



St Columba's Church, Selsdon

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8 NOVEMBER 2020 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

THIS SUNDAY'S MASS READINGS

Entrance Antiphon: Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

1st Reading from the book of Wisdom: 6:12-16

Responsorial Psalm Ps 62:2-8. Rv2: For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.

2nd Reading: from the first letter of St Paul: 4:13-18

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Stay awake and stand ready, because you do not know the hour when the Son of Man is coming. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew: 25:1-13

Communion Antiphon: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

THE WEEK AHEAD: WHAT'S HAPPENING

From Thursday 6th November 2020 the use of our church will be restricted to private prayer and the recording of online worship only.

Mass will be held at 10am every day for the time being, except Saturday when Mass will be at 6.30pm.

We will update you with changes as and when they happen.

MASS ONLINE FROM ST COLUMBA'S

Follow Fr Roy celebrating Mass live on YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYVyZ2Xpfs0NiuU3bxAjsCQ/live>

GOD WANTS A GENUINE RELATIONSHIP WITH US

A REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL FOR THE 32ND SUNDAY
BY FR ROY

God's primacy of grace is an exceptional principle evident throughout sacred Scripture.

"It is not you who have chosen me: it is I who have chosen you."

With these words, God reveals that He wants a genuine relationship with us. That fact is evident throughout the Bible, starting from the story of creation and continuing through to the very last book of the New Testament.

God is constantly striving to guide us towards His heavenly homeland. So the initiative comes from God, who wants our active cooperation so that His grace can

enrich our lives.

Grace is offered to us but it needs a warm welcome on our part to create the desired result in our lives.

We need to realise that God is not a distant friend but someone who is always around, close by, constantly looking for us to respond to Him.

All we have to do – and it's crucial – is to open the door and allow him into our hearts.

God cannot and will not force himself on us. We must welcome Him in. The act of opening the door of our heart is the best and most sensible thing for us to do.

Do so and God will transform our lives.

In that way, importantly, we allow God to effect change in our lives and open ourselves to a dynamic relationship with Him.

Ask yourself this question: what are the barriers preventing me from opening my heart to the transforming grace of God? Is it the usual suspects?

Do I value material wealth more than God?

Are the pleasures of the senses more important to me than spiritual values?

Do I value honour and power more than anything else?

These questions deserve honest answers. And in considering those answers we need to examine the various different aspects of our lives.

Prayer time is our opportunity to do so.

God's grace is there to guide us but it cannot achieve its transforming effect unless we are willing for it to do so.

And our progress will be stifled unless we are open and honest with ourselves as well as with God.

Our efforts then should be focused on purifying our inclinations and ensuring that our actions are in line with the values of the Gospel.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR OF THE WEEK	
SAT 7 TH	FERIA OR ST WILLIBRORD, BISHOP
SUN 8 TH †	32 ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
MON 9 TH	THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA
TUES 10 TH	ST LEO THE GREAT, POPE, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH
WED 11 TH	ST MARTIN OF TOURS, BISHOP
THURS 12 TH	ST JOSAPHAT, BISHOP, MARTYR
FRI 13 TH	FERIA
SAT 14 TH	FERIA OR ST DYFRIG, BISHOP (W)
SUN 15 TH	33 RD 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 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, Margit Symons 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 7 TH	6.30PM	Ann Hazell, RIP
SUN 8 TH	10.00AM	Jo & Alan Maguire, RIP
MON 9 TH	10.00AM	Geoff Turner, RIP
TUES 10 TH	10.00AM	Holy Souls
WED 11 TH	10.00AM	Pro Populo
THURS 12 TH	10.00AM	Private Intention of Angela
FRI 13 TH	10.00AM	Holy Souls
SAT 14 TH	6.30PM	Mr & Mrs Roque Goveia, Wedding Anniversary
SUN 15 TH	10.00AM	Pro Populo

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS

Thank you for your kind offerings. The Offertory collections over the week-ends of 25th October and 1st November amounted to £893.29 in total.

For 25th October the total was £370.50, of which £172.00 was gift aided and £198.50 not.

For 1st November the total was £522.79, of which £261.11 was gift aided (including a £20 Easter Offering) and £261.68 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.

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'.)

PRAYING FOR THE HOLY SOULS

We are unable to carry out our traditional gathering at Greenlawn Cemetery for the blessing of the graves this year. However we have been encouraged to continue to pray for all who have died with these particular instructions we have received from the Diocese: The plenary indulgence for those who visit a cemetery and pray for the departed, which is normally applicable between 1 to 8 November, will now apply to the entire month of November and need not be on consecutive days. The plenary indulgence of All Souls' Day, 2 November, whereby the faithful may visit a church, chapel or oratory to pray the Our Father and the Creed, can be transferred not only to the preceding or successive Sunday, or, indeed, the solemnity of All Saints', but may now also be gained on any other day within the month of November, too. Those faithful who are shielding, or for whatever genuine reason are unable to leave their homes, may also achieve the plenary indulgence by offering prayer for the departed and offering any hardships they may presently be enduring. The following provisions would also apply: viz. spiritually uniting themselves with all other faithful; detachment from sin; and, having the intention as soon as possible to meet the three usual conditions of sacramental Confession, Holy Communion and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father.



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 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

RED-BOX HOLDERS

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.

WARNING - CYBERCRIME

Please be aware of the increasing risk of cybercrime and online fraud. If you ever receive an email stating a change in bank account details purporting to be from the Archdiocese or any of our Parishes, we recommend you contact us immediately by telephone on 0208 682 7880 before transferring any funds to the account, in order to verify that the email is genuine and not a scam.

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

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)

We have raised a magnificent £560 for the charity with many friends and parishioners donating on line to the Just Giving page. We topped last year's total which was £360 with the coffee morning in the hall. Thank you so much for all those who gave so generously.

UCM MEETINGS

Our UCM Meetings restarted in October with a zoom meeting where 12 members attended, which was great.

The November meeting was held on Wednesday, 4th, at which there was an "Evening of Recollection" with guest speaker, Sister Sheila Maloney.

We are continuing with these meetings at present, via Zoom, and hope you will join us. All you have to do is download the app Zoom.us then click on the link (<https://zoom.us/>) and "connect with audio" – at the proposed time of the meeting.

Please put in your diaries the Christmas Party for the UCM via zoom to be held on Wednesday 2nd December at 7:30pm. Please join us if you can. It's very heart warming to see our friends on the screen and know they are keeping well.

"Make us understanding and caring to all experiencing difficulties and generous in support so that, one day, we may ALL rejoice together in our eternal home – AMEN"

THE NEWSLETTER: ANY FEEDBACK?

Comments, suggestions, contributions: all are welcome. Items for publication should be emailed to kyrabarone@aol.com by Thursday evening at the latest.



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**