



St Columba's Church, Selsdon

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OCTOBER 18, 2020 **29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY** **TIME (YEAR A)**

THIS SUNDAY'S MASS READINGS

Entrance Antiphon: To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

1st Reading: from the prophet Isaiah: 45:1. 4-6

Responsorial Psalm Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R v7
Give the Lord glory and power.

2nd Reading: from the letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians: 1:1-5

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

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

Communion Antiphon: Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

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.

A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE 29th SUNDAY BY FATHER ROY

Jesus articulates the relationship between civil and religious obligations. He affirms certainly that we have the moral obligation to support the civic needs of the government. Full cooperation is extremely

necessary to support the primary needs of the government. The government has no other source of fund other than the contributions that the citizens give to the government. Without the support of the public no fund is available to finance the social programs of the government. The support we mean here is not just the financial but it includes as well the social obligation to promote the support to the marginalised sector of the community. The government is just an extension to facilitate the distribution of help to the less fortunate sector of the community. It is a brilliant principle for Jesus to promote the welfare of the community by encouraging every member to be extra diligent in supporting the social agenda of the government. The critics probably anticipated that Jesus will focus on the spiritual business of the church. However, Jesus made it clear that the church he builds covers not just the spiritual but also the social wellbeing of the community.

The spiritual agenda of the church is exceptionally important but that can never be over emphasized than the other. Jesus revealed that the spiritual agenda of the church is the final end of the church. However, to achieve the spiritual agenda the social dimension of the church should be equally pursued as well. The missionary goal of the church is double edged because it meets both the social needs and spiritual needs of the disciples. Hence, it should be clear to everyone that the missionary agenda of the church should integrate both the social and spiritual dimension. This is certainly applicable during the time of pandemic because we have seen the importance of the two dimensions of the church's mission. The social cooperation of the citizens is highly crucial in order to control the spread of the virus. It becomes the moral obligation of both the citizens and the government to curtail the spread because everyone ends up a victim if it becomes uncontrollable, that includes the power of the government to control the movement of the public. Definitely, this measure is unacceptable to many but the social need of the public precedes the personal welfare of the individual. The spiritual agenda of the church certainly supports the limitation of the public movements in order to avoid further trouble for everyone. Certainly, we can integrate the present dilemma in our spiritual struggle to pursue the kingdom of God. The daily struggles embrace also the spiritual dimension that entrance to the kingdom of God as the primary objective. The present hiccups are flavours that makes our journey towards the kingdom of God more spiritually enriching. The glory that awaits us definitely far surpasses our expectations, this alone is more than enough to motivate us and work hard for the permanent abode in the kingdom of God.



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 OF THE WEEK	
SAT 17 TH	ST IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, BISHOP, MARTYR
SUN 18 TH	29 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
MON 19 TH	Feria or Ss John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and their Companions, Martyrs; or St Paul of the Cross, Priest
TUES 20 TH	Feria
WED 21 ST	FERIA
THURS 22 ND	FERIA OR St John Paul II, Pope
FRI 23 RD	FERIA OR St John of Capestrano, Priest
SAT 24 TH	FERIA OR St Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop
SUN 25 TH	30 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

DEACON PHILIP: POST-OP

Deacon Philip had his triple heart-bypass operation and is now back home recovering. He thanks everyone for their prayers and support: much appreciated. He will be out of action for approximately three months.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK		
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
MON 19 TH	10.00AM	Judy Freegard
TUES 20 TH	10.00AM	Deacon Philip Pond
WED 21 ST	10.00AM	PRIVATE INTENTION OF ANGELA
THURS 22 ND	10.00AM	ELLEN EVERITT
FRI 23 RD	10.00AM	DAVID JOHN DE SOUZA, RIP
SAT 24 TH	6.30PM	BEVERLY ANN & SIDNEY CHARMAN
SUN 25 TH	8.00AM	Pro Populo
SUN 25 TH	10.00am	THE 25 TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORDINATION OF FATHER ROY
SUN 25 TH	6.30pm	Richard Scott, RIP

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.

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

Thank you for your kind offerings at Mass.

The collection for 4th October totalled £524.85 of which £228.00 was gift aided and £296.85 was not.

The figures for 11th October will be included in the newsletter next week.

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.

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'.)



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.

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/UCYVvZ2Xpfs0NiU3bxAjsCQ/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.

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 John Fisher School

CHRISTMAS TREES FOR SALE

SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER
9AM – 3PM

Choose your own beautiful Nordic Non Drop Tree

Variety of sizes available:

4-5ft	5-6ft	6-7ft	7-8ft
£35	£40	£45	£60

ORDER NOW ON PARENTPAY

Pick up from The John Fisher Playing Fields,
Plough Lane CR8 3QJ

Local delivery available on Saturday (£5 delivery fee)

Any questions about payment or delivery email:
thejohnfisherassoc@gmail.com

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.