



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

First Sunday  
of Lent

Sunday 18th  
February 2018

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Mass Book: Page 149

## God Changes Lives

The season of Lent is traditionally one given over to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We turn to the Lord in prayer, turn away from our selfishness by practising self-denial and turn towards our neighbour in charity. It is good for our Lenten resolutions to reflect these three key practices.

At the same time, we should not forget that rather than being about what we do for God, Lent is primarily about what God will do for us. It is a season of grace culminating in the annual commemoration of Christ's saving death and resurrection.

The grace of Lent is a grace of conversion and it can affect us in many different ways. Lent is a time many people are inspired to return to confession and allow God to remove from their shoulders the

burden of sin. It is also a time when some people become aware that Christian life involves living in a life-changing relationship with God and consciously begin a journey of discipleship.

Can God really act in our lives today? I met last year a man whose life had been wrecked by alcohol. Widowed, he lived with his daughter and her family but his presence was a great strain on them. No one in the family went to Church. Through a friend he was invited to attend an Alpha course. He agreed because it got him out of the home and he had nothing else to do. That course totally changed his life. He received the gift of faith, was reconciled with the Church and started attending Mass. He also broke free from his craving for alcohol. But the story doesn't

end there. His daughter was so amazed by the change in her father's behaviour that she signed up for the next Alpha and - without telling anyone - her two teenage children also impressed by their grandfather signed up for Youth Alpha. The whole family was transformed by God's grace. The oldest boy is now away at university with a sports scholarship and - guess what - he runs Alpha for his team-mates!

God can act if we give him a chance. He can sort out whatever mess we've made. He can replace darkness with light, despair with hope. Who knows what will trigger that new encounter with God for you this Lent? It may be the Bible Weekend, or a Lent Study Group, or it may simply be a good confession.

## *Gallup Survey*

Have you responded to the Gallup "Membership Engagement" Survey (ME25)? You can complete a paper version or access it online (but please do not use a mobile device as all the options will not be available).

The online version is available here:

[my.gallupfaith.com/  
elizabeththames\\_TW106A](https://my.gallupfaith.com/elizabeththames_TW106A)  
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You will need the following (case sensitive) access code: DCA0616.

The survey was originally devised in the United States so some unpacking is required. Questions D1 and D7 are financial. If you fill the document in online treat the dollar sign (\$) as a pound sign (£) instead. D6 asks about educational background. For "high school graduate" read "A-Levels" and for "college" read "university". The demographic (D) questions enable Gallup weight the results so that we are compared with parishes of a similar socio-economic make up.

## *Bible Weekend*

### **Friday 16th March**

7.00pm Evening Mass followed by a presentation from the Catholic Bible School.

### **Saturday 17th March**

- 8.30am Men's Breakfast with input
- 10.30am Play & Pray (for parents and children up to 7 years old)
- 11.30am Workshop: "Achieving Bible Confidence: the ABC of Scripture"
- 1.00pm Shared Lunch
- 2.30pm Lectio Divina (praying with scripture)
- 3.30pm Workshop: "The Story of Salvation: a whistle-stop tour through the Bible"
- 5.30pm Evening Mass
- 6.30pm Evening Meal & Presentation on Parable of the Sower

### **Sunday 18th March**

1.00pm Pot-Luck Shared Meal with a special emphasis on families and stepping out in faith.

To join us for the whole weekend please text "QN8F3 Bible" to 60777.

To join us for the Men's Breakfast please text "MensBreakfast" to 60777.

To join us for the Children's activity please text "PlayandPray" to 60777.

To join us for the Lectio Divine session please text "lectio" to 60777.

To join us only for an individual workshop please text "W1" or "W2" to 60777.

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## *Parish Life & News*

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### **Mary's Meals - TODAY**

Mary's Meals wants your unwanted clothing and bedding (no duvets or pillows, please) and will be at our Church on Sunday 18th February until no later than 11am to collect them. Put your clothing/ bedding into tied sacks and bring them to Mass for collection. Amazingly 4 full black sacks of good quality clothing will feed a child one good nutritious meal every school day for a year. Mary's Meals feeds children where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education.

### **IMPORTANT**

We have received notification that the Indigo House office complex in Holbrooke Place behind the Church has applied for planning permission to extend its office space by adding another floor. If this goes ahead the office block will overlook both the clergy home and the parish garden and remove all semblance of privacy. The garden is currently shielded from the existing building by a wall and a privacy screen both of which would become inadequate should another floor be added.

If the proposal goes ahead people in the office block would be able to take photographs of activities in the parish garden including any children who may be there. I am asking parishioners to write to Richmond Council as a matter of urgency to object to the proposal details of which can be found on the planning section of the council's website by searching for the postcode: TW10 6UD.

### **Women's World Day of Prayer**

This year's Women's World Day of Prayer will be celebrated in the chapel of St Francis at Hickey's Almshouses on Sheen Road, Richmond. The service has been prepared by the women of Suriname and the theme is "All God's creation is Very Good". The service starts at 2.30pm on Friday 2nd March. All welcome.

### **Catholic History Walk**

This Tuesday 20th February at 2pm, Scott will be leading a history walk around Chelsea, about St Thomas More - all welcome. Further details from the office.

### **Natural Fertility**

Natural fertility: An introduction. Friday 23rd February, 7.30pm, at St John the Baptist Church Hall, Purley. 48 Dale Road Purley, CR8 2EF. A free evening for anyone interested in finding out more about what natural fertility awareness is, how it fits into everyday life, and its potential to change an individual and a marriage. With separate presentations from a Billings-trained and NAPRO-trained practitioner. For couples, parents, grandparents, priests, single people: come and build up your knowledge. Contact [learnbillings@gmail.com](mailto:learnbillings@gmail.com) for more information.

### **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.

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## Thank You

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Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

<b>Gift Aid</b>	£171.50
<b>Not Gift Aid</b>	£646.63
<b>Total</b>	£818.13

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	79
Sun. 9.30am	123
Sun. 11.00am	114
Sun. 5.30pm	86
<b>Total:</b>	<b>402</b>

## Social Media

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



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

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## Mass Intentions this Week

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### This Week

#### Saturday

5.30pm

#### First Sunday of Lent

David Arch

#### Sunday

9.30am

Pierina Harwood & Eda Sanderson

11.00am

*Pro Populo*

5.30pm

Francesco Signorini

#### Monday

9.00am

#### **Feria (Lent)**

Jules Delanghe RIP

#### Tuesday

9.00am

#### **Feria (Lent)**

Special Intention

#### Wednesday

9.00am

#### **Feria (Lent)**

Donor's Intention

#### Thursday

7.00pm

#### **The Chair of St Peter**

Mary Comerford RIP

#### Friday

10.00am

#### **Feria (Lent)**

Holy Souls

7.00pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

#### Saturday

5.30pm

#### **Feria (Lent)**

Dora Gill RIP

#### Sunday

9.30am

#### **Second Sunday of Lent**

Mervin Phelan RIP

11.00am

*Pro Populo*

5.30pm

Victims of the Holocaust RIP

### Please Pray For:

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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)