



CATHOLIC PARISH OF  
**ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL**  
*Newsletter*

Twenty Seventh Sunday  
of the Year

Sunday 8th  
October 2017

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Mass Book: Page 137

## Et in Arcadia...

“There are lots of things that make Londoners happy – cheap booze, fried chicken at 4am and a flawless Uber rating to name a few. But if you want to be truly happy, you need to move to Richmond” - so wrote one commentator last year when Richmond was declared the happiest borough in London. But all is not as it might seem. According to a recent report, Richmond has London’s fourth highest rate of mental health issues among young people including anxiety and depression, eating disorders and self-harm. Over a third (37%) of new acute STI diagnoses are among those aged 15-24. Nearly one in five (19%) of fifteen year olds in Richmond report having tried cannabis (the highest in London and third highest in the

country) and 25% of 15 year olds report having been drunk in the previous four weeks.

Please God, our children will not number among those statistics but they will certainly come into contact with people who do. At a recent listening session in the parish we asked whether we could move beyond catechising children and young adults, to offering them a chance to meet up with friends, spend time together and have fun in a safe environment where they can also explore questions of teen life and faith.

After much thought, research into what’s out there, and prayer, we have decided to introduce LifeTeen to the 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”.

If LifeTeen is to be a success we need your help. We need volunteers to prepare the crypt and to make props. We need help preparing and serving food. We need volunteers to keep it in their prayers. We need people to help with talks and with fundraising.

On Saturday 21st October at 6.30pm (after the evening Mass) there will be an information session in the crypt. Please come.

## Helping the Homeless

Rachel is in her late forties and has lived in Richmond since she was a young child and raised her family here. She came home one evening to find she was being evicted and spent six nights on the street before getting help. Her eviction was a result of the arrears accrued on her tenancy (c£1,000) and were down to an administrative error the Department of Work and Pensions had made on her Tax Credits: "I wasn't long term homeless, I got kicked out of my home, I panicked, didn't know what to do, I asked for help I couldn't find help. People that are homeless already would have heard or known about these things, I didn't have a clue what to do". Rachel's story is by no means unique. Ending a tenancy from the private rented sector is the most common reason for homelessness in Richmond (41%).

At St Elizabeth's we do not have the personnel or infrastructure to offer first hand support to the homeless but that does not mean we do nothing:

- I am grateful to the Parish Lunch Club for the funds they raise each year to support the work of SPEAR.
- Thank you also for your overwhelmingly positive response to offering the homeless overnight winter accommodation once a week in collaboration with [glassdoor.org.uk](http://glassdoor.org.uk). I have now written to Glassdoor and we now wait to hear back from them. They need seven Churches in Richmond and last time I had contact with the person in charge they had six.
- I have invited the 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 Oct. to offer free tuberculosis screening and advice to the homeless in our area.

### *Please Consider Planned Giving*

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. A very efficient way of planned giving is by setting up a regular payment from one's own bank to the parish bank account - it avoids us having to count and bank large sums of money each week, and ensures we don't lose out when parishioners are away at holiday times. The Finance Committee would like us to increase the proportion of planned giving in the parish which is currently very low. In 2015 (the year I have figures for) Holy Trinity CofE parish in Richmond, had a weekly church attendance of 172 and received £187,115.00 in planned giving. For the same year St Elizabeth's received £24,900.00 from 434 Mass attending parishioners.

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## *Parish Life & News*

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### **New to the Parish?**

Our next welcome evening for new parishioners will be tomorrow Monday 9th October at 8.00pm in the Crypt. We would love to see you there and it will be a great opportunity to meet people. It is EASY to let us know that you are coming: go to the parish website and click on the event on the Calendar and you will be taken to a sign-up page.

### **ChurchSuite**

At St Elizabeth's we manage parish registration and our database through a programme called ChurchSuite. Parishioners have log-in details enabling them to update their personal and family information, register for events, manage rotas, and access the parish calendar. Have you activated your account?

### **Parish Surgery**

Parish Surgery will take place this week from 6.00pm until 7.45pm on Monday evening. We ask you to wait in the church. This is the time to book baptisms and weddings as well as request school references.

### **The Family Mass**

The 9.30am Mass on Sundays is our weekly family Mass. One of the services we offer parents at this Mass is 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 their parents' details. Children are dropped off **before** Mass begins and collected at

the end of Mass. Parents are given a special pager to call them back to the Crèche in case they are needed during Mass. We are grateful to Christine Byrne and her team for co-ordinating this for us.

We also offer a special 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. Since introducing Busy Lizzies numbers at the Children's Liturgy have gone down which is a great opportunity to look again at what we offer to ensure it is age appropriate and enriching. I'd like to develop this more after half term.

If you arrive late for Mass **please keep your children with you** in the Church. It is not fair to interrupt the catechists as they do their work and latecomers also distract the children attending the Children's Liturgy.

For older children we offer the possibility of joining our **Family Choir**.

### **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](http://www.naturalfertilitymatters.com)

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

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## Thank You

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Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

<b>Gift Aid</b>	£172.50
<b>Not Gift Aid</b>	£699.70
<b>Total</b>	£872.20

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](mailto: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

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[stelizabethschurch.org.uk](http://stelizabethschurch.org.uk)



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

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## Mass Intentions this Week

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### This Week

#### Saturday

5.30pm

#### Sunday

9.30am

11.00am

5.30pm

#### Monday

9.00am

#### Tuesday

9.00am

#### Wednesday

9.00am

#### Thursday

7.00pm

#### Friday

10.00am

#### Saturday

5.30pm

#### Sunday

9.30am

11.00am

5.30pm

### Twenty-Seventh Sunday

Ray Simpson RIP

*Pro Populo*

Innocent T De Souza

Connie Dunne RIP

**Feria**

Fergus Dillon RIP

**Feria**

Holy Souls

**Feria**

Holy Souls

**Feria**

Alejandra de Solis RIP

**St Edward the Confessor**

Holy Souls

**Our Lady**

Alejandra de Solis RIP

**Twenty-Eighth Sunday**

Sean McKeown

*Pro Populo*

## Please Pray For:

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

### Parish Contact Details:

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

**Tel.** 020 8940 2439

### Email Addresses:

#### Parish Office:

[office@stelizabethschurch.org.uk](mailto:office@stelizabethschurch.org.uk)

#### Planned Giving

[giftaid@stelizabethschurch.org.uk](mailto:giftaid@stelizabethschurch.org.uk)