



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Fourth Sunday
of Lent

Sunday 11th
March 2018

Mass Book: Page 162

Alpha Alert...

Our next season of Alpha in the parish begins on Tuesday 17th April and there is lots that you can do to make it a success. More of that in a minute, first of all I want to address the concern some parishioners have voiced that Alpha is “not Catholic”. Alpha offers a basic presentation of the Christian faith. It doesn't delve into doctrinal issues because it is not a course of catechesis. If I thought Alpha was in any way detrimental to our Catholic faith we would most certainly not be using it in the parish. On the next page of the newsletter you can read some testimonies to see how Alpha at St Elizabeth's has helped people in their journey of faith.

So how can you help? First of all, we need someone to take on an

administrative role to help us coordinate and develop Alpha in the parish. It is not an onerous task, probably not more than an hour a week. It would be ideal for someone with administrative or project management skills. Please see Fr Stephen if you think you could help with this.

Secondly we need to get the word out and invite people to Alpha. We encourage our own parishioners to sign up for the eleven week course. You can do this by clicking the link on the parish website, signing up on ChurchSuite, or by texting “QN8F3 Alpha” to 60777.

We would also like to reach out through you to your religious and non-religious friends and acquaintances. I know that does not come easily to many of us so

here's a very specific thing we can do. As you go home from Mass today think about four people who mean enough to you that you would like them to have the joy of coming to a relationship with God. Write their names down and pray for them every day this week. Take some of the Alpha postcards from the back of the Church so that, having prayed for them for a week, you can visit them, explain that we are offering Alpha and that you wondered if they might be interested. You can leave a card with them. Keep praying for them and try to be in contact the following week when you could give an application form to those interested. You could even sign up to do Alpha with them.

Fr Stephen

Why is Alpha such a big deal in our parish?

It is a question I've been asked many times. Here are my answers:

1. Currently 90% of people baptised as Catholics lapse from the faith. No other organisation would haemorrhage members at such a rate without asking whether it had to try something new.
2. The vast majority of people approaching me for sacraments (baptism, marriage, Communion, confirmation) do not practise the faith. Many of them cannot articulate the basic tenets of the Christian faith. What are we doing to help them?
3. It is perfectly possible to "know the faith" and not realised that we are called to a relationship with God which is strengthened by prayer and Sacramental grace.
4. Alpha works. Have a look at some of the testimonies below.

"I have been a Catholic all my life but over the last 10 to 15 years drifted away from the faith; personal challenges and becoming increasingly cynical, particularly as a solicitor seeing life through the prism of business and money, I was beginning to forget the true me and what I and my faith really stood for. I chose Alpha because I wanted to re-visit all the questions I kept asking myself - was God really there for me?; How could I speak to Him and was He listening? More importantly does He speak to me? I wanted to challenge and be challenged. I wanted to meet other cynics who are also on a journey.

In the setting of Alpha at St Elizabeth's and meeting some truly lovely and wonderful people who were asking the same questions and with the same level of cynicism I have gone a long way to rediscovering me and my faith. Still a ways to go but I am on my way...". [Nick]

"As a new parishioner, I was invited to attend an Alpha course. I thought "What a warm welcome to the parish!" It has been so much more. The course has given me a closer, more personal, relationship with our Faith. I invite you, whether you're new to the parish or not, younger or older, to attend a course. You've everything to gain!" [Linda]

"Being born in a Catholic country, and raised by a Catholic family made me take my own beliefs for granted. I never thought what being Catholic really means, because not being one was never an option. Alpha has proven to be a great and fulfilling experience where I got to understand not just my faith but also myself. It's given me a brand new perspective and although I know there's still a lot to work on, Alpha was definitely a great first step in the right direction. An amazing initiative that has really helped me out for which I can only be grateful". [Inés]

Parish Life & News

Thank You

To our parishioners who contacted Richmond Planning to object to the proposed extension to Indigo House which would overlook the parish garden. If you haven't yet lodged an objection you can still do so on Richmond Council's website.

Parish Surgery

There will be parish surgery this week on Monday evening from 6.30pm until 8.00pm. No surgery next week as we have a parish Finance Committee meeting. Parish Surgery is the time to see me about weddings and baptisms without needing an appointment.

Flowers for Easter

Next Sunday there will be a second collection to decorate the Church for Easter.

Easter Offering

The collection at Christmas and on Easter Sunday are your gift to the clergy of your parish. In this diocese the priests do not receive a wage and rely on your generosity. The parish can claim Gift Aid on any donations you make and Easter Offering envelopes are available for this purpose.

Bible Weekend

We've decided to allow everyone to enjoy St Patrick's feast and the rugby next week and have postponed the Bible Weekend until the end of June! Watch out for more details. It will be a great weekend.

Stations of the Cross

During Lent we have Stations of the Cross in the Church on Fridays at 7.00pm.

Catholic Women's League

The Catholic Women's League will meet in the crypt on Thursday, March 15th from 19.30 to 21.30. In March we begin our meeting with the Stations of the Cross. We shall also discuss our cake stall at the May Fair, and our pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral in June. Visitors welcome.

Evangelisation Intern

St Patrick's, Soho is recruiting an evangelisation intern to work with them full time for a year. Details available from their website.

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. Please feel free to contact the group if you, or anyone you know, needs a bit of practical help. This may include help with shopping, lifts to the Church and that sort of thing.

Natural Fertility Matters

For more information about natural ways to achieve or space out pregnancy please visit www.naturalfertilitymatters.com or call Freda McMahon on 07887 676 923 for a free and confidential consultation.

New Parishioners Party

Our next party to welcome new parishioners will be on Monday 11th June. We invite our new parishioners to complete a 'welcome card' from the back of the Church.

Thank You

Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

Gift Aid	£276.50
Not Gift Aid	£1,069.49
Total	£1,345.99

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	89
Sun. 9.30am	188
Sun. 11.00am	118
Sun. 5.30pm	116
Total:	511

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

This Week

Saturday
5.30pm

Fourth Sunday of Lent
Marie & Raymond Toal &
Family

Sunday
9.30am
11.00am
5.30pm

Andrzej Duch RIP
Janet Evans RIP
Pro Populo

Monday
9.00am

Feria (Lent)
Donor's Intention

Tuesday
9.00am

Feria (Lent)
Mr & Mrs Sean Wilkinson (Int.)

Wednesday
9.00am

Feria (Lent)
Holy Souls

Thursday
7.00pm

Feria (Lent)
Holy Souls

Friday
10.00am
7.00pm

Feria (Lent)
Tom & Jo Bryan, Julie Lambert
STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Saturday
5.30pm

St Patrick
Ben Horgan

Sunday
9.30am
11.00am
5.30pm

Fifth Sunday of Lent
Donor's Intention
Anne Bugey RIP
Pro Populo

Please Pray For:

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

Parish Contact Details:

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Planned Giving

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