



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Sixteenth Sunday of the
Year

Sunday 23rd July 2017

Mass Book: Page 105

Arrangements for Summer

Now that the schools are closed our Mass attendance has dropped dramatically so I would like to take this opportunity to explain some arrangements for the summer period.

First of all, this weekend we bid farewell to Fr Damian who has spent his summer here improving his English. We also welcome Fr Jonathan Flood, a priest from Donegal, Ireland, whose "day job" is chaplain to a diocesan secondary school. Fr Jonathan will be with us until 16th August and will be looking after the parish in my absence. I leave on Sunday 23rd July to attend an in-service course for priests in Spain until 4th August and then will have a few days off visiting friends before returning to the parish.

During my absence there will be no parish

newsletter but Masses will be at the usual times. We will also be suspending the morning Holy Hour as well as the Wednesday evening Holy Hour until the new term. Confessions will continue at the usual time on Saturdays and Sundays but will be at call on weekdays.

Busy Lizzies and the children's Liturgy of the Word will resume in September. The same is true of the choir and music ministry at our Sunday Masses.

During August we will be monitoring Sunday Mass attendance. What does it say to visitors to our parish when they come here over the summer to attend Mass at a three-quarters empty Church? I know that parishioners hate it when Mass times are changed but we have to see beyond our personal preferences

and comfort so as to recognise that we are called to be disciples and not consumers. A disciple is grateful to get Mass. A consumer wants it on their own terms. Next August I think we should consider merging Masses so that we always have at least a hundred people present. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all our parishioners a very happy break this summer. I hope the holidays provide a time of relaxation and restoration for you and your families. Don't forget that wherever you are it is possible to find a Catholic church to attend Mass. The website masstimes.org can be very helpful in that regard (although check the information is up to date!). I look forward to seeing you when you return.

Parish Surgery

The parish surgery is a time to see the parish priest during the evening without needing an appointment. Most parishioners prefer to see a priest outside of work hours and the parish surgery system makes that possible. I have found it a more efficient use of time than making multiple appointments, many of which get postponed because of train delays and other unforeseen circumstances.

The parish surgery operates on a “first come, first served” basis. We invite you to wait in the Church until I have finished with the people who arrived before you. The parish surgery usually runs from 6.30pm until 8.00pm although I extend this at busier times of the year, such as when we have to complete school reference forms. A lot of the business at the parish surgery concerns weddings and baptisms which I can't process while I am away and so the parish surgery is now suspended until I get back. In September we are changing the day to a Monday.

In the meantime, if you need to book a Mass please speak to Fr Jonathan **after** one of the weekday Masses. Please make sure you use one of the Mass intention envelopes.

Parish Registration

If we do not have your details on ChurchSuite you are **not** registered with the parish. If you do not have internet access but filled in a census form in autumn 2015 we will have your

details on ChurchSuite. For those of you with internet access we invite you to activate your **My ChurchSuite** account which allows you to update your own information. If we have your email address we recently sent you a link to activate your **My ChurchSuite** account. It is important to do so because we are increasingly using ChurchSuite to publish rotas, organise groups, maintain the parish calendar, and many other administrative tasks. If you did not receive an email it may be that it went to your junk box, or simply that you are not registered and we do not have your details.

Weddings

Every week I get three or four requests for weddings to take place here in the Church. Mostly there is at least some connection with the Catholic Church, although sometimes not even that. It even happens that people have booked a venue for the reception before coming to us with their list of requirements...

Weddings are disproportionately time-consuming and can be very frustrating occasions when neither spouse is a practising Catholic. I recently had to ask a florist to move a display of flowers that was so large it obscured the altar!

Here at St Elizabeth's, the policy I have adopted is that we only offer the possibility of getting married here to our own parishioners who either live here or who live locally but have always attended Sunday Mass here.

Looking forward to the New Year

We are already planning an exciting series of activities for the parish during the next academic year based around the “win, build, send” model of evangelisation and discipleship I explained a few weeks ago in the newsletter. These include a new season of Catholic Alpha which begins on Tuesday 19th September. You can already sign up for the course through My ChurchSuite or by texting "QN8F3 Alpha" to 60777 (n.b. you need to include the quotation marks). Building on the success of last year's evangelising Carol Concert we are looking at new ways to reach out to the lapsed and unchurched in Richmond. There will also be opportunities to deepen our faith, including a weekend Bible School to help us grow in familiarity with the scriptures as well as parish retreat days. Next term I would like us all to consider how we could help out in the parish and I hope this will culminate in a volunteers' fayre towards the end of September so that we can see how our time and talents can help build up the Church. Another exciting project will be an opportunity to understand what the Church means by 'evangelisation' and how responding to Christ's command to "Go, make disciples" is within reach of every one of us.

Summer in the Forest

A remarkable new film about the inspirational Catholic philosopher Jean Vanier and the L'Arche communities

he founded was released in the UK in June. The film tells the story of the search for love and friendship by the intellectually disabled members of the the L'Arche communities in France and Bethlehem. It is comic, touching and moving. As one critic said "it is extremely rare for a film to have the power to change lives. This one really might". It will be shown at cinemas around the UK including PictureHouse Piccadilly. All screenings are listed on: www.summerintheforest.com. For those unable to go, you can download the video from the website at a special reduced price for parishioners You will need to quote a Parish discount code SUMMER2017.

Marriage Paperwork

It is good to be aware, and to let family members know, that the Church requires at least six months notice to prepare marriage paperwork. I recently had to disappoint a couple who gave me two weeks notice requesting a dispensation from the bishop to marry in a non-Catholic Church.

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.

Thank You

The Offering last week came to:

Gift Aid	£220.00
Not Gift Aid	£545.34
Total	£765.34

Thank you for all your support.

My Church Suite



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

Fifteenth Sunday

Fr Stephen's Intentions

The Catholics of Richmond
Holy Souls

St Sharbel Makhlūf
Holy Souls

St James the Apostle

SS Joachim & Anne

Feria

Feria
Holy Souls

St Martha

Seventeenth Sunday

General Intentions of Donor

Please Pray For:

Philomena Dunne, Kenneth Alps, Jules & Gaye Delanghe, Raymond and Marie Toal, Ben Horgan, Ella Dale, Stella Richards, Anne Wilkinson.

Fr Stephen Langridge MA Oxon.

St Elizabeth of Portugal

The Vineyard,

Richmond,

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Tel. 020 8940 2439

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Parish Surgery:

The parish surgery will resume in September.

The parish surgery is a good time to talk about weddings and baptisms.