**St Columba’s Church, Selsdon**

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**OCTOBER 4, 2020**

**27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

**1st Reading: from the prophet Isaiah: 5:1-7**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 79:9, 12-16. 19-20 R Is 5:7**

The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

**2nd Reading: from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians 4:6-9**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father, Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43**

**Communion Antiphon:** The Lord is good to those who hope in him, to the soul that seeks him.

**THE WEEK AHEAD: WHAT’S HAPPENING**

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.

There is Mass every day at 10am except Saturday (and, this week, excluding Tuesday the 6th, when the funeral for Margaret Edwards will take place at 11.15am), plus 8am and 6.30pm Mass every Sunday, as well as a vigil Mass at 6.30pm on Saturdays.

Please note that our weekly Adoration in front of the exposed Blessed Sacrament will not take place this Tuesday (the 6th) because of Margaret Edwards’ funeral at 11.15am

**DON’T FORGET: GOD IS IN CONTROL OF EVERYTHING**

**A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE 27th SUNDAY BY FR ROY**

The Gospel today depicts a history of salvation.

God is the owner of the vineyard. As expected of any owner, He wants his property to be properly protected and takes action to ensure that.

His plan is quite straightforward – to nurture his vineyard then wait for a bountiful harvest. As its owner, God has every right to profit from his vineyard.

The tenants, however, have a different agenda. They want to take over the vineyard for themselves.

The tenants appear to be confident that they can do this without a struggle.

Initially, their evil plan seems to be successful. Using brute force, they eliminate the vineyard owner’s heir to facilitate their takeover, under the impression that the owner is weak.

Sadly, for them, that assumption is wrong: the owner is far more powerful than they thought. Ultimately, he will triumph.

That’s not just because he has a legal right to put things in order but is in fact in control of everything.

In the end, his aim is achieved.

Let us apply this simple biblical parable to ourselves, substituting the villainous characters with our own lives.

God has a plan for us. Right from the very start, we were created to complete the mission or vocation that God planned for us.

Once we have recognised it, our task is to align our lives and values according to that plan. If we are honest, we have to admit that there have been occasions when we have not been faithful to our mission. We have often been disloyal to our vocation in life.

God organises many rescue packages for us but we constantly insist on pursuing our own aims and objectives, no matter how inappropriate or harmful.

The rescue signals that God sends us end up being ignored because our priorities so often have nothing to do with our relationship with God.

However, in the end, once we lose control and land in deep trouble, we begin to realise the importance of listening to God.

This is usually the point where we are full of regrets because life could have been so much more meaningful if we had remained faithful to God’s plan.

To sum up, the most important lesson of this Gospel is the need for patient loyalty to the mission God gave us.

We will never get it wrong if we remain faithful to our vocation.

The call to holiness is worth every struggle because our reward will certainly be far more valuable than anything we could imagine.

The moral of the story is simple: commit to and follow God’s plan.



**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 our Church and the

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 3rd: Feria or Our Lady

Sun 4th: [27th Sunday in Ordinary Time](https://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Calendar/Sunday/OT5Sunday.shtml#OT26)

Mon 5th: Feria

Tues 6th: Feria or St Bruno

Wed 7th: Our Lady of the Rosary

Thurs 8th: Feria

Fri 9th: St John Henry Newman

Sat 10th: Feria or St Paulinus of York or St Denis & Companions or St John Leonardi or Our Lady

Sun 11th: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**CONGRATULATIONS, 1st COMMUNICANTS**

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the children who have just received their First Holy Communion (on Saturday, October 3).

Congratulations to:

Renee Rogan

Eurelle Salomon

Nina Sivakumar

Francesca Baladasan

Caleb Williams

Maximilian Kierkid

Sadie May

Fintan Moran

Kaylen  Sekyonda

Jayden Sekyonda

Christian Bagtas

Madison Bautista

Mateo Charles Keast

Jethro Genuino

Tristan Puruganan

Also our thanks to catechists Patsy McFarlane and Kirsten Moran for all their hard work and commitment in preparing these young people for this oh-so-special day. And of course not forgetting our thanks to Fr Roy.

***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.***

**REMEMBER THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Please pray for all those in great need at this time including: Judy Freegard, John Smith, Elena Sandland, Imogen Fernando, 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 St Vincent de Paul group.

**DEACON PHILIP**

...is having a triple heart bypass this week. He is expected to be in hospital for up to a week and has been told that full recovery will take up to three months. Please keep him in your prayers.

**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 which add an extra 25p to parish income for every pound that you give to the Offertory collectino.

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. (See ‘Make A Pledge For Our Parish’.)

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

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

Mon 5th: 10am Deceased members of the Moran & Garvin Families

Tues 6th: 11.15am Funeral Mass of Margaret Edwards, RIP

Wed 7th: 10am Thanksgiving for our Priests

Thurs 8TH: 10am Mrs Mariane McManus

Fri 9th: 10am Private Intention of Angela

Sat 10th: 6.30pm Eddie Dargan, RIP

Sun 11th: 8am The Alvarez Family

Sun 11th: 10am Pro Populo

Sun 11th: 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.



***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). It will be 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 or, by phone, on 020 8686 3837. Social distancing measures will be in place.

**MAKE A PLEDGE FOR OUR PARISH**

The dramatic fall in the numbers attending Mass has, not surprisingly, had a knock-on effect on parish finances. With significantly fewer people at Mass on Sunday, the Offertory collection is much reduced.

But regular parish bills still have to be paid and the amount of money available from the Offertory collection to do so is now much less than it was a year ago, before the pandemic lockdown.

So, to ensure the future financial wellbeing of St Columba's, we are asking all parishioners to review their offerings to support the work and mission of the parish. This, of course, is in the light of the fifth commandment of the Church which is 'To contribute to the support of our pastors.'

There are various ways of giving, whether you are coming to church or not. As well as cash in the basket at Mass, they include payment by cheque and standing order. For taxpayers, there is also the option of signing up for Gift Aid which boosts your offering by 25p for every £1 you pay - and at no extra cost to yourself.

Attached is a form inviting you to make a pledge of support for St Columba's and which also sets out all the options. It includes a standing order form.

Do give some thought to this: we all need our church, we all need to support the work and mission of the parish - and we all need to take responsibility for supporting St Columba's financially.

 

**A BIG THANK YOU TO 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 Andrea Lightman on 020 8657 9394..

Remember: confidentiality is assured.

**FAMILY FAST DAY**

This week our parish is marking CAFOD’s Family Fast Day to help people facing the worst of the coronavirus crisis. Friday (October 9) is the dedicated day.

We have all felt the impact of this terrible disease – let’s come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild and heal.

Please pray for all those affected and donate online at **cafod.org.uk/give** or by using one of the envelopes. You can also give easily electronically: simply text CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10. (*Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you’ll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you’d like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text CAFODNOINFO to 70085.*

You can find out more about CAFOD via this link:

<https://vimeo.com/453718072/66db9d386d> and on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/5GagOhIBb8Y>

**FOR THOSE IN PERIL ON THE SEA**

This year Stella Maris (formerly known as the Apostleship of the Sea) is celebrating 100 years of its support to seafarers, fishers and their families.

To mark the beginning of the centenary year they will be a live-streamed Mass celebrated by Archbishop Philip Tartaglia of Glasgow.

You are welcome to join in online to share in this very special celebration on Sunday (October 4) at 3pm. The Mass will be streamed live at [www.stellamaris.org.uk/centenarymass](https://apostleshipofthesea.us5.list-manage.com/track/click?u=39973dfacb9a6b6a921c5a9a8&id=340993cdf7&e=6e4c9888aa)

**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.

**MIGRANTS & REFUGEES: AN INSIGHT**

Bishop Paul McAleenan, the Church's lead bishop for migrants and refugees, has released a moving, engaging and illuminating video podcast called "Into The Refugee Journey" to mark this year's World Day of Migrants (that was on September 27). Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vM6AXpNesdo>

**DEALING WITH DOMESTIC ABUSE**

A useful resource pack compiled by the National Board of Catholic Women on "Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse" is available on their website. It can be downloaded here: <https://safeguarding.rcaos.org.uk/raising-awareness-of-domestic-abuse/>

**FINDING A SAFE SPACE**

Victim Support have introduced a free and independent support service called Safe Spaces. It's a joint Catholic/Anglican project to provide a vital specialist support service for survivors of church-related abuse. Visit this link for more details: [www.SafeSpacesEnglandandWales.org.uk](http://www.SafeSpacesEnglandandWales.org.uk)

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| **MASS ONLINE FROM ST COLUMBA’S** Follow Fr Roy celebrating Mass live on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYVyZ2Xpfs0NiuU3bxAjsCQ/live> **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 Philip by Thursday evening at the latest. **PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED**Peter Tame, brother of Edmund - may he rest in peace. |

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