**St Columba’s Church**

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: 07764 845 890

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

**5TH JULY 2020 - 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)**

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

**1st Reading: from the prophet Zechariah 9:9-10**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 144:1-2,8-11,13-14**

**R v.1**

I will bless your name for ever, O God my king.

**2nd Reading: from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:9,11-13**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!

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

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

**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.***

***WELCOME BACK! COME TO MASS AT ST COLUMBA’S – AND HERE’S HOW…***

As from this weekend (July 4/5), St Columba’s is now open again for daily Mass with everyone invited.

Mass times are just as they were before the lockdown: Saturday 6.30pm, Sunday 8am, 10am and 6.30pm. During the week there will be Mass every day at 10am (except Saturday). The daily 10am Mass will continue to be live streamed on the internet.

The Government has imposed strict rules with which we must comply in order to reopen for Mass.

* Everyone attending Mass must provide their name and contact details (phone number or email or postal address). To avoid queuing, email or phone us. Alternatively, bring a piece of paper with the details or fill in a form when you arrive.
* You must wear a face mask in church so bring your own. There will be some provided for those who forget.
* A maximum of 80 people will be allowed into the church for Mass. ***If there are already that number inside when you arrive, you will need to come back to a later Mass.***
* 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.
* Chairs have replaced the benches and will be at 1m intervals to ensure the necessary social distancing. Please do not move them.
* There will be no holy water, no singing, no Bidding Prayers and no Sign of Peace.
* No prayer/hymn books or any other shared items will be available. Bring your own.
* There will be no Offertory collection. Please place your offering in the baskets at the entrance/exit.
* Stewards will guide and advise you on when and how to come forward for Holy Communion which will be ***completely silent***.
* You are asked to leave straight after Holy Communion – do not go back to your seat and do not congregate in the car park.
* ***The toilets cannot be used.***

**A MESSAGE & REFLECTION FROM FR ROY**

**FOR THE 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Zechariah was active as a prophet around 587BC. Coincidentally, this is the period when the people of Israel had just returned to the promised land after the Babylonian captivity.

After 75 years of exile, the urgent need is to rebuild their country. But the road to recovery is difficult because their confidence had been completely shattered.

At the very heart of Israel’s identity is the awareness that they are the chosen people of God. They have been chosen to learn the mind and heart of God. By the integrity of their worship, they will become beacons for all the kings of the earth. Their hope is of a united Israel gathered around Mount Zion with all the nations of the world gathered around them. Some 500 years earlier, during the time of King David, this dream had been plausible. But then, beginning with King Solomon, everything had gone downhill. Israel had been overtaken by the Greeks and then the Romans.

With that as a background, let us consider the prophecy of Zechariah in our first reading today. Zechariah prophesies a new order and kingdom. So rejoice, Jerusalem, says the Lord. Your king will be victorious. He will arrive riding on a colt.

Who is the new king? The new David, a beacon for the country. The prophecy is of a banishing of all the instruments of war. It is about a kingship that will be characterized by peace and non-violence and the new king’s reign will be universal.

This dream of Zechariah is not just extraordinary. It requires a genuine revolution in the existing order. The question is: was it realised during Zechariah’s lifetime? No, definitely not. Centuries more were to pass before it came to pass; a period of waiting during which Israel was overrun by the Greeks and the Romans.

Five centuries later a young rabbi by the name of Jesus preaches that the kingdom of God has come. The prophecy of Zechariah is coming true, he says, in Galilee. Jesus himself is the new temple. At the peak of his life, he enters the temple riding on a colt. Hanging on the cross, Jesus is named King of the Jews by Pontius Pilate. It is the fulfilment of Zechariah’s prophecy; a prophecy that his reign will stretch from sea to sea.

Think about that. The church that Jesus founded with his sacrifice on the cross does indeed stretch from sea to sea. It may not be a kingdom by the standards of this world. But it is indeed a kingdom, one established on the basis of justice and humility. A new order characterised by peace and love.

Our task is to continue realising that prophecy by perpetuating the kingdom established by Jesus on the cross.

**PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED**

Victims of Covid-19 – may they rest in peace.

**PRAY FOR THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Nina Wade, Roger Fenton, 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).

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

Sun 5TH: 14th Sunday in ordinary time Year A

Mon 6th: Feria or St Maria Goretti

Tues 7th: Feria

Wed 8th: Feria

Thurs 9th: Feria or St Augustine Zhao Rong

Fri 10th : Feria

Sat 11th: St Benedict, patron saint of Europe

Sun 12th: 15th Sunday in ordinary time

**DO YOU HAVE A MASS INTENTION?**

If you wish to have a Mass offered for a special intention, you can do so. Use one of the special envelopes at the back of the church. Or email 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; 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.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 4th: 6.30pm Holy Souls

Sun 5th: 8am Holy Souls

Sun 5th: 10am Pro Populo

Sun 5th: 6.30pm Holy Souls

Mon 6th: 10am Maurice Jackson RIP

Tues 7th: 10am Judy Freegard

Wed 8th: 10am Cathy Burns

Thurs 9th: 10am Basil Carrasco RIP

Fri 10th: 10am Ludovina Dias

Sat 11th: 6.30pm Holy Souls

Sun 12th: 8am Sebastian Dias RIP

Sun 12th 10am Isobelle

Sun 12th: 6.30pm Pro Populo

**ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF GUINNESS… KIDS WILL BE KIDS**

Pay special attention to the wording and spelling of the little gems that follow, kindly submitted by Edmund Tame.

If you know the Bible, even a little, you'll find this most amusing. It comes from a Caithness school test.

A group of children were asked questions about the Old and New Testament. These are some of their answers. They have not been retouched or corrected. Incorrect spelling has been left in.

1. In the first book of the bible, Guinness, god got tired of creating the world so he took the sabbath off.

2. Adam and eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of ark. Noah built and ark and the animals came on in pears.

3. Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.

4. The jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.

5. Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.

6. Samson slayed the philistines with the axe of the apostles.

7. Moses led the jews to the red sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.

8. The egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to mount cyanide to get the ten commandments.

9. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.

10. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.

Priceless…

**STRUGGLING TO COPE?**

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.

**REMEMBER: THERE IS NO LONGER A SATURDAY MORNING MASS ONLINE**

**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 and so have other parishioners.

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)

**DON’T FORGET 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, however. 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> |

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**WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE PARISH NEWSLETTER…?**This newsletter, that is. Tell us what you think. Also 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 (address above) with your response and reaction.**CROYDON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL: VISITS ARE 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 only one new Covid-19 case admitted to hospital in Croydon since May 31. Routine elective surgery has recommenced. 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 or phoning 0208 401 3105 or 07557 014 739. |   |

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**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: THE COST TO THE PARISH OF THE CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN**

Because of the three-month lockdown, many people were 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, 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. 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.

**NEW OPEN TIMES FOR ST COLUMBA’S**

With St Columba’s now open every day for Mass, the church will no longer be open daily from 11-12.30.

**THE SUNDAY MASS OBLIGATION**

St Columba’s and other churches may now be open for the celebration of Mass. But as Archbishop John has confirmed this week, the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still suspended. Also, as he points out, if you are potentially vulnerable to Covid-19, you may be nervous about attending Sunday Mass because of the number of people likely to be there. In which case – if you are healthy enough – consider going to a weekday Mass instead. Or simply attend a virtual Mass online.

**ABORTION VOTE IN PARLIAMENT ON MONDAY JULY 6 – CONTACT YOUR MP *NOW***

Two abortion amendments are being proposed for the Domestic Abuse Bill being discussed in the House of Commons this Monday.

If agreed, they will remove almost all current legal safeguards on abortion up until when a child is capable of being born alive, with a ceiling of 28 weeks.

The change would leave England and Wales with one of the most extreme abortion laws in the world.

They would also allow abortions to take place in any location if a woman is in an abusive relationship.

On Monday we face the biggest single threat to the lives of unborn children since the Abortion Act was introduced in 1967.

Write to or email your Member of Parliament *today* urging them to stop this from happening.