**St Columba’s Church, Selsdon**

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**AUGUST 9, 2020 - 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Look to your covenant, O Lord, and forget not the life of your poor ones for ever. Arise, O God, and defend your cause, and forget not the cries of those who seek you.

**1st Reading: from the first book of the Kings 19:9,11-13**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8**

**Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help**.

**2nd Reading: from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 9:1-5**

**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 14:22-33**

**Communion Antiphon:** O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord, who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

**HOLY HOUR 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.

**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.

***OPEN YOUR EYES TO THE POWER OF GOD***

**A REFLECTION FROM FR ROY ON THE READINGS FOR THE 19TH SUNDAY**

The readings this Sunday reveal to us the power of God.

The gentle breeze that Elijah felt and the calming voice of Jesus that silenced the storm are both examples of the reassuring power of God.

There is no earthly power that is beyond his power. He controls the external order and the internal order of everything.

However, with respect to our relationship to God, he wants that relationship on our part to be voluntary. For that reason, God does not force us to obey him. Our obedience to his will is our choice.

In other words, we can obey him – or not.

That means entering God’s kingdom is also our choice. God calls us but our response to that call involves a free decision on our part.

As demonstrated by Jesus in today’s gospel, God controls the power of nature.

But he respects our freedom and permits us to exercise it according to our choice.

It follows that people can abuse that freedom and go against God’s purposes. His all-encompassing love for us includes allowing us the option to disobey him.

This explains the mess we find ourselves in now. The current chaos is a manifestation of our abuse of freedom.

Our society and our culture are a reflection of our determination to use our freedom according to our whims rather than God’s will.

Not surprisingly, our selfish attitude alienates us from God. This alienation causes us a lot of problems. Are we not tired of the violence which comes from our abuse of God’s freedom?

The first reading today gives us an insight into the mind of God; that gentle breeze in which his presence is felt - we never find God in the violence of nature.

His reassuring presence in the form of a gentle breeze provides the exhausted Elijah with the comfort he needs.

God’s reassuring presence is also the antidote to our problems. To experience it, all we need do is turn to God and seek his forgiveness. Then our experience of being reconciled with God will be just as positive and lifegiving as was Elijah’s.

The message of today’s readings is quite clear: we

need to turn to God.

Jesus, knowing that he had the power to do so, quietly calmed the storm.

His confidence sprang from his knowledge that he was doing the will of his father.

This is a point we should always remember. Violence can never hurt us if we are doing God’s will. It is abuse of our freedom of choice, insisting on our will rather than God’s, that alienates us from him and makes us vulnerable to the forces of nature – and to the power of the devil.

Jesus demonstrated conclusively on the cross how to surrender to God’s will.

Don’t get carried away by concerns about the well-being of the body because it is the well-being of the soul which is more important in the eyes of God. Freedom from the dictates of our bodies leads us directly to God.

Jesus’s death and resurrection show us the road to God. The death of our own will liberates us from our sins and empowers us to be more submissive to God’s will.

Identifying ourselves with God involves a supreme sacrifice on our part but it will always be accompanied by the liberating assurance that God is with us in all our endeavours.

That is the kind of life Jesus wants us to have.

To conclude, we need never fear the forces of nature nor the forces of the devil because Jesus’s presence is a constant reminder of the overwhelming power of God the father.

Submitting to the will of God is more than enough to assure us of salvation.

God wants us to realise that heaven awaits those who trust in him rather than in themselves.

**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>

***THE 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 8th: St Dominic

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

Mon 10th: St Lawrence

Tues 11th: St Clare

Wed 12th: Feria or St Jane Frances de Chantal

Thurs 13th: Feria or St Pontian

Fri 14th: St Maximillian Mary Kolbe

Sat 15th: Our Lady

Sun 16th: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**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.*

**NO 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. 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.

**PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED**

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

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

**BAPTISMS,WEDDINGS & 1ST COMMUNIONS**

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 – watch out for details of a meeting for parents of First Communion children in early September, date to be confirmed.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 8TH: 6.30pm Holy Souls

Sun 9th: 8am Holy Souls

Sun 9th: 10am Pro Populo

Sun 9th: 6.30pm Holy Souls

Mon 10th: 10am Albert Khayyat

Tues 11th: 10am Liz Oliver RIP

Wed 12th: 10am Holy Souls

Thurs 13th: 10am Holy Souls

Fri 14th: 10am Holy Souls

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

**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?

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)  |  |  |