



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Trinity Sunday

Sunday 11th June 2017

Mass Book: Page 81

Knowing What We are For

The fact that there's a lot happening in a parish is not necessarily a good thing. It may simply be that the facilities have been colonised by people using them for their own interests or projects. You can measure how badly things have gone wrong by the gossip that ensues when "Father" suggests that the Bridge Club might have to vacate the premises to make way for marriage preparation or confirmation classes! This week I met up with some priest friends who were all facing similar problems. How do you choose between different activities? My response was that first of all we need to know what we are about as a parish. What are we for?

Some of the responses in our recent "Big Conversation"

wondered whether we really needed a "vision statement". Isn't it all a bit too corporate? But whatever it's called, I would argue that it is vitally important to have a clear idea of what we are for and where we are heading as a parish. Most parishes have seen a consistent decline in Mass attendance in recent decades. The only places where that decline has been turned round have been parishes with a clear sense of purpose who actively try to tailor their activities accordingly.

A parish does not exist to run Bingo or host Irish Dancing Classes. It exists to win souls for Christ; to build them up a disciples of Christ; and to send them out to share Christ's love with other people. To *win*, to *build*, and to *send* - these are the three

headings under which all essential parish activities can be grouped. Once we have that clear we can ask ourselves how we are fulfilling each of those three purposes. The answer to that question is not just what we are *doing* but also the culture we create and the values we celebrate. For example, a joyful community that values inviting new people is more effective at winning new members than any amount of street evangelisation. In other words the effort we put into building hospitality and creating a joyful community is essential for the achievement of what we are about as a parish.

If we do not know what we are for we risk wasting a great deal of time and effort while dying as a Christian community.

Parish Life & News

First Holy Communion Help Needed!

Many thanks to the two people who have volunteered to help with the First Communion Classes next year. We need two more. Please contact me by email if you would be willing to help.

Please note: our ability to offer First Communion Classes will depend on suitable adults volunteering to take the classes. A suitable adult is anyone who is Faithful (to the Church's teachings); Available; Compassionate; and Teachable.

First Holy Communion Enrolment

All children (including those at St Elizabeth's School) must enrol for First Communion preparation through the parish where they attend Mass.

The enrolment forms for First Communion are now available at the

back of the Church. They must be returned to us by Saturday 15th July. First Communion **does not** have to take place in Year 3 and you are welcome to defer preparation to a later year if you wish.

Parish Mission

We have had three people offer accommodation for the parish mission from 4th July but we desperately need more offers. If you could put up two students (floor space is fine) please let me know by email and I will pass your details on to Naz Alsamarai who is co-ordinating the arrangements for me.

School References

If you will need a reference for a Catholic school any time over the next three years please don't forget to fill out a reference form whenever you come to Mass during term time.



Parish Feast Day Tuesday 4th July

This year the Feast of St Elizabeth of Portugal falls on Tuesday 4th July. It is also the day our missionary students arrive from the U.S. (where of course they celebrate quite a different feast!).

As last year, to celebrate the Feast of St Elizabeth of Portugal we will have a special Mass at 7.30pm followed by a party in the crypt and garden. Please make a note in your diaries. We very much look forward to celebrating with all our parishioners.

Parish Life & News

Teenagers

I'd like to invite the teenagers of our parish who have been confirmed to join us on Friday evenings for a five week exploration of discipleship called Y-Disciple. We will start on Friday 16th June at 6.00pm. There will be a bite to eat and time to catch up as well as some input and discussion. We look forward to seeing you there!

Corpus Christi

On Sunday 18th June, the Feast of Corpus Christi, we will have a short Corpus Christi procession starting in the parish garden at 3.00pm.

CWL Guest Speaker

The Catholic Women's League will have their monthly meeting on Thursday, June 20th in the crypt, 19.30 to 21.30. At 19.30, Jennie Bailey, from the Woodville Centre, Ham, CWL special project for 2017, will talk about what they do for people suffering from dementia. All visitors welcome.

"Reboot!"

Wednesday 12th July
6.30pm - 9.00pm.

Do you know someone who has sort of grown tired or given up on the practice of the faith for whatever reason? Someone whose faith needs a bit of a reboot?

"Reboot Live" could well be the event that inspires them to start again. We have teamed up with local parishes to invite Chris Stefanick, an inspirational international speaker, to put on an evening to which we can invite

everyone who needs a bit of help applying the beauty and genius of the heart of the Gospel to every aspect of your life. Save the date!

Friday Cookbook

Please e-mail your recipes (fish, vegetarian or vegan only) to Annie Parker. Her email address is : annieparker66@yahoo.co.uk.

Parish Surgery

To see the parish priest without needing to make a previous appointment please come along to one of the Parish Surgery sessions. You can see when they are on by checking the calendar on the parish webpage. This is also the time to come to discuss weddings and baptisms.

Natural Fertility Matters

Finding it hard to conceive naturally? Natural Fertility Matters uses the Creighton Model, a university-developed scientific framework for managing a couple's fertility, diagnosing and treating infertility. For more information please visit www.naturalfertilitymatters.com

or call Freda McMahon on 07887 676 923 for a free and confidential consultation.

Congratulations

On Saturday eight children from St Elizabeth's School made their First Holy Communion here in the Church. We congratulate them and their families and thank the school for their hard work preparing the children.

Thank You

The Offering last week came to:

Gift Aid	£285.00
Not Gift Aid	£698.65
Total	£983.65

Church App



We manage our parish database, rotas, emails and many other things through Church App. You can access "Church App" online or download it as an app to your smartphone or tablet device & contact us for a link.

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

This Week

Saturday

5.30pm

Sunday

9.30am

11.00am

5.30pm

Monday

9.00am

Tuesday

9.00am

Wednesday

9.00am

Thursday

9.00am

Friday

10.00am

Saturday

5.30pm

Sunday

9.30am

11.00am

5.30pm

Trinity Sunday

Holy Souls

Holy Souls

Pro Populo

Maria Windsor Tan

Feria

Delfina Favale RIP

St Anthony of Padua

Ken Robinson

Feria

Mrs O'Carroll RIP

Feria

Mr Lawler RIP

St Richard of Chichester

Int. Michelle Tan

Fr Bill Heng

Corpus Christi

Pro Populo

Int. Youth 2000

Please Pray For:

Kenneth Alps, Raymond and Marie Toal, Ben Horgan, Ella Dale, Jules & Gaye Delanghe, Stella Richards, Anne Wilkinson, Chris Legg, and Mary Wallace.

Fr Stephen Langridge MA Oxon.

St Elizabeth of Portugal
The Vineyard,
Richmond,
TW10 6AQ

Tel. 020 8940 2439

E. frstephen@stelizabethschurch.org.uk

Parish Surgery:

To see Fr Stephen without the need for an appointment please come to the Parish Surgery which usually takes place between 6.30pm & 8.00pm on Tuesday evenings. It is important to check the calendar on the parish website to confirm the date.