**St Columba’s Church, Selsdon**

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**AUGUST 16, 2020**

**THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

The feast day marking the Assumption, usually celebrated on August 15 but this year transferred to today, is the paramount feast of Our Lady. It commemorates her passing body and soul into glory in heaven. Although defined as dogma only in 1950, it was widely believed by the earliest Christians.

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

(Different readings apply at Saturday evening’s Vigil Mass.)

**Entrance Antiphon:** A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

**1st Reading: from the book of the Apocalypse 11: 19; 12:1-6, 10**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 44:10-12, 16. R.v.10** On your right stands the queen in garments of gold.

**2nd Reading: from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 15:20-26**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Mary has been taken up to heaven; all the choirs of angels are rejoicing. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Luke 1:39-56**

**Communion Antiphon:** All generations will call me blessed, for he who is mighty has done great things for me.

**EXPOSITION EVERY TUESDAY MORNING**

Don’t forget that Adoration in front of the exposed Blessed Sacrament has resumed every Tuesday. However, it is limited in time to one hour from 10.30-11.30am. If you are staying on for Holy Hour after Mass simply return to your seat after Holy Communion.

 ***HOW OUR LADY SHOWS US THE WAY TO HEAVEN***

**A REFLECTION FOR THE ASSUMPTION**

The feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary reminds us that heaven is the goal of our lives. Our Lady shows us the way to her son, for Jesus Christ will lead us to the kingdom of God.

Mary, as the second Eve, did everything good that the first Eve failed to do.

Mary listened to the message of the angel and committed her life to God’s plan. In doing so, she surrendered her whole life to God in order to be the mother of Jesus Christ.

This act of self-abandonment by Mary to the will of God is the example we are all called to follow.

Mary’s life as the first disciple of Jesus reveals to us that following the will of God involves sacrifice. It is eminently worthwhile because that sacrifice is as nothing compared to the reward which awaits us.

Looking at Mary’s life in this light, we can better appreciate her courage in facing all her trials. She was solely focussed on doing God’s will.

Remember: the distractions and difficulties in her life were similar to the troubles we face in our lives.

Mary knew that she could not allow herself to be distracted by her worldly worries because the satisfaction they give is only temporary.

She could not permit herself to make the same mistake as Eve who allowed the serpent to fool her and thus yielded to the transient happiness provided by the forbidden fruit.

Eve’s desire to be in control of her destiny completely blinded her and this selfish attitude was the primary reason for Eve’s alienation from God.

We can understand why, in contrast, the Blessed Virgin Mary was determined to accomplish her mission.

As a mother, she cannot let us down. She is determined to lead us to Jesus Christ for he has all the answers to all the questions in our lives.

Today’s feast day of the Assumption represents the triumph not just of the Blessed Virgin Mary but of humanity as well.

Mary transported our humanity to heaven.

Our challenge is to follow her lead. We need to realise that this earthly life bears no comparison whatsoever to the heavenly life which awaits us. However, everything starts with our earthly life.

Our behaviour here can easily compromise the welfare of our soul.

Devotion to Mary as our mother will empower us to do whatever is necessary for us to merit heaven. Mary has been highly vocal in her role as our guide leading us to heaven. And yet her appeals often fall on deaf ears because the pleasures of this world seem too much for us to resist.

The feast day of the Assumption is an opportunity for us to fix our gaze on heaven rather than on earthly things.

Heaven is our destiny. To get there we need to live according to heaven’s standards.

As Mary’s life amply demonstrated, those standards are extremely high.

What’s important here is the reward awaiting us in heaven.

The choice facing us may not be easy - we face some really tough commitments and sacrifices.

But the feast of the Assumption is a powerful reminder of the wonderful opportunity we have to realign our choices so that, like Mary’s, they bring us into line with the will of God.

**ALL MASSES FROM ST COLUMBA’S ONLINE**

Follow Fr Roy celebrating Mass live on YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYVyZ2Xpfs0NiuU3bxAjsCQ/live>

10am Mass is also live streamed daily (except Saturday) on Zoom:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73986660636?pwd=UkJMZHQ0S1ZYUDdOR21MVkpYZElBdz09>

***DON’T FORGET THE COVID TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR COMING TO CHURCH…***

We are gradually getting back to normal after the months of lockdown. Daily Mass and weekly Adoration have both resumed.

But this is a ‘new normal’ with changes that we would have thought unthinkable six months ago.

So don’t forget, whether you are coming to Mass or to Tuesday Adoration, that we must all comply with the following ‘Ten Commandments’:

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.
7. Remember that singing is not allowed.
8. Don’t forget that Holy Communion is silent.
9. Before leaving, turn your chair back to front so that the stewards know which ones to clean afterwards.
10. Unless staying for Adoration, leave the church straight after Holy Communion.
* ***Please note: the toilets at church cannot be used.***

***WANTED URGENTLY: SECRETARIAL HELP***

***Someone is still needed to help out with parish secretarial duties for a few hours each week. Contact Fr Roy for more details.***

**REMEMBER THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Please pray for: Ian Messenger, Baby Tommy, Joan Charman, Nina Wade, 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, 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.

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 15th: Our Lady

Sun 16th: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mon 17th: Feria

Tues 18th: Feria

Wed 19th: Feria or St John Eudes

Thurs 20th: St Bernard

Fri 21st: St Pius X

Sat 22nd: Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sun 23rd: 21st Sunday in ordinary time year A

**A WARM WELCOME THIS SUNDAY…**

*To Stephen Srikantha who is being received into the Church at 8am Mass and to baby Freya Elsie Barnes, aged almost one, who is being baptized – congratulations one and all.*

**HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR GIFT AID?**

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. 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.

**50: THE NUMBER ALLOWED IN CHURCH**

A reminder. We must ensure social distancing in St Columba’s. That’s why chairs have replaced the benches. Chairs also make it easier to keep seating clean and clear of Covid-19.

As a result of that, we are now limited to a maximum of 50 people in church for any reason.

***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 – 45 is the largest number we have had at St Columba’s and that was for a 10am Sunday Mass..

**ARRANGING TO HAVE A MASS SAID**

If you wish to have a Mass offered for a special intention, you can do so. Email the 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.

**SITUATION VACANT: MANAGER WANTED**

Contact is our local neighbourhood care charity, based at Selsdon Community Centre. It provides practical help, advice, support and inform

ation to people of all ages in the Selsdon area.

The manager, Andy Stranack, is moving on and so the trustees wish to appoint a new manager.

Interested?

We are seeking someone to:

* take responsibility for client care, activity and quality
* recruit, supervise and coordinate the team of volunteers
* ensure the smooth running of the office
* develop strategy and fundraising
* maintain and develop all necessary external links.

The initial contract will be for a period of six months with the possibility of extending to a permanent position.

The hours are 20 spread over four days per week.  The salary will be in the region of £15 per hour depending on previous relevant experience.

An application pack is available from the Contact office on the lower ground floor at Sainsbury's Selsdon or by e-mail at info@selsdoncontact.org.uk

The closing date for applications is Friday 4 September 2020

**GOING SHOPPING ONLINE? YOU CAN HELP ST COLUMBA’S AT THE SAME TIME**

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 depleted finances at the same time and at no cost to yourself. Several parishioners have now signed 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

[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:

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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) **PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED** |  |  |

All victims of Covid-19: may they rest in peace.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 15TH: 6.30pm Patrick Cahill RIP

Sun 16th: 8am Felix O’Neill RIP

Sun 16th: 10am Pro Populo

Sun 16th: 6.30pm Holy Souls

Mon 17th: 10am Holy Souls

Tues 18th: 10am Holy Souls

Wed 19th: 10am Holy Souls

Thurs 20th: 10am Holy Souls

Fri 21st: 10am Holy Souls

Sat 22nd: 6.30pm Holy Souls

Sun 23rd: 8am Holy Souls

Sun 23rd: 10am Pro Populo

Sun 23rd: 6.30pm Holy Souls