**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: 07764 845 890

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

**AUGUST 2, 2020 - 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

**1st Reading: from the prophet Isaiah 55:1-3**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 144:8-9,15-18. R.v.16**

You open wide your hand, O Lord, you grant our desires.

**2nd Reading: from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 8:35,37-39**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens!. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21**

**Communion Antiphon:** You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.

**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>

**LET US KNOW IN ADVANCE BY EMAIL IF YOU ARE COMING TO MASS OR ADORATION**

If possible, email us in advance if you intend coming to Mass or Adoration. It will save filling up a form with your name and contact details when you arrive and reduce queuing. That applies ***every time*** you come to church. And please, to avoid transmission of the virus, do not touch any chairs other than the one you use.

***THE QUESTION WE NEED TO ASK OURSELVES NOW…***

**A REFLECTION FROM FR ROY ON THE READINGS FOR THE 18TH SUNDAY**

Let me start by asking you a question. How did Jesus feel when he heard that his cousin John had just been executed?

Jesus must have been visibly upset. And yet he must also have been aware that it was bound to happen. Jesus knew that the death of John signified the beginning of his intense public ministry.

His immediate reaction was to go to a lonely place and pray. He wanted to be alone with the Father to discuss the implications of John’s death for his life. Perhaps he was looking, through prayer, for the spiritual strength to meet the demands of his ministry.

This simple act of withdrawing to a lonely place to pray was the usual response of Jesus whenever he found himself in a difficult situation. It is a powerful reminder for all of us that prayer should be our first response whenever we are in trouble.

Prayer is an expression of surrender to the will of God. We need to submit our lives to God.

One result of the coronavirus pandemic should have been to bring us closer to God through prayer.

We have had plenty of time to pray. But did we take advantage of the opportunity?

The chances are that we tried to keep ourselves busy doing lots of different things. How big a part did prayer play in that?

Our answer to that question will be an indication of the state of our relationship with God.

If our priorities are still focused on the things of this world, then it’s an indication that we need to review our priorities.

If that is indeed the case, why has the pandemic failed to make so little spiritual impact on us? It should have awakened in us a sense of urgency to pray not just individually but as a community as well. What does God have to do to awaken our faith?

As we hear in today’s Gospel, after praying, Jesus performed one of the most important miracles in the life of the church – the feeding of the 5,000.

It reflects the fruit of his prayer.

Jesus’s primary role is to help people appreciate that God is concerned about the well-being of our bodies as well as our souls.

All this is in anticipation of the Eucharist.

God wanted to help and support his faithful by providing them with daily food for their souls.

Sadly, we all felt the deprivation of this particular nourishment during the lockdown.

Permission to resume the celebration of public Masses was most welcome to all of us.

Yet the damage to our psyche caused by the pandemic is slowly taking its toll on our spiritual well-being.

This may not be obvious. But we have to accept the truth that our confidence has been shattered.

So God is calling us to prayer and we have to respond to that call.

Prayer is the only way we can regain our confidence in God and in the Church.

We cannot permit the current situation to paralyse our relationship with God.

We have to remain focused to our mission which must mean attending to the needs of our souls.

***THE ‘NEW NORMAL’ OF COMING TO CHURCH IN AUGUST***

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.
* ***The toilets cannot be used.***

***HELP WITH SECRETARIAL DUTIES NEEDED***

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

**PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED**

Faris Khayyat – may he rest in peace.

**REMEMBER THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Please pray for: Ian Messenger, Baby Bishop and his Mum, Laura; 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**

Sun 2nd: 18th Sunday in ordinary time Year A

Mon 3rd: Feria

Tues 4th: St John Vianney

Wed 5th: Feria or The Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major

Thurs 6th: The Transfiguration of the Lord

Fri 7th: Feria or St Sixtus II

Sat 8th: St Dominic

Sun 9th: 19th Sunday in ordinary time Year A

**KNOW OF SOMEONE 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.*

**GIFT AID ENVELOPES: ADD YOUR NAME**

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.

Thank you for your much-needed support.

**ADORATION 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.

**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.

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

**BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS?**

We can now go ahead with celebrating baptisms and weddings again at St Columba’s. We can also now start planning again for First Communions and Confirmations, although organising those is going to take some time.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 1st: 6.30pm Holy Souls

Sun 2nd: 8am Pamela Maguire RIP

Sun 2nd: 10am Giuseppe Sarracino RIP

Sun 2nd: 6.30pm Pro Populo

Mon 3rd: 10am Cath Penney

Tues 4th: 10am Holy Souls

Wed 5th: 10am Holy Souls

Thurs 6th: 10am Holy Souls

Fri 7th: 10am Geoff Turner RIP

Sat 8th: 6.30pm Holy Souls

Sun 9th: 8am Holy Souls

Sun 9th: 10am Pro Populo

Sun 9th: 6.30pm Holy Souls

**A BIG THANK-YOU TO OUR HELPERS…**

…to our stewards, who do an essential job and enable us to come to church. Could you volunteer to help? We need more stewards for Mass both on Sundays and during the week. Let Deacon Philip know if you are willing to help. Also a big thank you for the lovely flower arrangements in the sanctuary. Beautiful!

**BUYING WHITE GOODS ONLINE? HELP ST COLUMBA’S AT THE SAME TIME**

Thinking of buying a new washing machine or fridge or freezer or tumble dryer or any other white goods?

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 good 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:

[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)

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**PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST**

These are the intentions the Church asks us to pray for during August:

* A deeper understanding between Christians and Jews.
* Those who suffer persecution, oppression and denial of human rights.
* All human life
* Seafarers
* Europe.

**DO YOU NEED ANY HELP?**

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 to do whatever it can to help. And in complete confidence. Ring Diane on 01883 627 138.