**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)

**9th MAY 2021**

**6th SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B)**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth; The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles: 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48**

**Responsorial Psalm PS 97:1-4. Rcf. V2:** The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

**2nd Reading: A reading from the first letter of St John: 4:7-10**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! Jesus said: ‘If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia!

**Gospel: John 15:9-17**

**Communion Antiphon:** If you love me, keep my commandments, says the Lord, and I will ask the Father and he will send you another Paraclete, to abide with you for ever, alleluia.

**ADORATION RESTARTING ON TUESDAY MORNINGS…**

Starting on Tuesday morning (May 11), there will be exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every week after 10am Mass.

It will last for one hour from 10.30 – 11.30am every Tuesday. All are welcome. There will be no congregational singing because of Covid.

**AND SO IS THE SATURDAY NOVENA TO OUR LADY**

Come along to St Columba’s on Saturday morning at 10am and you can join in the novena to Our Lady.

Again, all are welcome. The short service will last no more than 20 minutes.

*Understand this: we do not need to do anything to experience God’s love*

A reflection on Sunday’s Gospel by Fr Roy

There is an oh-so-powerful message in Sunday’s gospel. Let me explain…

Love of our brothers and sisters is a testament to our love for God.

Jesus powerfully demonstrated that to us by his death on the cross, proving how genuine his love was (and is).

The absence of love in our life is proof of our not knowing God because to live fully is to love.

God is love: His very being is love.

How can we properly understand this?

To do so we have to recognise that the story of our life begins in the fact that God loved us first – and still loves us.

Sacred scripture provides proof of that reality; that everything is the initiative of God.

The truth is that God wants to share his love with us.

Hence, to know God is to enter into the dynamics of God’s love, embracing the same outlook on life as He does.

That means articulating the love of God in our daily life.

The ten commandments are the guiding stars that enable all believers to do that.

The love of God always comes first. And it is important to understand that we do not need to do anything to experience God’s love.

It is the foundation of our existence.

The fact that God loved us first is a biblical reality.

God sent his son as expiation for our sins.

Sacred scripture is the story of God’s relentless search for us. The drama that it portrays is a constant, ongoing demonstration of that search for our hearts.

The Father sent his beloved son in order to save us from our sins through his love.

Note that He did not wait until we deserved it.

Jesus is quoted in John’s gospel today as saying: “It was not you who chose me: it is I who chose you.”

In other words, grace comes first.

Another image of God’s love is the account of Jesus boarding Peter’s boat – without first asking his permission.

The boat symbolises our soul. It symbolises Jesus entering our soul without waiting for our invitation.

But then we need to allow Jesus to live in our lives.

For him to remain in our hearts we must agree to what he wants. Jesus made clear what that was when he said: “You are my friends if you do what I command you…”

He emphasises the point: “You can have no greater love than to lay down your life for your friends.”

In other words, we must respond to his challenge by imitating the love Jesus has for us.

He invites us into the dynamic of divine love.

But this can be no half-hearted response on our part.

As it says in the book of Revelation: “…if you are luke-warm I will spit you out”.

So we need to respond to God with all our heart.

Love of the Lord means actively loving the way Jesus loves.

Our reward for sharing Jesus’s passion will be infinite spiritual joy.

That is what Jesus gained for us through his death on the cross.

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| **LITURGICAL CALENDAR OF THE WEEK** |
| Sat 8th  | Weekday of Easter |
| Sun 9th  | 6th Sunday of Easter |
| Mon 10th  | Weekday of Easter |
| Tues 11th  | Weekday of Easter |
| Wed 12th  | Weekday of Easter or Ss Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs, St Pancras, Martyr |
| Thurs 13th  | The Ascension of the Lord, a Holyday of Obligation |
| Fri 14th  | St Matthias, Apostle  |
| Sat 15th  | Weekday of Easter  |
| Sun 16th  | 7th Sunday of Easter |

**REMEMBER THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Please pray for all those in need at this time including: Douglas & Yvonne Bruce, Stephen Beck, Colin Furk, Vera De Souza, Mike Bond, Alice Barclay, Thelma Benn, Julie Ballesteros, Cora Litchfield, Sean Walsh, Judy Freegard, Imogen Fernando, 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.

***HOW TO KEEP SAFE WHEN YOU COME TO MASS***

We know we must take precautions when coming to Mass. They are set by the Government – and the local council is checking that we comply.

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 clean.
* 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.
* Keep silent when receiving Holy Communion.
* Leave the church straight after Holy Communion and don’t congregate outside to socialise.

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| **MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK** |
| Sat 8th  | 6.30pm | Magdeline & Anthony Wong, Golden Anniversary |
| Sun 9th  | 8.00am | Intention of the Alvarez Family |
| Sun 9th  | 10.00am | Joseph Dias, RIP |
| Sun 9th  | 6.30am | Pro Populo |
| Mon 10th  | 10.00am | Lily Paes, RIP (Maria & Mario D’Souza) |
| Tues 11th  | 10.00am | Diago Paes, RIP |
| Wed 12th  | 10.00am | Michael Weston, RIP |
| Thurs 13th  | 10.00am 7.30pm | Margarette Smith, RIP For the Holy Souls |
| Fri 14th  | 10.00am | Funeral Mass of Jesus Melenab, RIP |
| Sat 15th  | 6.30pm | Gerry D’Souza, RIP |
| Sun 16th  | 8.00am | Pro Populo |
| Sun 16th  | 10.00am | Jesus Melenab, RIP |
| Sun 16th  | 6.30pm | Jackie Iles, RIP |

**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

**FIRST COMMUNION & CONFIRMATION**

FIRST COMMUNIONS These will take place on Sunday June 27 at noon. All parents (and the children) need to attend a meeting immediately following 10am Mass on Sunday May 16.

CONFIRMATIONS Young people (age 13-14) wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation are advised to write a short letter to Fr Roy asking to be confirmed.



***SHOP ONLINE AND HELP ST C’S TOO***

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) **WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT SO FAR…?****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.**  |  |  |

**GOT YOUR GIFT AID ENVELOPES?**

**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.**

**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>

**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.

This research will help us to understand what has been happening during this time when churches have been closed and/or only opened for limited periods and Catholics have had to practice their faith ‘at a distance’. 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/>

***MORE STEWARDS NEEDED TO KEEP ST COLUMBA’S OPEN***

**We have a number of parishioners who have been doing an invaluable job during the pandemic to ensure that St Columba’s can stay open for Mass, every Mass.**

**You may not have noticed them, quietly going about their job. But that job is essential.**

**Volunteers all, they are the stewards who check people into the church before Mass starts, ensure they provide a completed track’n’trace form, hand out face masks if needed and make sure everyone uses hand sanitizer. After Mass they clean the seating which has been used and sanitize door handles and the like.**

**These volunteers are essential if we are to keep St Columba’s open during the pandemic.**

**But there are not enough of them: we need more, especially now that the benches are back in use and numbers attending Mass starting to increase.**

**If you are willing to help - and do give it serious consideration - contact Fr Roy or Deacon Philip.**

**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 whereabouts.

That way, we can work together to support and help them at this difficult time.

**ST JOSEPH’S 150TH ANNIVERSARY**

In preparation for the 150th anniversary of the opening of St Joseph’s School, Upper Norwood, former pupils, parents, staff, governors and friends are invited to submit recollections, photos and memorabilia.

They will be displayed in anniversary publications and at events. Please include a description of any items sent, name people in photos and add a date or occasion when the photograph might have been taken.

During the celebratory year, beginning in September, there will be many opportunities to visit St Joseph’s and to meet with other Alumni to mark this special milestone. Please help spread the news to all those associated with St Joseph’s.

To share memories of your days at St Joseph’s, or to receive more information as the plans for the anniversary year unfold, please email your contact details to: alumni@st-josephs-jun.croydon.sch.uk

For more details visit the school’s website: <https://www.stjosephsfederation.co.uk/>

**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. And don’t forget to let Fr Roy or Deacon Philip know beforehand of your admission into hospital. We can then keep you in our prayers.

**LAUDATO SI’ WEEK**

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| Laudato Si’ Week is coming up shortly: between May 16-24. As part of it, the Global Catholic Climate Movement will be holding a series of special events to mark the Laudato Si’ anniversary year.  This will be a celebration of the progress the whole Church has made on its journey to ecological conversion. The week will include prayer gatherings, music, discussions about energy and fossil fuels, and a presentation on the Care of Creation.View the full programme and register interest here: [LaudatoSiWeek.org](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=ab22cf3180&e=7d4ac57aff) |



**WATCH ‘BEYOND THE CROSS’**

'Beyond the Cross'is a five-part art and culture series produced by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.  It follows on from 'At the Foot of the Cross', which considered four famous paintings telling the story of Christ's Passion and Resurrection. 'Beyond the Cross' follows the Risen Christ through the artist's eye taking in some of the main encounters of the season of Easter.

In the video (see below) the viewer is asked to look at the empty tomb and take as inspiration the Swiss painter Eugene Burnand's 1898 work 'The Disciples Peter and John Running to the Sepulchre on the Morning of the Resurrection'.

**MARY’S MEALS: 1.8M BENEFIT**

Since its humble beginnings, Mary’s Meals, named after Mary the Mother of Jesus, has been built on a foundation of prayer and the many little acts of love from those who support it.

During May, the month traditionally dedicated to Our Lady, you are invited to join in prayer to celebrate the wonderful work of Mary’s Meals.

Give thanks that more than 1.8 million children in 19 countries are receiving a nutritious meal every school day as a result.

Inspirational resources for the Pray In May campaign, including a prayer card, can be found on [our website](https://marysmeals.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=71642ed3d70deb2b1c25da8f0&id=1c30715a38&e=ef965371e1).

**VACANCY AT ST PHILOMENA’S**

The governors of St Philomena’s Catholic high school for girls in Carshalton are seeking to appoint a clerk to the governing body.

This is a paid position, 310 hours a year, term time only.

You can find out more and obtain an application form by emailing recruitment@stphils.org.uk or phoning 020 8642 2025. Or visit the school’s website:

<http://www.stphils.org.uk/join-us/vacancies>

**ANY MORE QUESTIONS?**

Do you still have unanswered questions about the Covid pandemic, vaccination, the role being played by the Church or public health issues generally?

If so, logon to a webinar being held on May 15

from 10-11.30am.

It is being chaired by Bp Paul McAleenan, one of the auxiliary bishops in Westminster diocese.

Speakers include Professor Kevin Fenton, Dr Nicola Lang, Dr Donald Palmer and Dr Beata Szymczyk-Halas, all specialists in this field.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions anonymously. The link is:

<https://zoom.us/j/99627319556> Passcode: 546617

**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.



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR OFFERING**

The Offertory collection for April 25 totalled £563.90 of which £410 was Gift Aided and £153.90 not.

The Offertory collection for May 2 totalled £737.77 of which £294 was Gift Aided and £443.77 not.

Thank you to everyone for your offerings.

**PRAY FOR EASTERN CHRISTIANS**

Today, the Sixth Sunday of Easter (May 9), has been designated a Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians.

It is being celebrated with the participation of Christians from all over Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, the Horn of Africa and India.

This annual event is organised by the Catholic charity, Fellowship & Aid to the Christians of the East (FACE), in partnership with Oeuvre d’Orient in France and the Congregation for Oriental Churches and the heads of the Eastern Catholic Churches.

It offers Eastern and Western Christians an opportunity to be united in prayer during the time of Easter.

**THE DAY OF THE LORD**

**The bishops of England and Wales have come together to provide a reflection entitled ‘The Day of the Lord’.**

**Its purpose is to pay tribute to all in the Catholic community ‘who have shown such courage, generosity and understanding in the face of adversity this past year’.**

**Click on this link to access the reflection: **



**WALSINGHAM ROSARY MISSION**

Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland are invited during May (if possible, each evening at 8pm) to pray the Rosary for the following intentions:

1. Protecting our families and the family of nations, especially in this Year of St Joseph;

2. A deepening of faith, hope, love and the protection of life;

3. Peace in the world;

4. Deliverance from Coronavirus; for those working for a cure; for those who have died; for those who are suffering and those who care for them.

The designated Rosary Hour for our diocese of Southwark for the National Rosary Relay Rally is Sunday May 30 from 3-4pm. For more details go to:

<https://www.walsingham.org.uk/2021/04/26/may-2021-rosary-mission/>

**RENATE FILM COMPETITION**

RENATE stands for Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation.

It is inviting 16-24-year-olds in European countries to join its mission to tackle human trafficking by entering a film competition.

RENATE encourages young people to get involved by producing a short film individually or as part of a team, up to four minutes long, around the slogan ‘Slavery - Human Trafficking - Near YOU!', and some or all of the following tags: #StopTheDemand, #BreakTheChains, #EndTheCycleTOGETHER.

The deadline date of entry is mid-August 2021.

For more information visit this website:

[www.renateevents.net/film-competition](http://www.renateevents.net/film-competition)

**ONLINE CHARISMS SYMPOSIUM**

An online conference to mark five years since the release of *Iuvenescit Ecclesia,* a Vatican document on the relationship between the hierarchy and lay-led movements in the Church, will be held on May 15.

For booking and enquiries see the links set out below.Booking:  <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/integrating-the-charisms-registration-148230672933>Enquiries: charismaticandmystical@gmail.com

**THE COVID CRISIS IN INDIA**

As coronavirus brings devastation across India, CAFOD is working with experienced local Church agency Caritas India to provide vital support to poor and marginalised communities.

Donations to CAFOD’s Coronavirus Appeal will help Caritas India distribute PPE kits to frontline health workers, promote COVID and vaccine awareness campaigns and set up safely-run isolation and quarantine centres.

You can donate online by using this website link: [cafod.org.uk/give](https://cafod.org.uk/Give).

Please keep praying for the people of India and all those affected by the pandemic.

**THE LONDON JESUIT CENTRE**

Here are details of forthcoming events at the London Jesuit Centre:

Every week, Monday to Thursday, the Heythrop Library is now open again.

June 19: ‘An Opportunity for Prayer’ - a retreat from 2-4pm

June 21: Brian Purfield’s ‘Introduction to the Bible – morning and evening classes on offer.

More details from: [www.londonjesuitcentre.org](https://londonjesuitcentre.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ba5b3aa1bbd112142962fd5fd&id=fe4386ac1c&e=c39c69b4e0)