



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Corpus Christi

Sunday 18th June 2017

Mass Book: Page 83

A Joyful Community

Last week our social committee kindly hosted another evening for new parishioners. I was impressed by the number of people who said they had visited various churches in the area and had settled on St Elizabeth's because of the welcome they received here. If we are to grow as a parish we need to recognise that one of the reasons people join a particular church these days is that, consciously or unconsciously, we want to be part of a community. This has never been more true than today when despite the instantaneous nature of social communication, we can actually feel more isolated and anonymous than ever before.

As a consequence churches, that may never previously have considered the welcome

they offer, now need to revisit how they respond to the Lord's words: "I was a stranger and you made me welcome". One of the ways we live this in our parish is by encouraging our regular parishioners to see themselves as hosts rather than guests.

Another interesting statistic is that most visitors to a church decide whether to return within seven minutes of arrival. *First impressions are extraordinarily important.* A person who wanders through a shabby narthex into a building littered with the previous congregation's detritus, to be ignored or glowered at with suspicion by the regulars participating with the enthusiasm of the condemned at a hangman's birthday party, is not likely to want to repeat the experience!

A church that wants to introduce others to God's love must, therefore, put particular effort into what we may call the "Sunday experience". What is it like for someone visiting our Church? Do we get the balance right between welcome and respect for privacy? What effort are we making to consider these things and improve the way we do them - or is it business as usual?

In the "Big Conversation" a lot of people (26%) said we need to do more to build up a sense of community. Concern was also expressed by 13% of respondents that, as older parishioners, they felt excluded by activities for newer or younger ones. Of course, some of the complaints are difficult to respond to. For

Parish Life & News

example, having a website or a social media presence is just part of living in the modern world - even if it is perceived by some as “excluding” those without access to the internet. We need however to be intentional about building up a sense of community in which anonymity can be overcome and friendships forged and consolidated. We also need to be intentional about fostering a joyful community and not tolerating toxic behaviours - such as gossip - which foster suspicion and division and eventually destroy communities.

Our next big community event will be the parish Feast Day on Tuesday 4th July and the social committee have already started working on plans for a parish garden party that evening as well as other events to bring the parish together in the new academic year.

Currently at two of our weekend Masses we have ‘hospitality teams’ to welcome people as they come to

Mass here at St Elizabeth’s. Welcoming is more than handing out Mass books: it is being a warm and friendly presence as people arrive at the church, having a particular eye to welcome newcomers, answering questions and generally getting to know people by name if possible.

I would like to have a hospitality team at all our Masses. Each team would need to have four or five members: some outside the Church and others inside. They would also need to be willing to undergo some training. Our hospitality teams offer another opportunity to serve in our parish so that we get closer to the ideal of “everyone doing something rather than some doing everything”.

Building up our parish life helps us become the “joyful, invitational community” which is the foundation of everything that follows in our parish vision. It creates fertile soil into which we plant seeds for a rich harvest.



Parish Feast Day Tuesday 4th July

This year the Feast of St Elizabeth of Portugal falls on Tuesday 4th July. As last year, to celebrate the Feast of St Elizabeth of Portugal we will have a special Mass at 7.00pm 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

Corpus Christi

Today, Sunday 18th June, we will have a short Corpus Christi procession starting in the parish garden at 3.00pm. Please make your way to the garden by the side alley. The garden gate will be open from 2.30pm.

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 need a reference for a Catholic school please fill out a reference form whenever you come to Sunday Mass.

Teenagers

We had a great first Y-Disciple event for teenagers on Friday. Y-Disciple is a

five-week module and we have four more sessions this term. All teenagers are welcome. We meet in the crypt of the Church at 6.00pm and will be finished by 7.45pm.

CWL Guest Speaker

The Catholic Women's League have a guest speaker this Thursday. At 19.30, Jennie Bailey, from the Woodville Centre, Ham, will talk about their work with people suffering from dementia. All visitors welcome.

Exciting Training Opportunity

If you are keen to see how our faith can be shared with young children (age 3-6), using beautiful hands-on materials, and in a way that leads to joy and peaceful contemplation, you might like to consider signing up for the **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd** course thing place here at St Elizabeth's from 17-22 July. In a retreat-like atmosphere, participants will experience 25 presentations based either on Scripture or an aspect of the Mass and have an opportunity to practise presenting and making materials, as well as taking part in lectures and group discussion. ***A number of places have been reserved for parishioners so do get in touch soon if you would like one.***

To find out more and to register please follow this link: <http://www.cgsuk.org/becoming-a-catechist> or contact Christine Byrne at children@stelizabethschurch.org.uk.

Thank You

The Offering last week came to:

Gift Aid	£171.90
Not Gift Aid	£752.53
Total	£924.43

The second collection for the Catholic Trust of England and Wales (CaTEW) came to £254.16. There is a second collection today for the Bishops' Day for Life Fund.

Church Suite



We manage our parish database, rotas, emails and many other things through Church Suite. You can access "Church Suite" 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

Corpus Christi

Fr Bill Heng

Pro Populo

Sir Roger Moore RIP

Int. Youth 2000

Feria

Mary Comerford RIP

St Alban

Holy Souls

St Aloysius Gonzaga

Donor's Intention

SS John Fisher &

Thomas More

Dunne Family

Sacred Heart of Jesus

Maurice Griffen

Birth of John the Baptist

Joan Windsor

Twelfth Sunday

Holy Souls

Pro Populo

Please Pray For:

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

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.