**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](mailto:selsdon@rcaos.org.uk)

Deacon: Rev. Philip Pond E: [philippond@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:philippond@rcaos.org.uk)

T: 07764 845 890

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

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2020**

**23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)**

**THIS SUNDAY’S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

**1st Reading: from the prophet Ezekiel 33:7-9**

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 94: 1-2,6-9. R. v.8**

O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

**2nd Reading: from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 13: 8-10**

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew 18: 15-20**

**Communion Antiphon:** Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

**SERVICES AT ST C’S THIS COMING WEEK**

Have you come back to church yet?

The obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still suspended. But here’s a reminder: if you are able to come, all are welcome to 10am Mass at St Columba’s every day of the week except Saturday.

In addition, as well as 8am and 6.30pm Mass every Sunday, there is a vigil Mass at 6.30pm on Saturdays. If you are not still shielding, do feel free to come and join us.

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.

***WHY WE ALL NEED TO LEARN TO WORK TOGETHER***

**A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE 23rd SUNDAY BY FR ROY**

In this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus shows us how to help one another get back on the road to God’s kingdom. He makes clear that we are all each other’s keeper. In other words, we are all responsible for the well-being of one another.

This is an interesting thought given the tendency in our society to trumpet one’s sins in social media rather than addressing them personally.

Let’s be honest: we live in a society that glorifies scandal.

It’s an attitude that trivialises society’s ills.

Moral standards have, effectively, collapsed. Objective Gospel values have totally disappeared because standards have been relativized.

To recognise the truth in that statement, all you have to do is watch or listen to the news. Many people have become traumatized by their experiences so it’s no wonder they ignore the news.

In addition mental health has suffered because of the way people attack one another and expose each other’s sins in public.

**‘…We must never allow the Church to be dragged into this…’**

Sadly, this has become the norm for our society; people constantly trying to drag each other down.

We must never allow the Church to be dragged into this web of social dysfunction.

All this brings home to us the importance of the Church in its role as the guardian of a civilised society and the promotor of moral decency.

This Sunday’s Gospel emphasises that point.

See how Jesus highlights our responsibility for helping one another climb the ladder of holiness. That includes guiding our brothers and sisters back on track when they stray.

Jesus describes the steps to be followed.

What is highly significant here is not the formula but the moral principle.

We all have the responsibility to help each other.

We can never be indifferent to other people because we are linked spiritually to them.

The downfall of one hurts the whole of the community.

For that reason, when we speak of salvation we must always remember that we are dependent on each other.

This Sunday’s Gospel calls us to review our attitude towards our community.

We must keep in mind that the salvation Jesus offers is not meant to be pursued individually but as a community. That’s not at all what secularism promotes: the nuclear option, neglecting the social dimension of society.

Jesus provides us with an opportunity to widen our horizons in seeking salvation.

We can never do it alone and independently from our neighbours.

We have the social obligation to link up and work as a group, pulling together towards God’s kingdom. What better approach could there be during this pandemic.

Everyone surely must now have realised that to get out of this mess we need the cooperation of everyone.

This is precisely the point Jesus makes.

If we want to get to heaven we have to do it as a community, not as individuals.

**THIS NEWSLETTER: HAVE YOUR SAY**

Items for publication should be emailed to [Deacon](mailto:kyrabarone@aol.com) Philip by Thursday evening at the latest.

***DON’T FORGET THE RULES FOR 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.
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, on Tuesdays, leave the church straight after Holy Communion.

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

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

Sat 5th: Feria or Our Lady

Sun 6th: 23rd Sunday in ordinary time year A

Mon 7th: Feria

Tues 8th: The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wed 9th: Feria or St Peter Claver

Thurs 10th: Feria

Fri 11th: Feria

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

Sun 13th: 24th 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.

***GO SHOPPING ONLINE AND HELP ST C’S AT THE SAME TIME – AT NO EXTRA COST***

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.  **OFFERTORY COLLECTION**  Thank you for your kind offering at Mass.  The collections for the weekends of August 8/9 and 15/16 combined totalled £836.22 of which £504 was covered by Gift Aid and £332.22 was not.  If you are a taxpayer and not already signed up for Gift Aid (which, at no cost to you, enables St Columba’s to reclaim from the Government tax you have already paid) contact Fr Roy or Deacon Philip for details of how to join the scheme.  **MARGARET EDWARDS RIP** |  |  |

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Margaret Edwards, a long-standing parishioner who died this 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 5th: 6.30pm Holy Souls

Sun 6th: 8am Holy Souls

SUN 6th 10am Pro Populo

Sun 6th: 6.30pm Holy Souls

Mon 7TH: 10am Rita Barrett RIP

Tues 8TH: 10am Holy Souls

Wed 9TH: 10am Holy Souls

Thurs 10TH: 10am Clifford Flynn

Fri 11th: 10am Philip & Mary Pond 49th wedding anniversary

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

**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.

**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.

**EUGENE MCKEON RIP**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of the late Eugene Mckeon who died last weekend. Funeral arrangements have yet to be confirmed. May his soul rest in peace.

**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.

**NEWS FROM OUR ARCHBISHOP, JOHN…**

The Season of Creation, which runs from September 1 to October 4, is an ecumenical opportunity to join in both prayer and action for the good of the environment and the earth as our common home.

We have perhaps never been so aware of the fragility of our relationship with the Earth and felt encouraged by circumstance to find ways of living in harmony with each other and with all of creation.

We have perhaps come to understand that we cannot simply continue to receive without giving back and that we need to make room for all life to flourish.

This year's celebration is themed **''A Year of Jubilee''** and takes place within the ‘Laudato Si’ Anniversary Year launched by Pope Francis last May, in conjunction with the fifth anniversary of the publication of his ground-breaking encyclical on the environment.

During the course of this year we are asked to consider the "integral relationship between rest for the Earth and ecological, economic, social and political ways of living.”   
To complement this anniversary, the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development wrote a letter encouraging Catholics to engage with the Season of Creation.

In the letter Pope Francis is quoted as saying:  
"As the world experiences deep uncertainty and suffering in the midst of a global emergency, we are called to recognize that a truly healthy recovery means seeing that “everything is connected” and repairing the bonds we have broken. We realize that we need to grow more and more in solidarity and take care of one another in fraternity" [Read the full letter here.](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=c4034dbfef&e=7d4ac57aff)

In the meantime, the presidents of the Conference of European Churches and the Council of European Bishops' Conference have released a joint statement in relation to the Season of Creation, which parishes may wish to share:[https://www.cbcew.org.uk/european-church-bodies-season-creation-2020/](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=01717306ac&e=7d4ac57aff)  
**To help us mark this important moment, there are a number of resources available to assist in engaging with The Season of Creation:  
Season of Creation 2020 Website / Celebration Guide**An attractive and simple website which allows the visitor to sign up in order to get involved with events, and receive information in order to help them understand the season and plan ways to celebrate it. Visit [seasonofcreation.org](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=870948e54d&e=7d4ac57aff)

**WHY & HOW TO OPPOSE THE ARMS TRADE**  
FaithJustice UK, in collaboration with Pax Christi, are holding an online weekend between 11-13 September exploring “The Arms Trade and Militarism”.   
FaithJusticeUK is a Christian network which aims to bring together young adults of faith with a concern for justice. Central to this is the belief that acting for justice deepens and enriches our faith.  
To find out more visit <https://faithjustice.org.uk>

**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.  **THE POPE’S PRAYER NETWORK**  The National Office for the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network have kindly provided a useful [reflection based on the environment,](https://rcsouthwark.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=a40ab1a35eac7236d856fe882&id=c764845d0f&e=7d4ac57aff) which all parishes and agencies are welcome to reproduce, as well as the downloadable graphic below. | | |