



St Columba's Church, Selsdon

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OCTOBER 11, 2020 28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

THIS SUNDAY'S MASS READINGS

Entrance Antiphon: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

1st Reading: from the prophet Isaiah: 25@6-10

Responsorial Psalm Ps 22. R v6

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

2nd Reading: from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians: 4:12-14. 19-20

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Communion Antiphon: The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

THE WEEK AHEAD: WHAT'S HAPPENING

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.

There is Mass every day at 10am except Saturday (and, this week, excluding Tuesday the 6th, when the funeral for Margaret Edwards will take place at 11.15am), plus 8am and 6.30pm Mass every Sunday, as well as a vigil Mass at 6.30pm on Saturdays.

Please note that our weekly Adoration in front of the exposed Blessed Sacrament will not take place this Tuesday (the 6th) because of Margaret Edwards' funeral at 11.15am

A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE 28th SUNDAY BY FATHER ROY

The Mountain of God

Prophet Isaiah discloses to us a brilliant prophecy about the mountain of God, the glorious Mount Zion. The dream that the former glory of the mountain of God will be restored is a welcome news for everyone whose pride and confidence had been badly bruised by the misfortunes that overtook the people of Israel. Mount Zion is a special place not only because it is the location of the temple but because it is where God descends to his people and the Jews ascend to meet their God. In other words, it is a mutual meeting point for the Jews and Yahweh. To portray Mount Zion as the place of banquet is a great gift for all the Jewish people because it reflects that the favour of God has come back to his own people. The presence of rich food is an assurance that God has taken heed of the prayers of his people and the sins are forgiven. The festive gathering magnifies also the presence of the heavenly blessings that the people of Israel have enjoyed once again. The sorrows that used to wrap the minds and hearts of the Jews will be lifted up in order to welcome the glory of God. Although, the people of Israel had been punished for their sinfulness, the prophecy of Isaiah signifies a new beginning and the initiative of the merciful God upon his people. The kind of festive season that will wipe out all the pains and sorrows of the past because God has forgiven the sins of his people.

The same word of prophet Isaiah applies to our present dilemma. God the Almighty is powerful enough to allow us enjoy heavenly feast here on earth. We have suffered so much for the last nine months for the reason that the situation completely altered our way of life. Yet, all these are gentle reminder from him inviting us towards the banquet at Mount Zion. Like the people of Israel our confidence at the moment is absolutely down. We need a lot of reassurance to regain back the mental, spiritual and physical strength. Nevertheless, there is a process to do this, the first step is to engage with God. There is a big question whether the situation has really led us back to God? Everyone recognises the trouble of the situation, yet the response to the challenge remains to be seen. It is extremely crucial for the Christian faithful to engage with God once again because God is always willing to interact with us. Step two, rediscovering the significance of the Holy Eucharist to our lives. Attendance to the Eucharist is gravely affected, but the Eucharist is the greatest opportunity also to restore the relationship between us and God. The Eucharist is a living testament of Mount Zion where God comes to us and we, as his subjects, ascend to him through the body and blood of Jesus. God gives us his son and we become part of Christ as we received him in the holy communion. Hence, to engage with God we need to receive and appreciate him in the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.



ST COLUMBA'S NEEDS YOU

The only way we are able to keep St Columba's open for Mass during this pandemic is because of the generosity, with their time and commitment, of our team of stewards.

They are essential in our complying with the requirements agreed between our Church and the government for keeping churches open.

A small number of parishioners at St Columba's are keeping the show on the road. But they need help.

Are you willing to volunteer as a steward? We certainly need you.

All it entails is checking people in before Mass - just one a week, which you would probably be attending anyway - and, afterwards, helping to clean up. Not a big ask. Contact Deacon Philip if you are willing to help.

All offers gratefully received.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK
SAT 10 TH : FERIA OR ST PAULINUS OF YORK OR ST DENIS & COMPANIONS OR ST JOHN LEONARDI OR OUR LADY
SUN 11 TH : 28 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
MON 12 TH : FERIA OR ST WILFRED, BISHOP (E)
TUES 13 TH : FERIA OR ST EDWARD THE CONFESSOR (E)
WED 14 TH : FERIA OR ST CALLISTUS I, POPE, MARTYR
THURS 15 TH : ST TERESA OF JESUS VIRGIN, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
FRI 16 TH : FERIA OR ST HEDWIG, RELIGIOUS; OR ST MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE, VIRGIN; OR ST RICHARD GWYN, SCHOOLMASTER, MARTYR (W)
SAT 17 TH : ST IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, BISHOP, MARTYR
SUN 18 TH : 29 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DEACON PHILIP

...had a triple heart bypass this week. He is expected to be in hospital for up to a week and has been told that full recovery will take up to three months. Please keep him in your prayers.

REMEMBER THE NEW RULES WHEN COMING TO CHURCH...

Don't forget, whether coming to Mass or to Tuesday Adoration, that we must all comply with the following rules:

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 – come forward when directed by the stewards and receive with arms fully outstretched, palms upwards.
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.

REMEMBER THE SICK AND NEEDY

Please pray for all those in great need at this time including: Judy Freegard, John Smith, Elena Sandland, Imogen Fernando, 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, James Patrick Guckian, Elizabeth Sensano and sick residents at the four residential homes usually, in better times, visited by the parish St Vincent de Paul group.

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 which adds an extra 25p to parish income for every pound that you give to the Offertory collection. 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. (See 'Make A Pledge For Our Parish'.)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK			
SAT 10 TH	6.30PM	EDDIE DARGAN, RIP	
SUN 11 TH	8.00AM	THE ALVAREZ FAMILY	
SUN 11 TH	10.00AM	PRO POPULO	
SUN 11 TH	6.30PM	PRIVATE INTENTION OF	ANGELA
MON 12 TH	10.00AM	INTENTION OF STAS FAMILY	
TUES 13 TH	10.00AM	MRS TERY DOHERTY	
WED 14 TH	10.00AM	PRIVATE INTENTION OF	ANGELA
THURS 15 TH	10.00AM	INTERCESSION OF THE	MARTYRS OF COMPEIGNE
FRI 16 TH	10.00AM	PRIVATE INTENTION OF	ANGELA
SAT 17 TH	6.30PM	MR SAMINATHAR, RIP & MR BALADASAN, RIP	
SUN 18 TH	8.00AM	PETER TAME, RIP	
SUN 18 TH	10.00am	PRO POPULO	
SUN 18 TH	6.30pm	THANKSGIVING FOR OUR PRIESTS	

70: THE TOTAL 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 – 63 is the largest number we have had at St Columba's and that was Sunday 27th September at 10am.



HOW TO HELP ST C'S WHEN SHOPPING ONLINE – AT NO EXTRA COST TO YOURSELF

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 website www.easyfundraising.org.uk, 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

MAKE A PLEDGE FOR OUR PARISH

The dramatic fall in the numbers attending Mass has, not surprisingly, had a knock-on effect on parish finances. With significantly fewer people at Mass on Sunday, the Offertory collection is much reduced.

But regular parish bills still have to be paid and the amount of money available from the Offertory collection to do so is now much less than it was a year ago, before the pandemic lockdown.

So, to ensure the future financial wellbeing of St Columba's, we are asking all parishioners to review their offerings to support the work and mission of the parish. This, of course, is in the light of the fifth commandment of the Church which is 'To contribute to the support of our pastors.'

There are various ways of giving, whether you are coming to church or not. As well as cash in the basket at Mass, they include payment by cheque and standing order. For taxpayers, there is also the option of signing up for Gift Aid which boosts your offering

by 25p for every £1 you pay - and at no extra cost to yourself.

Attached is a form inviting you to make a pledge of support for St Columba's and which also sets out all the options. It includes a standing order form.

Do give some thought to this: we all need our church, we all need to support the work and mission of the parish - and we all need to take responsibility for supporting St Columba's financially.



Selsdon Pledge
Form.docx

A BIG THANK YOU TO RED-BOX HOLDERS

Belated thanks from MISSIO for your red mission box donations for 2019: £1,763. 76. An excellent result and a great increase over 2018!

For 2020 the total is likely to be less because of the pandemic. There was no half-year emptying and counting of the money in red boxes in the summer for that reason.

However, there are several ways you can still choose to make contributions to the MISSIO red box scheme:

- i. by bank transfer: account name MISSIO, sort code 16-00-16, account no. 10824230
- ii. online at missio.org.uk/redbox
- iii. by posting a cheque – payable to MISSIO-Mill Hill and sent to Red Box, 23 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1NU
- iv. by telephone call to MISSIO on 020 7821 9755 and using your credit or debit card

Please note: for St Columba's to be credited as the source of your donation, when you pay you need to include a note of your postcode or, even better, our parish MISSIO code number, SOU 130.

Some of you will have received *Mission Today* direct from MISSIO. Whether you did or not, be aware of the Pope's emergency fund to support the Church overseas (via MISSIO) in the fight against Covid-19. This is the latest example of the Church responding to the needs of those who don't have the support network we take for granted in the developed world. We are asked to give what we can but also to pray for them.

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 Andrea Lightman on 020 8657 9394..

Remember: confidentiality is assured.

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

Thank you for your kind offerings at Mass.

The collection for 27th September totalled £457.05 of which £170.00 was gift aided and £287.05 not.

The collection for 4th October totalled £524.85 of which £228.00 was gift aided and £296.85 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.

DEALING WITH DOMESTIC ABUSE

A useful resource pack compiled by the National Board of Catholic Women on "Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse" is available on their website. It can be downloaded here:

<https://safeguarding.rcaos.org.uk/raising-awareness-of-domestic-abuse/>

FINDING A SAFE SPACE

Victim Support have introduced a free and independent support service called Safe Spaces. It's a joint Catholic/Anglican project to provide a vital specialist support service for survivors of church-related abuse. Visit this link for more details:

www.SafeSpacesEnglandandWales.org.uk

MASS ONLINE FROM ST COLUMBA'S

Follow Fr Roy celebrating Mass live on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYVyZ2Xpfs0NiU3bxAjsCQ/live>

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.

PRAY FOR THE RECENTLY DECEASED

Peter Tame, brother of Edmund - may he rest in peace.

UCM MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING (with a difference)

The UCM decided to place a challenge to themselves and friends to raise some funds for the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning that we usually hold in September. As we couldn't do that this year, we held a walk in Selsdon Woods and challenged each of our members to walk between 32k-50k steps in a week. Our target was set at £300 on 'just giving' and at present we have raised £400 (last Monday). We would have hoped to have raised more with your help - so if you could see to support this magnificent charity, who help so many people and their families at a time of need, then make your donation

to: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Gillian-Tomei1-UCM?utm_campaign=lc_frp_share_transaction_fundraiser_page_donation_received_-_nth_donation&utm_content=4f9bad89-a3ba-425f-ba39-cd86663523d4&utm_medium=email&utm_source=p_ostoffice&utm_term=1600932290621

Thank you for your kindness, if you support this great cause.

THE NEWSLETTER: ANY COMMENT?

Comments, suggestions, contributions: all are welcome. Items for publication should be emailed to Deacon Philip by Thursday evening at the latest.