



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

First Sunday of Advent
Readings: Year B

Sunday 3rd
December 2017

Mass Book: Page 82

First Sunday of Advent

The readings at Mass during Advent often speak of the “nations” going to God’s house or to his holy mountain. We see that very much at this time of the year when people who often describe themselves as “not religious” turn up for school Nativities, Carol Services or celebrations of Midnight Mass. One of the features of Advent and Christmas is that a lot of new people find themselves at Church.

Research suggests that people decide whether or not to return to a church within seven minutes of entering. Even before the organ has struck up, and certainly before the priest has preached, a decisive first impression has already formed in their minds. It’s an impression based on questions like: Did anyone notice me?

Were my children welcome? Was there space to park?

Some of these we have no control over but behind them all is a fundamental question: Do I matter in this place? That is why intentional hospitality is so important: it gives authenticity to our claim that we matter to God.

It is perhaps fairly easy to see how other people can benefit from our hospitality but we should not forget the benefit to us as well. We know that Jesus welcomed people and so when we imitate him we are living more Christ-like lives. We heard at Mass last week that Jesus said when we welcome a stranger we welcome him. Hospitality also challenges our self-centredness and opens our hearts to the needs of others.

So how can we grow a culture of hospitality? At St Elizabeth’s we are all responsible for hospitality. We can all make the effort to be warm and human, friendly and kind to the people we meet at Church.

But part of hospitality is also a willingness to invite. A welcoming parish is also an invitational parish. In the run up to Christmas there will be plenty of things we can invite people to here in the parish (some of them involving mince pies and mulled wine). Who are we going to invite? At this time of the year people are more open and often feel honoured when invited by a friend. Let’s all make a list of people we can invite to our various celebrations. We can then pray for them every day before we invite them.

Parish Life & News

Advent & Christmas Events

Saturday 9th December
2.30pm Children's Concert
An afternoon of musical entertainment provided by the children of our parish.

Tuesday 12th December
8.00pm Fauré's Requiem
Performed by the Strawberry Hill House Choir.

Sunday 17th December
7.00pm A Feast of Carols
Our annual festival of Carols for all our families and friends.

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

St Patrick's Night Dinner

One of our parishioners has provisionally booked London Welsh RFC to revive the local celebration of St Patrick's night with a dinner on 16th March next year. Before confirming the booking and also the of an excellent Irish Music group, he would like to know whether there would be any take up from the parish. To register your interest or for more information please contact Oliver Kehoe on:
okehoe@aol.com, or
katelmartin@hotmail.com
phone number 07990562018

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

Parish Surgery this week is Monday evening from 6.30pm until 8.00pm. Please wait in the Church.

Volunteers Needed

We need some volunteers (as many as possible) to help us wrap Christmas presents. If you can help either on Friday morning (after the 10.00am Mass) or on Saturday morning from 9.00am please let us know. Many thanks.

Publicity Cards

We have some small postcard size cards printed for you to take and give out to your friends as you invite them to any of our Christmas services here at St Elizabeth's.

Recently Deceased

The Requiem Mass for Joseph Lynch will take place in this parish on Monday 11th December at 11.00am. Jules DeLanghe's Requiem Mass will be on Friday 15th at 10.00am.

Please also pray for the repose of the soul of **Laura Pescarmona**, a young mother at St Elizabeth's school who died this week.

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.

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 the Feast of Carols. Please join us this afternoon (Sunday) anytime from 12 - 4pm just outside Richmond Station.

Children's Christmas Concert

The concert will take place on **Saturday 9th December** at 2.30 pm in our church.

Faure's Requiem

St Elizabeth's will be hosting a concert performance of Faure's Requiem at **8:00pm** (please note revised time) on Tuesday 12th 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. Doors open at 7:45.

Homeless Lunch

Our next lunch for the homeless will be on Sunday 17th December. Offers of savoury or sweet and help on the day are very welcome. Contact Angela Smith: 07583212406 or angosmith@hotmail.co.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

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

Thank You

Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

Gift Aid	£178.09
Not Gift Aid	£525.28
Total	£703.37

NEXT SUNDAY

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

Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5.30pm	88
Sun. 9.30am	166
Sun. 11.00am	97
Sun. 5.30pm	119
Total:	470

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

This Week

Saturday

5.30pm

First Sunday of Advent

Norah Walsh RIP

Sunday

9.30am

11.00am

5.30pm

Donor's Intention

Kathleen Woplin RIP

Pro Populo

Monday

9.00am

Feria

Donor's Intention

Tuesday

Noon

Feria

Donor's Intention

Wednesday

9.00am

Feria

Donor's Intention

Thursday

7.00pm

St Ambrose

Donor's Intention

Friday

**The Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin**

Mary

10.00am

Donor's Intention

Saturday

5.30pm

Our Lady

Joseph Lynch RIP

Sunday

9.30am

11.00am

5.30pm

Second Sunday of Advent

Kathleen Woplin RIP

Pro Populo

Please Pray For:

Christopher Browne, Philomena Dunne, Gaye Delanghe, Raymond and Marie Toal, Ben Horgan, Ella Dale, Stella Richards, Anne Wilkinson.

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Planned Giving

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