



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent,  
Christmas Eve

Sunday 24th  
December 2017

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Mass Book: Page 90 & following

## Christmas Weekend

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to you this weekend as we celebrate within the space of a few hours the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day itself.

Advent is a time of waiting and getting ready to meet the One who is to come. It can be quite difficult to foster that sense of expectation when, outside the Church, it's been "beginning to seem a lot like Christmas" since the start of October! As a parish, therefore, we are grateful to the organisers of our two recent carol services. These included our informal 'carols for everyone' last Sunday as well as the amazing celebration of "Nine Lessons and Carols" which took place on Friday night. We are

very grateful to the organisers, the musicians and all those who took part and also to our wonderful social committee who provided mulled wine and mince pies after both events.

At St Elizabeth's we say our parish purpose is to "raise up intentional disciples who joyfully live out the mission of Jesus Christ". This is the guiding principle that governs everything we do. We exist so that people can come to know Christ, feel the warmth of his love and respond to it in practical ways. This means that we offer opportunities for people to re-examine the essentials of the Christian Faith, grow deeper in their faith and in their relationship with God, and that we look for ways to reach out to others with God's love. Two or three times a year, for example, we

run Alpha for those interested in learning more about Christianity. Next term we will be offering "The Discipleship Project", a six-week programme on what it means to be a disciple. In March we will have a weekend dedicated to getting to grips with the Bible.

Recently we started "ConneXions" to provide practical help to parishioners in need, and from January we will be working with other local Christian communities and the "Glass Door" Charity to offer night shelter to the homeless in Richmond. Everything we do finds its roots in our celebration this weekend: that God loved the world so much he sent his only Son. And so we wish you all a very happy Christmas and thank you for joining us today.

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## *Christmas & New Year*

Sunday 24th December

### ***Christmas Eve***

5.30pm Christmas Vigil  
Mass

11.30pm Carols before  
Midnight Mass

**12.00pm Midnight Mass**

Monday 25th December

### ***Christmas Day***

9.30am Dawn Mass

11.00am Christmas Day  
Mass

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

## *Children*

We invite children joining us at either Mass on Christmas Day morning to come dressed as characters from the Nativity Scene. If they arrive a few minutes early they can come to the sacristy and join us for the procession at the start of Mass.

## *St Stephen's Day*

The Mass on 26th December will be at 10.00am.

## *New Year's Day*

The Mass on 1st January will be at Midday. It is the Feast of Mary, Mother of God.

## *ConneXions*

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 benefit from our help please 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**

## *Parish Website*

To keep up to date with things happening at St Elizabeth's we invite you to take a look at the "latest news" page on our website. There you can access the newsletter and a handy summary of what's on each week. You can also check us out on Facebook and follow us on Twitter as well!

## *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.

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.

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## *Parish Life & News*

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### **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.

### **Premises Manager**

St Elizabeth's is looking to appoint a part-time premises manager to join the team and help us look after all the practical aspects of keeping the premises in good order, setting up for events and so forth. The job will be ten hours a week (two hours each weekday). Anyone interested is kindly invited to email the parish office: [office@stelizabethschurch.org.uk](mailto:office@stelizabethschurch.org.uk).

### **Coffee Bar**

The Sunday Coffee Bar team will enjoy its annual recess until Sunday, January 7th. We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you again in the crypt in the New Year.

### **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. You can read more about the work of the Glass Door Charity, including the

new Richmond project, on their website: [glassdoor.org.uk](http://glassdoor.org.uk).

### **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.

### **ChurchSuite**

ChurchSuite is our parish online register which enables you to keep your own information up to date. It also lets you 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. If you have moved recently, or have a new addition to the family, please check your details and update them if necessary.

### **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:

<b>Gift Aid</b>	£141.67
<b>Not Gift Aid</b>	£708.90
<b>Total</b>	£850.57

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	110
Sun. 11.00am	116
Sun. 5.30pm	127
<b>Total:</b>	<b>453</b>

## Social Media



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



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

## Mass Intentions this Week

### This Week

#### Saturday

5.30pm

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dawson Family (Int.)

#### Sunday

9.30am

*Pro Populo*

11.00am

Katheleen Woplin RIP

### CHRISTMAS EVE

5.30pm

Fr George Barrett

#### Midnight

Kathleen Woplin RIP

### Monday

9.30am

### THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

The Holy Father

11.00am

*Pro Populo*

### Tuesday

10.00am

### St Stephen

Emma Van Driel RIP

### Wednesday

9.00am

### St John

Steve and Anna Fitzgerald RIP

### Thursday

7.00pm

### The Holy Innocents

Whittle Family (Int.)

### Friday

10.00am

### St Thomas of Canterbury

Joseph Lynch and the Holy Souls RIP

### Saturday

5.30pm

### Christmas Octave

Mrs Vera Gallagher RIP

### Sunday

9.30am

### The Holy Family

Norma Augustine

11.00am

*Pro Populo*

5.30pm

Clare Mullan 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](mailto:office@stelizabethschurch.org.uk)

#### Planned Giving

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