



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Fifteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Sunday 15th
July 2018

Mass Book: Page 106

Summer Masses...

You may have noticed that in recent months we have been keeping a record of attendance at each of our Sunday Masses. Monitoring Mass attendance can be useful in all sorts of ways and can help us notice underlying trends. It can also ensure that any future decisions are evidence based.

Term ended a little while ago for our local independent schools. As people go on holiday we notice a substantial decline in our Mass numbers. Last week, for example, there were only 346 people at Mass here compared to just shy of 500 at the end of June. This week the state schools, including St Elizabeth's, end their term and so we can expect a further fall in numbers next Sunday, although perhaps not quite as dramatic.

This annual decline is somewhat offset by summer visitors and by the fact that we tend to relax the norm of only offering baptisms once a month during our 11.00am Mass. Even so, our church has a capacity of 202 people and the question arises whether it makes sense to continue with four Masses every Sunday during the summer period. Last Sunday, for example, we could have fitted our whole congregation into two Masses and still have had spare capacity.

Apart from numbers, an important consideration concerns the quality of the liturgical experience we offer people when they come to Mass. It is hard to sing or respond well to the prayers of the Mass when we are scattered thinly across the building. A church that is more than half

empty can also be a counter-sign. It suggests a community in decline. When that is the experience people are put off coming back. Who wants to join a dying parish?

So it may be that next year, once we have had a chance to review the evidence, that we will introduce a 'summer timetable' in the parish.

Leaving that aside for now, the evidence suggests that, to ensure the parish's future, we need to continue growing as a parish. I would suggest that we need to see a 50% increase in our regular Mass attendance over the next few years. To achieve that we need to reach out to more and more people and offer them an experience of the faith, for example through Alpha. Who will you encourage to join our parish?

Parish Life & News

Notices

Busy Lizzies

Busy Lizzies will round off a successful term this Sunday 15 July as we meet for our final session. We look forward to welcoming some new faces when we resume on Sunday 9 September during the 9:30 am Mass. Any child age 2-5 is eligible to register for the creche. For more info, please email: Christine at:

children@stelizabethschurch.org.uk .

We would love to further develop our strong team of volunteers so please consider whether this might be a good way for you to serve in the parish and feel free to get in touch for a chat about the role.

New Email Addresses

The Archdiocese has decided that to comply with GDPR it needs to keep a copy of every email sent or received by the parish. To this end it will be rolling out a series of new email addresses which will end with the somewhat unfortunate suffix @rcaos.org. As we were only sent the details this week, and the transition involves quite a lot of extra work, I don't plan rolling out the new addresses until next term.

On the bright side, knowledge that every email sent to the parish will end up on a server somewhere might encourage us to send fewer!

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

New Course

for parents with children between 4 & 7 years of age

After the two previous family courses here, we are offering another Family Development course in our parish. This time it will serve parents of children aged 4 to 7 and will start in autumn. The topics will cover: parenting, character, temperaments, authority and discipline, play, free time and technology as well as lots of other practical and developmental questions. The course material is based on short, fictional but realistic scenarios, and the fun but thought-provoking approach of Harvard's case-study method.

There will be a 1 hr TASTER SESSION on 6th October 2017 at 6.30pm in the Crypt and we would like to invite all parents with children in that age group to come and see for themselves.

The course will then start in November consisting of monthly 1.5 hr sessions on a Saturday afternoon.

More info: <http://familydevelopment.org.uk/> (UK registered charity) or 07840182866 (Maria).

Parish Life & News

Welcome to Fr Jonathan Flood

We welcome Fr Jonathan back to the parish this weekend. Fr Jonathan will be looking after the parish while Fr Stephen is away. Fr Stephen leaves this week for an annual in-service training course after which he will be back for a few days before taking a week's holiday.

Parish Surgery

There is no parish surgery this week as Fr Stephen is away.

CWL Meeting

The Catholic Women's League have their monthly meeting on Thursday, July 19th in the crypt at 19.30. Our guest speaker will be Ms Claire Warner who will speak about her career in the theatre. Visitors welcome.

Richmond Street Pastors

Serving your community, living your faith on the streets... We are a team of multi-denominational Christians who serve the Richmond borough each

week, both in the night time as well as supporting major events in Twickenham. We listen, care and help people when they are at their most vulnerable - young and old. You too could join the Team of Street Pastors in Richmond - to find out how email richmond@streetpastors.org.uk or call Jennifer on 07510 115986.

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.

Coffee Bar

The Coffee Bar after the 9.30 Mass on Sundays would welcome new volunteers. At present six teams work on a rota system. The more the merrier. Contact: Aline Cook on alinejcook@hotmail.com

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

From 18-23 July, the Upper Crypt will be transformed into a sacred space where those receiving part 2 of the training begun last summer, in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, will gather to listen to the Word of God, to pray, and to work on making materials to offer to young children. Any parishioner who would like to join us for a morning or afternoon, to have an experience of how this catechesis works and to get a sense of its potential for helping children to have an encounter with God, would be most welcome. Please contact Christine Byrne at christinedeigratia@gmail.com or on 07799 290038 if you would like to join us for a session.

For one participant who came last year, the course was 'a fantastic experience...of being personally touched by many of the presentations...and helped to deepen my understanding and love of children'.

Thank You

Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

Gift Aid	£188.60
Not Gift Aid	£545.12
Total	£733.72

Last week's second collection for the Apostleship of the Sea came to £329.53: thank you.

Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5.30pm	75
Sun. 9.30am	111
Sun. 11.00am	82
Sun. 5.30pm	78
Total:	346

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

This Week

Saturday

5.30pm

Sunday

9.30am

11.00am

5.30pm

Monday

9.00am

Tuesday

9.00am

Wednesday

9.00am

Thursday

7.00pm

Friday

10.00am

Saturday

5.30pm

Sunday

9.30am

11.00am

5.30pm

Fifteenth Sunday

Fr Michael Clifton RIP

Fr Sean Hearty RIP

Pro Populo

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Fr Michael Clifton RIP

Feria

Martha Smyth RIP

Feria

Colman & Maura O'Mahony

Feria

Fr Michael Clifton RIP

Feria

Leonard & Ethelreda Brewer

Our Lady

Fr Michael Clifton RIP

Sixteenth Sunday

Richmond Catholics

Bishop Peter Doyle's Jubilee

Pro Populo

Please Pray For:

Fr Philip Matthias, Christopher Browne, Philomena Dunne, Gaye Delanghe, Ben Horgan, Ella Dale, Stella Richards, Anne Wilkinson, Peter Connor.

Parish Contact Details:

St Elizabeth of Portugal
The Vineyard,
Richmond,
TW10 6AQ

Tel. 020 8940 2439

Email Addresses:

Parish Office:

office@stelizabethschurch.org.uk

Planned Giving

giftaid@stelizabethschurch.org.uk