



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Second Sunday of the Year

Sunday 14th

January 2017

Mass Book: Page 127

Gallup ME25

The ME25 is a survey devised by Gallup to measure the health of a parish or religious congregation. It asks parishioners twenty-five “membership engagement” questions followed by a series of demographic questions so that the results can be compared with similar parishes.

We carried out the ME25 at the beginning of 2016, just four months after I came to the parish. The survey measures people’s sense of belonging to a parish, their spiritual commitment, and how their involvement impacts on their lives.

Compared to other parishes our results were pretty poor: 48% of parishioners were “actively disengaged” compared to a Catholic average of 22%. Gallup describes “*active disengagement*” as

being “physically present but psychologically absent. They are unhappy with their parish and insist on sharing that unhappiness with just about everyone”. It describes “engaged” parishioners as “loyal and have a strong psychological connection to their parish. They are more spiritually committed, more likely to invite friends, family members, and co-workers to parish events, and give more both financially and in commitment of time”. The survey found that only 10% of our parishioners fell into that category compared to a Catholic average of 31%.

Two years later I am sure things have improved here at St Elizabeth’s and I have asked Gallup to carry out the survey once more. It is good to

measure progress and also to see what areas of parish life may be doing less well than others. This year we will offer the possibility of doing the survey online as well as the paper version we used last time. The plan is to start the survey at the end of this month and to allow a four week window for the replies to come in.

Last year we held our “Big Conversation” as we looked at our vision statement and the purpose of our parish. It helped us discern pastoral priorities and enabled us to make subtle changes in the way we do things in response to the answers we received.

There is a saying that “you can’t manage what you can’t measure”. The Gallup Survey will help us see how we are doing and where we still need to make progress.

*Our Vision
Statement
&
Our Parish
Purpose*

A **parish vision statement** outlines what sort of parish we would like to be. Having worked on it with a strategy group and then consulted the whole parish in the “Big Conversation” our vision statement reads as follows:

At St Elizabeth’s we aim to become *“a joyful, invitational community where people encounter and entrust themselves to Jesus Christ; grow through formation and the Holy Spirit; and, as missionary disciples, find new ways of witnessing to God’s love in the world”*.

Our **parish purpose** explains the reason why we exist. At St Elizabeth’s our parish purpose is *“to raise up intentional disciples who joyfully live out the mission of Jesus Christ”*.

This term we are focusing on **discipleship** and we encourage all our parishioners to take part in at least one formation course.

Discipleship Course

So far twenty-five people have signed up for the Discipleship Course. We still have a few more places available so please let us know if you plan to attend. You can do so on ChurchSuite or by texting “QN8F3 Disciple” to 60777. (It is important to include the quotation marks).

Bible Weekend

The Bible Weekend runs from the evening of Friday 16th until lunch on Sunday 18th March.

This weekend will give us an introduction to the Bible, helping us navigate it and understand how we can use it to deepen our prayer life. This one-off course is a must for all our parishioners! We need you to register for the Bible Weekend as places are limited. You can do so on ChurchSuite or by texting “QN8F3 Bible” to 60777. (It is important to include the quotation marks).

Lent Study Groups

We would like to offer the opportunity for parishioners to get together during Lent for some study groups. The great thing about them is that they are hosted in people’s homes and can therefore take place on different days and at different times. This Lent we will use materials available to all our parishioners on the **Formed** website.

Please let us know if you would like to take part in a group. There are application forms at the back of Church. Please also let us know if you would be willing to host a Lent Group in your home. We will get back to you with details.

Parish Life & News

Fr Stephen Away

I will be away this week for a post-Christmas break. I'm going to visit a priest friend in Yorkshire and hope to get some walking in if the weather is good!

A Four-Legged Addition

Some of you may have seen (or heard) a four-legged chocolate fluff-ball running around the parish. His name is Benji and he is an eleven week old Cockerpoo. So far he has managed to charm most parishioners.

Confirmation

We are planning a major overhaul of the way we prepare young people for confirmation here in the parish. In order not to disadvantage those young people who are currently eligible to receive the sacrament we will be running a transition course this year and the bishop has agreed to come in May to administer the sacrament.

We therefore invite any young person in Year 8 and above who attends Mass regularly at St Elizabeth's to apply for this year's course. This is only open to young people already attending Mass at St Elizabeth's. Other young people will be invited to join the new system when it begins.

Catholic Women's League

A talk on Penal Times for Catholics will be offered by Scott Coleman on Thursday, January 18th 19.30 - 20.15. The talk will be followed by the Catholic Women's League monthly meeting. All are welcome to the talk and also the meeting.

Passion Play

Good Friday: March 30th: Christians from different churches in Richmond are staging an open air Passion Play on the river front from 12-2pm. Would you like to take part: as a singer, actor or in the production team? Just ordinary people portraying an extraordinary event. No experience needed! Rehearsals each Friday evening start February. Email Peter Flower if you'd like to join in: pjflower@btinternet.com.

Celebrate

Celebrate - A Catholic Charismatic Family Weekend will take place at St Mary's Twickenham, 16 - 17th June 2018. www.celebrateconference.org has full details.

Homeless Shelter Collection

Our night shelter for the homeless will run on Monday nights from 15th January until 2nd April (Easter Monday). Part of our commitment is to provide a meal for our guests. Today there will be a second collection to buy the food. We hope this is a way for more parishioners to be involved in supporting the project. Don't forget that if you pay tax you can use the blue Gift Aid envelopes so that the parish can recover any tax you may have paid on your donation.

ConneXions

ConneXions is our group of volunteers, here to respond to the needs of fellow parishioners. They now have a dedicated telephone number for any parishioner who needs help: 0 7 9 2 5 2 8 8 6 5 1.

Thank You

Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Gift Aid | £162.05 |
| Not Gift Aid | £744.66 |
| Total | £906.71 |

Second Collection Today: to provide a meal for the homeless at our homeless shelter. The shelter starts this week and is every Monday night until April with Guests pre-booked by the Open Doors Charity.

Mass Attendance Last Week:

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Sat. 5.30pm | 102 |
| Sun. 9.30am | 167 |
| Sun. 11.00am | 90 |
| Sun. 5.30pm | 118 |
| Total: | 477 |

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

This Week

Saturday

5.30pm

Second Sunday

Barbara Fytton & Family

Sunday

9.30am

11.00am

5.30pm

Pro Populo

Eileen Rayel (Int.)

Joshua Dawson

Monday

9.00am

Feria

Tuesday

9.00am

Feria

Wednesday

9.00am

St Anthony

Thursday

7.00pm

Feria

Friday

10.00am

Feria

Saturday

5.30pm

Our Lady

Dr Phyllis de Netto & Family

Sunday

9.30am

11.00am

5.30pm

Third Sunday

Pro Populo

Denis & Pat Ferdinando

Canon Gerald Coates 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:

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Email Addresses:

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Planned Giving

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