



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Second Sunday
of Lent

Sunday 25th
February 2018

Mass Book: Page 151

Update on the Night Shelter

Regular parishioners at St Elizabeth's will be aware that we are taking part in a scheme with the Vineyard Life Church next door and some other local Christian communities to offer overnight accommodation to the homeless during the winter months. Every Monday night we have twenty or so guests sleeping in the crypt. We welcome them with a three course meal and we sit with them as they eat. A few of our guests probably have some mental health issues, most of them have just fallen on hard times. Once you are on the streets it can be difficult to find pathways back into society. Last Monday I spoke with some of the homeless who came and was impressed by how grateful they were for the warmth of welcome

and the dignified way they have been received in our parish. One of the younger guests, on the streets for a couple of weeks, said this was her lifeline as she tries to find a job. I also spoke with the coordinator from the charity behind the project who said she was impressed by the number of volunteers and by the fact they were of all ages and that they really treated the homeless with dignity.

Our Night Shelter is very much a drop in the ocean of homelessness but it is a significant one for those who would otherwise be on the streets. I would like to suggest, however, that it offers more than food and accommodation to the marginalised in our society. Mother Theresa of Calcutta used to say that when students from

all over the world came to help with her homes in India they went home discovering that they had themselves been helped in ways they had never expected. Caring for the homeless can take us out of our comfort zone. It can also open our eyes to the reality of suffering and make us realise that dignity lies not in personal affluence but in our common humanity. It is also a response to our faith: "in so far as you did this to the least of these, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40).

The Lenten concept of repentance (*metanoia*) refers to our lives changing as we turn away from sin and back to God and our neighbour. At St Elizabeth's lives are being changed in sometimes quite dramatic ways. Let us thank God for that.

Parish Life & News

LifeTeen

After a successful first term of Lifeteen in our parish we are keen to see this ministry grow. The team are travelling to the European LifeTeen training in Montserrat on Friday 2nd March and we are planning a special event to welcome new members to LifeTeen on **Sunday 11th March at 4pm** in the crypt!

We look forward to welcoming back the wonderful young people we have been working with. If you are a teenager in our parish we would like to extend an invitation to join us, we would love to see you there!

Edge

Do you have a heart for young people? We are planning to start a group for 9-12 year olds in the parish but we need volunteers to help. To be successful we need a core team of volunteers who can be there every week and a much wider team of helpers and associates who could help out when needed. Please let us know if this interests you.

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.

Parish Life & News

Gallup ME25 Survey

Thank you to all those who took part in the Gallup Survey which closes this weekend. If you have not yet returned a form please do so today. We will have the results next week.

No Mass on Friday

Next week Fr Stephen and the LifeTeen core group will be at a training weekend in Barcelona. They leave early on Friday morning and there won't be a Mass here that day. Fr Dominic Allain has kindly agreed to celebrate our weekend Masses.

Mary's Meals

Thank you to everyone who brought in unwanted clothing or contributed to Mary's Meals. The 275kg of clothes, and cash donations, mean that Mary's Meals will be able to feed 32 children a good nutritious meal every school day for a year, enabling them to get an education.

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.

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.

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. 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 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.

Natural Fertility Matters

For more information about natural ways to achieve or space out pregnancy please visit www.naturalfertilitymatters.com or call Freda McMahan 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. If you get a chance this week please check to make sure your details are up to date.

Thank You

Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

Gift Aid	£152.50
Not Gift Aid	£702.46
Total	£854.96

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

Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5.30pm	100
Sun. 9.30am	112
Sun. 11.00am	106
Sun. 5.30pm	93
Total:	411

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

This Week

Saturday

5.30pm

Second Sunday of Lent

Dora Gill RIP

Sunday

9.30am

Mervin Phelan RIP

11.00am

Pro Populo

5.30pm

Victims of the Holocaust RIP

Monday

9.00am

Feria (Lent)

Margaret Alp RIP

Tuesday

9.00am

Feria (Lent)

Holy Souls

Wednesday

9.00am

Feria (Lent)

Holy Souls

Thursday

7.00pm

St David

Elizabeth Doughty

Friday

7.00pm

Feria (Lent)

No Mass Today

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Saturday

5.30pm

Feria (Lent)

Holy Souls

Sunday

9.30am

Third Sunday of Lent

Pro Populo

11.00am

Fr George Barrett

5.30pm

Rafal Boron (Int.)

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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Planned Giving

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