



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Third Sunday of Advent,
Gaudete Sunday

Sunday 17th
December 2017

Mass Book: Page 87

Getting Ready for Christmas

We are very much looking forward to seeing many of you and your friends this evening (Sunday) for our **C h r i s t m a s Celebration**. Last year it was extraordinarily well attended and many people wrote afterwards to say how much they or their friends had enjoyed it.

We are also looking forward to seeing you and your friends on Friday evening this week for our **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**. This is a more formal service and is a wonderfully reflective way to get ourselves ready for the Christmas weekend. We invite you all to join us downstairs for mulled wine and mince pies both nights.

A number of people have been in contact to ask how the Masses will work next weekend with Christmas Day falling

the day after the Sunday. I thought, therefore, that it might be helpful to explain things here.

The Masses of the Fourth Sunday of Advent, to fulfil our **Sunday obligation**, will be as follows:

Saturday Evening at 5.30pm (the so-called *vigil* Mass); then on Sunday morning at 9.30am and 11.00am.

The Sunday evening Mass will be the Vigil Mass of Christmas and will be the first Mass to fulfil the **Christmas Obligation** of attending Mass on Christmas Day.

Midnight Mass will be at **midnight** (!) but will be preceded by carols from 11.30pm. We ask everyone to be seated by 11.45pm at the latest.

On Christmas Day there will be **two** Masses: at 9.30am and at 11.00am. If any children would

like to come to either of these two Masses dressed as characters from the Nativity Scene they would be most welcome to come to the sacristy **before Mass begins** and join us for the entrance procession.

Please note, the Christmas Vigil Mass on Sunday at 5.30pm is not a children's service. It is an ordinary Mass, with carols, for those who will not be able to join us at Midnight Mass or on Christmas Day. I would gently suggest to parents that it is not wise to give children the impression that one gets the religious bit out of the way in order to have Christmas Day free. The unintended message we can give is that Christmas can be divorced from our faith. I look forward to seeing you all (twice) next weekend!

Advent & Christmas Events

Friday 22nd December
**7.30pm Nine Lessons &
Carols**

*A traditional and solemn
preparation in the last days
before Christmas.*

Sunday 24th December
Christmas Eve
5.30pm Christmas Vigil
Mass
11.30pm Carols before
Midnight Mass

Monday 25th December
Christmas Day
9.30am Dawn Mass
11.00am Christmas Day
Mass

***No evening Mass on
Christmas Day***

Confessions

There will be confessions
immediately after the
morning Masses this week.

On **Thursday** there will be
confessions from 7.30pm
until 8.15pm.

On **Saturday** 23rd December
confessions will be from
10.00am until 11.00am.

ConneXions

~ Advent Update ~

Our group of volunteers, here to respond to the needs of fellow parishioners, is growing. We also now have a dedicated telephone number!

If you, or someone you know, would like to attend one of the wonderful Advent celebrations in the church, and would appreciate one of our volunteers to accompany you, then ring the number below, and we will respond as quickly as possible.

If you would like to become a volunteer with ConneXions, this is the number for you as well:

0 7 9 2 5 2 8 8 6 5 1

Christmas Offering

The collection on Christmas Day and Easter Sunday are your gift to the clergy of your parish. In this diocese parish clergy do not receive a wage and these two collections form the bulk of their annual income.

Lots of our parishioners are away at Christmas and so we make the dedicated Christmas and Easter envelopes available early.

This year the envelopes offer those who pay U.K. income or capital gains tax to Gift Aid their offering which would allow the parish (not the priest) to claim a further 20% on top of your donation. If you wish to take advantage of that please note that any cheques must be made payable to the parish (not the priest), and we would also need the details to be filled out on the envelope.

Parish Life & News

Parish Surgery

The next Parish Surgery will be on 8th January 2018. Parish Surgery is the time to see the parish priest without needing to make an appointment. It is also the time to make initial enquiries about baptisms and weddings. It takes place in the parish office from 6.30pm until 8.00pm. People are asked to access the office via the Church, where they can wait as everyone is seen on a 'first come first served' basis.

A Special Gift

This Christmas we are giving a special gift to all our adult parishioners and guests. Please do not be shy about taking one when it is offered to you. It comes with our best wishes and prayers and we very much hope that you will find it helpful.

Homeless Lunch

Our lunch for the homeless takes place today, Sunday 17th December. Please don't forget if you have offered to help or to cook!

Homeless Winter Shelter

Can you help us welcome and cater for our homeless guests who will sleep in the crypt on a Monday night from next month. Please contact the office if you would be willing to help join a rota with a commitment of just two hours.

Hospitality at Our Christmas Events

Many of our regular parishioners are away at Christmas which in some ways gives us a great opportunity to ask for more volunteers to help with hospitality at our Christmas events.

We try to welcome people at the door of the Church, make sure they have any necessary books, and show them to available seats. Can you help this year? We need you! Please contact office@stelizabethschurch.org.uk to let us know.

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.

ChurchSuite

ChurchSuite is our parish online register which enables you to keep your own information up to date. It also lets you can check the parish diary and sign up for any events or courses. There is even a version allowing you to log-in through your smart phone or tablet.

Save the Date

16th-18th March 2018

Pope Benedict once said that "in Jesus we see the human face of God". St Jerome said "ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ". I want to give all our parishioners the chance to become familiar with the bible and to see how it can help us pray and know God better. So we will be hosting a Bible Weekend next year. I hope you will sign up for it.

Thank You

Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

Gift Aid	£151.15
Not Gift Aid	£686.35
Total	£837.50

TODAY

There will be a Second Collection to help us decorate the Church for Christmas.

Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5.30pm	85
Sun. 9.30am	132
Sun. 11.00am	111
Sun. 5.30pm	107
Total:	435

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

This Week

Saturday

5.30pm

Sunday

9.30am

11.00am

5.30pm

Monday

11.00am

Tuesday

9.00am

Wednesday

9.00am

Thursday

7.00pm

Friday

10.00am

Saturday

5.30pm

Sunday

9.30am

11.00am

Christmas Eve

5.30pm

Midnight

Third Sunday of Advent

Jules DeLanghe RIP

Genevieve Naicker

Kathleen Woplin RIP

Pro Populo

Feria

Goodhart (Int.)

Feria

John Good RIP

Feria

Donor's Intention

Feria

Joe Lynch RIP

Feria

Mr and Mrs George Kent

Feria

Dawson Family (Int.)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Pro Populo

Kathleen Woplin RIP

Fr George Barrett

Kathleen Woplin RIP

Please Pray For:

Christopher Browne, Philomena Dunne, 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

Planned Giving

giftaid@stelizabethschurch.org.uk