to make it his own.Let us make our own the love which is God’s dream for us.

A great deal of patience is necessary in order to love. But it’s worth it, eh?”

**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

**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)

**GRIEF TO GRACE VACANCY**

An administrative assistant (part-time) is required by Grief to Grace.

This is a small charity offering spiritual and psychological healing to those traumatized by historical sexual or other types of abuse

* Hours: initially 17.5 per week.
* Salary: £16k
* Start date: as soon as possible.
* Closing date for applications: June 30

More details: see the website [www.grieftograceuk.org](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=387118d974&e=087693309e))

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

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

The names will begin to be read out at Mass during the Bidding Prayers.

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.

**BIDDING PRAYERS TOP TEN**

Ten parishioners have kindly agreed to take turns writing Bidding Prayers for Sunday Masses. All have been emailed a copy of the new rota. If you are one of the volunteers but have not received a copy of the new rota, please let Deacon Philip know without delay.