



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

Thirty-First Sunday  
of the Year

Sunday 5th  
November 2017

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Mass Book: Page 149

## The Four Last Things

During November the Church invites us to do something we all probably find somewhat uncomfortable: to think and pray about death, judgement, heaven and hell, otherwise known as the Four Last Things.

The separation of body and soul, and the consequent dissolution of the former, was not part of God's plan. **Death** entered the world as a result of original sin. It is a reality none of us can escape but in Christ death has been overcome and the possibility of eternal life is held before us.

Contemplating death will seem morbid to some people but it need not be. For the Christian death is the culmination of our earthly life and its prospect can give us a healthy perspective when we find ourselves overly attached to present worries.

The **P a r t i c u l a r Judgement** follows death. That is the moment when the only truly impartial and just Judge will determine the integrity with which we have lived our lives and when our eternal fate is determined.

Our eternal fate will be heaven or **hell**. The fact someone does not believe in hell will not stop them going there. If we refuse to get to know the Lord in this life or refuse to live his love in public or in private, the Lord will not force us to love him in heaven. We will have sealed our own fate.

For those who do know the Lord and who do seek to live the dignity they have received in baptism, the possibility of **heaven** is assured even if it is not an immediate reality. We die attached to the things of the earth, often

imperfect in our love of God and neighbour. We die attached to habits of personal sin and selfishness in thousands of little ways. And so for most of us, the immediate consequence of death is a time of being weaned off and making up for those attachments. We call this **Purgatory** and in November the Church encourages us to pray and offer Mass for the Holy Souls in Purgatory - one day it may be us dependent on those generous suffrages.

Finally there is the fullness of 'seeing the Lord face to face' and "becoming like him" in heaven - a state of joy and total fulfilment in God's presence as we await the resurrection of the dead after the Universal Judgement at the end of time when body and soul will be reunited for eternity.

## LifeTeen

Do you remember the news story from some years back about a vicar who, to get rid of bats, played Des O'Connor records in his Church? At the time some suggested it would be more efficient just to get the bishop to come and confirm them since that seemed a pretty effective way of emptying parishes of teenagers!

Confirmation should not be the sacrament of exodus from the Church for our teenagers. So how can we change things? How can we move beyond those dinner table bargains with our teenagers: "You agree to get confirmed and I won't make you go to Mass any more"?

One way is to change the goal-posts. What if we offered teenagers a chance to meet together and hang-out with friends in a context where it's ok to ask questions and where they will be mentored by adults who take a real interest in them? What would happen if, instead of relying on the accident of a date of birth, confirmation was offered to those young people who had come to desire it?

We will soon be launching **LifeTeen** here in the parish. Through it we hope to provide an environment and a fellowship where young people can really feel at home and where their faith can be helped by the witness of people they can both relate and look up to.

We will start **LifeTeen** with a Birth-Day Party in the crypt from 4.00 until 5.30pm on Sunday 12th November. We are really keen to invite all the teenagers in our parish and have already emailed all the parents who have teenagers registered on ChurchSuite. If you've not yet received yours - this is it! We would really love to see all our teenagers there.

## *Update on Repairs*

Sorry it is cold in the Church. Our boiler isn't working at present. It will be fixed on Friday this week.

Also on Friday the bollards protecting the parking area in front of the Church will be repaired. The bollards are necessary because people unconnected to the parish park there often blocking in other vehicles.

The radio mike has developed another fault and can't be repaired because it operates on a (now) restricted frequency. I've decided to replace both transmitter and receiver with one that will be compatible with any future improvements to the audio system in the church.

During the week the flagstones along the alley to the side of the sacristy were repointed as the original pointing had all worn away.

We also had a specialist in to carry out some essential repairs to the roof including replacing missing slates, fixing others, cleaning all the rainwater gullies as well as repairing the lead work.

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## *Parish Life & News*

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### **Sisters of Mary Morning Star**

This weekend we welcome the sisters back to the parish for their annual sale of produce and gifts. The sisters survive by the sale of their work. Please support them as you leave the Church.

### **Joe Lynch RIP**

We ask your prayers for the repose of the soul of Joe Lynch. Joe was 93 years old and attended our 11.00am Mass every Sunday.

### **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. We now need two volunteers to coordinate the meals. Please contact the office if you would be willing to help.

### **Mass Times this Week**

**Tuesday** is the first Tuesday of the Month and Mass will be at midday, followed by the parish Lunch Club in the crypt.

On **Thursday** evening this week I will be giving a talk at Exeter University. As a consequence there will **not** be a

Mass or Holy Hour on Thursday evening.

On **Friday** the Mass will be at midday to give me time to get back from Exeter.

### **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.

### **Children's Christmas Concert**

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](mailto: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 2nd December** at 3 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:

<b>Gift Aid</b>	£69.15
<b>Not Gift Aid</b>	£477.50
<b>Total</b>	£546.65

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)

### Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5.30pm	100
Sun. 9.30am	134
Sun. 11.00am	116
Sun. 5.30pm	101
<b>Total:</b>	<b>451</b>

## Social Media



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

Noon

#### Wednesday

9.00am

#### Thursday

#### Friday

Noon

#### Saturday

5.30pm

#### Sunday

9.30am

11.00am

5.30pm

### Thirty-First Sunday

George Kirch RIP

Deceased members of the Kehoe Family RIP

Holy Souls

*Pro Populo*

#### *Feria*

Frederick Walters RIP

#### Dedication of the Cathedral

Deceased members of the CWL

#### *Feria*

Maisie Walsh RIP

#### Dedication of St John Lateran

*No Mass here today*

#### Pope St Leo the Great

Alessandro Lepri RIP

#### St Martin of Tours

Shelia, Pakianathan, Sandra, and Adrian

#### Thirty-Second Sunday

*Pro Populo*

Yousif and Evelyn Farage RIP

Bridgette Jones (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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### Email Addresses:

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#### Planned Giving

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