



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Thirty-Third Sunday
of the Year

Sunday 19th
November 2017

Mass Book: Page 155

Sacraments

In the homily last week I spoke about the deleterious effect of secularisation on our understanding of the Sacraments. The Sacraments exist to strengthen us in our Christian discipleship and each one of them presumes we are leading lives of faith. This is true even of the sacrament of Baptism when it is administered to infants because it is the discipleship of the parents and godparents that provide the context of faith into which the child is baptised. That is why the Church requires sponsors (Godparents) be practising, adult Catholics and that other "Christian Witnesses" should be baptised Christians who lead lives of faith.

The problem is that because we lived in a Catholic bubble in the past, we somehow

managed to lose sight of the connection between Sacraments and Christian discipleship and so came to see them as rites of passage marking different stages in life. People were left with the notion that baptism, First Communion and Confirmation were given at a certain age, and so they associated the Sacraments with the stages in life (or school year) rather than with a growing life of faith. As a result it is not unusual for people who never go to Church to think they have a right to baptism and the other Sacraments, and that any suggestion otherwise is regarded as depriving their children of that right.

Sacraments without faith lose their meaning. What is the point of confession if I don't believe in sin? Or if I

don't believe that Jesus has the power to save me from my sins and that he does that when I go to confession? And Sacraments without discipleship lose their fruitfulness. We apply fertiliser to plants that are growing, not to barren soil that has neither seedling nor seed.

The Sacraments were instituted by Jesus Christ to help us grow in our discipleship and therefore they make sense and belong within the context of a lived faith - one element of which is coming together as the Body of Christ for the weekly celebration of Sunday Mass. It is important to have appropriate expectations of those requesting a Sacrament and to help them meet those expectations, even if it means delaying the Sacrament.

Parish Life & News

The Wall Frescoes

We recently commissioned a preliminary report on the Stations of the Cross and the other frescoes from **Hirst Conservation**, a company that specialises in conservation and restoration of historic wall paintings. In their report they say: *“It is recommended that some emergency measures are introduced temporarily [...] This should involve stabilisation of the three identified areas of detached plaster, as well as application of facing to the most severely flaking sections of paintings”*.

Further investigation, including paint and mortar analysis is required before restoration can begin but in the meantime we need to protect the paintings from further deterioration. The estimate for that further investigation and consolidation is £9,816.00 including VAT. This would protect what we have and enable a proper restoration to take place in the future (at additional cost).

We discussed this at the Finance Committee on Tuesday and decided that it would be irresponsible to allow the paintings to undergo further deterioration although a complete restoration should be factored in as part of a wider restoration of the Church. It was therefore agreed that we should start a **restoration fund** which would allow us to consolidate the Stations but also provide us with an ongoing income to carry out wider repairs in the future.

School References

If you need a reference for a nursery or primary school please come to a special extended Parish Surgery on Monday 27th November. I will be available in the Parish Office from 6.30pm until 9.00pm.

Please come prepared:

- I can only give you a reference if you have been filling out the school reference forms at Mass.
- It saves time if you fill out the forms **before** coming to the office - including the name and address of the Church.
- If you attend Mass elsewhere you must get a reference from the priest in that parish.

Fr Stephen's Annual Retreat

Fr Stephen will be in Sussex on his annual silent retreat this week and there will be no Mass in the parish on Monday or Tuesday. Fr Valentine will celebrate the Wednesday morning and Thursday evening Masses and Fr Anthony Logan will celebrate the Friday morning Mass. Please be assured of his prayers for all our parishioners while he is away.

Parish Life & News

Homeless Winter Shelter

We have been approved to use the crypt as a homeless shelter on Monday nights during the winter months beginning in January and ending in April. We now need a team of volunteers to welcome and cater for the guests. Please contact the office if you would be willing to help. We need about half a dozen people each evening and the ideal thing would be to have a rota so that it is not the same people each week.

November Dead List

Please use the brown envelopes provided. Donations will be used for the celebration of Holy Souls Masses throughout the year. To request a Mass for a specific intention please use the white envelopes.

Interested in Becoming a Catholic

If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning more about the possibility of joining the Catholic Church, we invite you to contact Scott Coleman in the parish office. Scott will be running an introductory course on the Catholic faith this year.

The London Mission

St Patrick's Soho will again host the London Mission, 7th - 10th December. The focus this year is Our Lady, Mother of Mercy. Email the parish office for more details, especially if you are interested assisting the mission and evangelisation.

Faure's Requiem

St Elizabeth's will be hosting a concert performance of Faure's ever-popular, reflective setting of the requiem mass at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 12 December. The Strawberry Hill House Choir will be joined by professional baritone and soprano soloists and conducted by Michael McLaughlin, with Jon Booth at the organ. Tickets are free, with a retiring collection.

Christmas Carolling 3rd December 2017, 12 - 4pm

After the success of our Christmas Concert last year we want to spread some festive cheer at Richmond station and invite people to our Christmas Concert this year, which is on Sunday 17th December. Our Sunday 5.30pm music group will be

Children's Christmas Concert - Change of Date!

Many children in our parish play a musical instrument or sing and would be delighted to perform in front of their families and friends. This year again, we would like to organise a Children's Christmas Concert. If your child plays a recorder, piano, violin or any other musical instrument or sings, then please contact Filip on filip.kucera@email.cz for more details (ideally ASAP to make the Concert program). Each child will have the opportunity to perform a piece (pieces) of music of choice. There is no age limit.

The concert will take place on **Saturday 9th December** at 2.30 pm in our church. Please, put this date in your diary and join us to support our children.

Thank You

Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

Gift Aid	£101.50
Not Gift Aid	£689.98
Total	£791.48

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

Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5.30pm	89
Sun. 9.30am	172
Sun. 11.00am	137
Sun. 5.30pm	168
Total:	566

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

This Week

Saturday

5.30pm

Thirty-Third Sunday

In thanksgiving for Sheldon Fernandes

Sunday

9.30am

Frank Morrell RIP

11.00am

Yousif and Evelyn Farage RIP

5.30pm

Pro Populo

Monday

Feria

No Mass here today

Tuesday

The Presentation of the BVM

No Mass here today

Wednesday

St Cecilia

9.00am

Thursday

Feria

7.00pm

Friday

SS. Andrew Dung Lac and Companions, Martyrs

10.00am

Saturday

Our Lady

5.30pm

Patrick Diskin RIP

Sunday

Christ the King

9.30am

11.00am

Yousif and Evelyn Farage RIP

5.30pm

Pro Populo

Please Pray For:

Christopher Browne, Philomena Dunne, 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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