



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Twenty Ninth Sunday
of the Year

Sunday 22th
October 2017

Mass Book: Page 143

Maintenance to Mission

This week I had some involvement in helping with a conference at St Mary's University on the topic of parish renewal. Called "Maintenance to Mission", it attracted several bishops, over a hundred clergy and some two hundred lay delegates. Most of them were from the United Kingdom but there were also small contingents from France, Spain and even South Africa.

The conference looked at some of the themes outlined in a book called "Divine Renovation" by Fr James Mallon who is Director of Parish Renewal for his home diocese in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Fr Mallon has also been asked by his bishop to develop the "Divine Renovation Network" in response to requests from parishes and dioceses all over the world for help with parish renewal. Fr

Mallon has invited me to join that network.

Many of the themes of the conference will already be familiar to parishioners here in St Elizabeth's: the need for a clear idea of what we are for (a parish purpose or vision), the importance of the five key indicators of parish health (community, evangelisation, discipleship, service, and worship), and the relevance of statistical analysis (you can't manage what you can't measure!).

Speaking of statistical analysis, I thought you might be interested to hear that our weekly Mass attendance has increased one again. The average Mass attendance when I arrived at St Elizabeth's in October 2015 was 394. Currently for the month of October it is 486. I estimate that to

ensure the long-term sustainability of the parish, we need to aim for a weekly Mass attendance somewhere above 600. If we can address the lapsation rate among teenagers and continue to attract new parishioners, I think we might easily reach something in the order of 700 people at Mass here each week.

Growth is a sign of life. When organic things stop growing they begin to die. I recognise some people are scared if I speak of evangelisation but we should not forget that Pope Paul VI said "the Church exists to evangelise". Pope Francis is even stronger, telling the laity to "go out and evangelise or buy mothballs"! But parish renewal isn't just about numbers it's also about the depth of our relationship with Christ.

The Family Mass

The 9.30am Mass on Sundays is our family Mass and includes a special crèche for small children which we call **Busy Lizzies**. We ask parents to register their children beforehand so that we know of any allergies and have parents' contact details. Children need to be dropped off **before** Mass starts and are collected at the end of Mass. Parents are given a pager to call them in case they are needed during Mass.

We also offer a **Children's Liturgy** during the Mass for children in Years 1 and 2. This begins when I call the children to the front of the Church and give them a blessing before sending them down to the Crypt. They are looked after by catechists and while their parents remain in the Church for Mass.

If you arrive late for Mass **please keep your children with you** in the Church. The Children's Liturgy begins with the Blessing and Dismissal at the front of the Church. Before the blessing I always ask the children if there is anything they would like to give God thanks for that week and I encourage parents to have a conversation with them before they come to Mass to talk about God's blessings and what they might thank him for at that point.

Please Consider Planned Giving

I'd like to thank all those who responded to our Finance Committee's appeal for planned giving and Gift Aid last week.

Planned Giving is when we think ahead about how we support our parish financially rather than relying on whatever spare change we happen to have in our pockets when the collection is taken up at Mass.

An efficient way of planned giving is by standing order from one's own bank to the parish bank account - it avoids us having to count large sums of money each week, and ensures we don't lose out when parishioners are away at holiday times.

It's not too late to return the forms.

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK

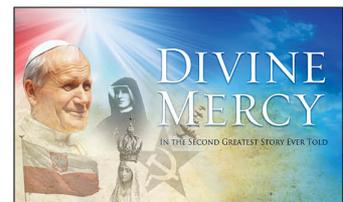
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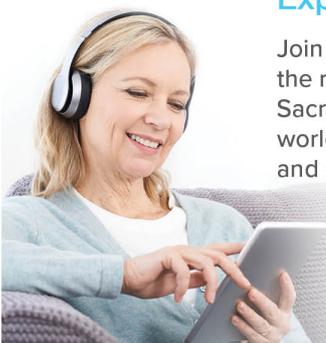
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Parish Life & News

Catholic History Walk

Scott will be leading a Catholic History Walk on Wednesday 25th October about St Thomas More. Meet here at Church at 12.45pm or at the Church of Our Most Holy Redeemer and St Thomas More, Chelsea at 2pm. Full details: catholichistorywalks.com

Altar Servers' Practice

There will be a practice for all current altar servers on All Saints Day, Wednesday 1st November at 6pm. (N.b. this is a Holy Day of Obligation and Mass will follow at 7pm.)

St Elizabeth's Choir

Singers wanted to join the parish choir. No experience necessary. We rehearse for half an hour before and after the 11:00am Mass. Talk to Stephen Bick after Mass at the back of the church if interested, or email bickstephen@gmail.com

Missio

21/22 October is designated as World Mission Sunday. Have you thought of helping foreign missions on a regular basis? You can do so by acquiring a MISSIO Red Box and filling it with your spare change through the year. Aline Cook, MISSIO

Secretary at St Elizabeth's, will be present at every mass on Mission Sunday to tell you more about the scheme or collect your filled Red Box if you are already a member.

Parish Surgery

There is no parish surgery this week. You can check dates of future parish surgeries on ChurchSuite or on the calendar section of the parish website.

Tuberculosis Screening for the Homeless

I have invited an NHS Screening unit to set up in the parking area next to the Church. They will be with us from 9am until midday on Wednesday 25th October. No parking here that day.

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.

LifeTeen

LifeTeen is a fantastic new programme for teenagers that we are introducing to our parish. LifeTeen is for teenagers but it works very closely with families and the parish in order to create a culture in which young people are cared for and valued. Our mission statement for introducing it to the parish is: "Through LifeTeen we aim to lead teenagers and their families into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church, equipping them to be effective witnesses of Christ's love in the world".

Thank You

Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

Gift Aid	£210.20
Not Gift Aid	£303.71
Total	£513.91

To avoid seasonal fluctuations and to help us budget it greatly helps our parish finances if you take part in our **Planned Giving** scheme. For more information please email:

giftaid@stelizabethschurch.org.uk

We invite new parishioners to fill out a welcome card so that we can invite you to a special celebration. You can decide whether to register as parishioners of St Elizabeth's using our ChurchSuite system.

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

This Week

Saturday

5.30pm

Daniel Coleman

Sunday

9.30am

In thanksgiving - Wedding Anniversary

11.00am

Herbert Fuchs RIP

5.30pm

Pro Populo

Monday

9.00am

Feria

Holy Souls

Tuesday

9.00am

Feria

Holy Souls

Wednesday

9.00am

Feria

Thursday

7.00pm

Feria

Friday

10.00am

Feria

Saturday

5.30pm

SS Simon & Jude

Caridade d' Souza RIP

Sunday

9.30am

Thirtieth Sunday

pro populo

11.00am

Paivi Gallagher RIP

5.30pm

Drummond Family's Intentions

Please Pray For:

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

Parish Contact Details:

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Planned Giving

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