**St Columba’s Church, Selsdon**

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**SEPTEMBER 13, 2020**

**24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

**1st Reading: from the book of Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4,9-12. R. v.8**

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

**2nd Reading: from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 14: 7-9**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew 18: 21-35**

**Communion Antiphon:** How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

**SERVICES AT ST COLUMBA’S THIS WEEK**

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still suspended. But if you are able to come, all are welcome to Mass at St Columba’s every day of the week (see Mass times overleaf).

There is Mass every day at 10am except Saturday (and this week Thursday when we have a funeral at 10.30am) plus 8am and 6.30pm Mass every Sunday, as well as a vigil Mass at 6.30pm on Saturdays.

Don’t forget either that Adoration in front of the exposed Blessed Sacrament has resumed every Tuesday. 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.

**FORGIVENESS IS THE NAME OF THE GAME**

**A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE 24th SUNDAY BY FR ROY**

The present developments in the world are a huge cause for concern for everyone. Turning a blind eye to resentment and anger in our society is a gigantic challenge.

At times I wonder how we can rise above this horrifying situation because there doesn’t appear to be any concerted effort to overcome the crisis.

The truth is that we cannot allow this situation to dominate us nor to sit passively while society falls apart.

Certainly, that is not the way forward. We have to do something positive to avert the collapse of values.

I was pleased to see that the readings this Sunday address this problem. Compare and contrast the situation in Jesus’s time with our present situation. There are distinct similarities.

During Jesus’s lifetime there was much anxiety in Jewish communities up and down the country because of the foreign power controlling the life of the people of Israel. Economically, the Jews were taxed heavily by the occupying power although religious practice was never forbidden or inhibited.

***‘…what makes for a genuine relationship between God and man…’***

Yet, every aspect of Jewish life came under the scrutiny of the Roman occupier. And it hindered the growth of economic development and progress. Likewise, it had a negative effect on the spiritual life of the Jewish people.

We have seen this in the various encounters Jesus had with the ruling elite of the Jewish religion. Their values and focus were wrong. As a result, Jesus had to draw their attention to their lack of understanding of what makes for a genuine relationship between God and man.

Take, for example, forgiveness. Because of their prejudice the Jewish public, including the rulers of the temple, simply did not comprehend Jesus’s message about forgiveness. The way in which they interpreted the sacred Scripture was very rigid and very different from the all-encompassing interpretation provided by Jesus. Because of their stubbornness, Jesus never made any impression on them. When it came to forgiveness, their minds were completely closed. They just couldn’t accept that God is capable of being infinitely forgiving. Their prejudice prevented them from recognising a God who is capable of both loving and forgiving.

Compare that with our own society in which values are very far from the spirit of the Gospel. In fact, one could even say that what we do today is the exact opposite of Gospel values.

***‘…resentment and anger dominate our society…’***

Because of that, there is much resentment and anger in our society. The foundations of civilisation itself are flawed. One cannot expect to have a stable society when it is based on hedonistic values. Resentment and anger dominate our society because we have made ourselves slaves to earthly values.

Just as the dominance of the Romans and the corruption of the temple rulers destroyed Jewish society in the first century, so are secularism and hedonism causing a moral breakdown in our 21st century society. The end result in both cases: dissatisfaction which breeds resentment and anger. We need to change our mindset if we are to overcome this deplorable situation.

Look at how Jesus redeemed the situation. He instructed followers in the truth and fed them with the genuine values which come from God. With just a handful of disciples, Jesus managed to start a moral revolution based on love and forgiveness. The disciples embodied that message and thus changed the lives of first-century Christians.

If we are serious about our mission, about doing the same, we must start by emptying our minds and hearts of prejudice and allowing Jesus’s word to dominate our lives. Only then will we see a change in our society and the growth of love and forgiveness.

**NINA WADE RIP**

The funeral of Nina Wade, a long-time member of this parish, will take place at 10.30am on Thursday (September 17). May she rest in peace. Our condolences to her family.

***WHAT YOU NEED TO REMEMBER WHEN COMING TO CHURCH…***

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

But this is a ‘new normal’ with changes that we would have thought unthinkable last year.

So don’t forget, whether 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. That applies to readers as well.
7. Remember that singing is not allowed.
8. Don’t forget that Holy Communion is silent.
9. Before leaving the church (i.e. before you come up to receive Holy Communion), turn your chair back to front so that the stewards know which ones to clean afterwards.
10. Unless staying for Adoration, on Tuesdays, leave the church straight after Holy Communion.

* ***Please note: the toilets at church cannot be used.***

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 12th: Feria or The Most Holy Name of Mary

Sun 13th: 24th Sunday in ordinary time year A

Mon 14th: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Tues 15th: Our Lady of Sorrows

Wed 16th: Saints Cornelius & Cyprian

Thurs 17th: Feria or St Robert Bellarmine

Fri 18th: Feria or St Edith of Kemsing

Sat 19th: Feria or St Theodore of Canterbury

Sun 20th: 25th Sunday in ordinary time year A

**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.

**70 NOW ALLOWED IN CHURCH**

Originally the number was lower but as a result of some more rearranging of benches we can now accommodate up to 70 people in church.

***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. So plenty of room.

**REMEMBER THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Please pray for all those in great need at this time including: John Smith, Elena Sandland, Imogen Fernando, Baby Tommy, Joan Charman, 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, 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.



***HOW TO HELP ST C’S WHEN SHOPPING ONLINE – AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOU***

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 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 – 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)  **PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER**  During September we are asked to pray for the following intentions: students and teachers; the spread of the Gospel; the harvest, the fruits of human work and the reverent use of creation; justice and peace; all victims of war; young people; and prisoners and their families. Please remember them in your prayers.  **MARGARET EDWARDS RIP** |  |  |

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Margaret Edwards, a long-standing parishioner who died last week after a long illness. We place her in God’s loving hands.

Our condolences to her husband Michael and her family. Funeral arrangements have yet to be announced. May she rest in peace.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 12th: 6.30pm Fil D’Souza

Sun 13th: 8am Sebastian Dias RIP

SUN 13th 10am Pro Populo

Sun 13th: 6.30pm Bernadette Dias’ BIRTHDAY

Mon 14TH: 10am For Conversion of Children

Tues 15TH: 10am For Conversion of Children

Wed 16TH: 10am For Conversion of Children

Thurs 17TH: 10.30am Funeral Nina Wade

Fri 18th: 10am For Conversion of Children

Sat 19th: 6.30pm O’Dowd family intentions

Sun 20th: 8am For Conversion of Children

SUN 20th: 10am Pro Populo

Sun 20th: 6.30pm For Conversion of Children

**MAKE YOUR OWN 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.

**CAN YOU RISE TO THE CHALLENGE?**

Our local St Vincent de Paul (SVP) conference does excellent work helping and supporting people in this parish.

Traditionally the SVP runs a nationwide Awareness Month programme every September to coincide with the feast days of Bl Frederic Ozanam (on the 9th) and St Vincent de Paul (on the 27th).

The coronavirus pandemic has put paid to that. Instead, there is a new online-based campaign picking up on their forthcoming Rise to the Challenge programme.

Its focus is the amazing work of the SVP’s members, staff and volunteers during the pandemic, with thousands of hungry people fed and friendship and support offered to the lonely and isolated.

If you would like to help or simply find out more or if you yourself need help contact our very own Diane English on 01883 627 138.

Remember: confidentiality is assured.

**A MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER INVITATION**

For the past 50 years Worldwide Marriage Encounter has been offering marriage enrichment retreats all around the world.

They are aimed at couples in average-to-good marriages who want to enrich their relationship and gain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage.

The Marriage Encounter experience offers a unique experience to explore your relationship at a deeper, more intimate level, regardless of how long you have been together.

During the coronavirus pandemic, the residential retreats have had to be cancelled.

In their place, for couples who want to deepen their relationship, is a newly energised video conferenced retreat.

So why not give yourselves and your relationship a treat and sign up for the next online experience scheduled for September 26-27?

Find out more at wwme.org.uk or telephone 0845 260 2016

**NOT RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION?**

If you are not receiving Holy Communion at Mass, for whatever reason, please do come forward with the communicants and receive a blessing.

Indicate in the usual way: by crossing your arms across your chest.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS MASS**

The date has been confirmed for our parish First Holy Communion Mass.

It will take place on Saturday October 3 at 11am. Parents of children who began their preparation last October and should have received their First Holy Communion on June 27 this year will be contacted shortly with details of preparations for the 3rd.

Please remember in your prayers the 15 children who will be involved. Don’t forget the catechists, Patsy and Kirsten as well – they also need our prayers.



**REMEMBER POPE BENEDICT’S VISIT…?**

**Between 16-19 September the Catholic community will celebrate the 10th anniversary of Pope Benedict's visit to the UK in 2010, the theme of which was 'Heart Speaks to Heart'.**

Although some resources are still being completed, you can re-live the whole visit via [this link](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=b64e712b8f&e=7d4ac57aff) to the CBCEW website, whilst on the diocesan website you can visit the [Papal Visit pages](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=c961484fd3&e=7d4ac57aff) and the [other archive](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=c67eb5cb95&e=7d4ac57aff) pages to view the late Archbishop Peter Smith's accompaniment of the Pope throughout his visit.

Highlights include Pope Benedict’s welcome at Hyde Park in front of 80,000 people and visits to St Peter's Residence in Vauxhall and the Apostolic Nunciature in Wimbledon.  
It is also possible to read about the [Papal Legacy](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=da29e2850b&e=7d4ac57aff), including the Bishops' Conference document ['Some Definite Purpose'](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=a991f9bf95&e=7d4ac57aff), produced in 2011, and view a multitude of excellent [photographs](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=0e6f74544c&e=7d4ac57aff) of the visit.

**WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS & REFUGEES**

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The 106th World Day of Migrants and Refugees will be celebrated on **September 27**.  As the title for his [annual message](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=7567a62fca&e=7d4ac57aff), the Holy Father has chosen **“Forced like Jesus Christ to flee”.**  The message will focus on the pastoral care of internally displaced people, who currently number over 41 million worldwide. For more details visit <https://youtu.be/oS5SvUWlsZo> | | |

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Make a note in your diary: three online lectures are to be given by Fr Nick King SJ from 7.45pm - 9pm on the following dates:

* 7th October (Evangelisation)
* 14th October (Discipleship)
* 21st October (Fellowship)

There will be a limited number of participatory webinar tickets but the Centre for Catholic Formation plans on live-streaming the talks on either YouTube or Facebook so that more people can view each occasion.

More details will follow in due course, but do save the dates in your diary.

**UNITY – BUT IN A DIFFERENT FORM**

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **“Together in Christ”,** the Southwark Christian unity bulletin, is to end in printed form but it will nevertheless continue as an annual via [christianunity.rcaos.org.uk](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=11329e5370&e=7d4ac57aff) the brand new Southwark Unity Commission's website.  This larger site replaces the Commission’s former page on the diocese of Southwark website. Though “Together in Christ” is no longer to be produced in printed form, most back issues can be downloaded from the “Together in Christ” archive on the website  If you have any interesting ecumenical items to go on the website, please send details to [christianunitycommission@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:christianunitycommission@rcaos.org.uk).  **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>  **SAY IT WITH POSTERS**  Forming Missionary Disciples has, as its aim, developing projects that support young adults in creating networks and communities of fellow Catholics.  Now FMD have created some posters that make it easy to thank all those in our communities who have given their support throughout the pandemic in the last few months. [You can download them for free here.](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=5bbf85b211&e=7d4ac57aff) If you would like to support this group in thanks for these free posters their [donation details](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=203e490d59&e=7d4ac57aff) are here.  **JOB VACANCIES IN THE DIOCESE**  The new diocesan Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis is looking to appoint an Evangelisation and Outreach Advisor to join its team. They will support the parishes of the Archdiocese through the development of resources and the recruitment and training of a broad team of volunteers. [*Click here for PDF of Job description.*](http://rcsouthwark.co.uk/AOCE_Evang_JD2020.pdf) The Agency is also seeking to recruit a Local Leadership Resource Co-ordinator whose responsibilities will include the support and development of the volunteer network, the management of data held by the Agency and working with the advisory team to develop resources for parish support. [*Click here for PDF of Job description.*](http://rcsouthwark.co.uk/AOCE_SupportCoord_JD2020.pdf) For more information email [marknash@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:marknash@rcaos.org.uk) Closing date for applications to both posts is 23 September.  **THE NEWSLETTER: ANYTHING TO SAY?**  Comments, suggestions, contributions: all are welcome. Items for publication should be emailed to [Deacon](mailto:kyrabarone@aol.com) Philip by Thursday evening at the latest. | | |