



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Fourteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Sunday 8th
July 2018

Mass Book: Page 103

Our Parish Celebration

I'd like to thank everyone who organised and took care of our parish feast day on Wednesday. It was wonderful to see so many parishioners present and enjoying themselves afterwards in the parish garden. The social committee once again pulled out all the stops and lots of people stepped up to make everything really fun and enjoyable. I'm also grateful to Jon Booth our parish organist for finding an obscure hymn to St Elizabeth and to Stephen Bick for writing a tune for a difficult metre!

A slight shadow over the proceedings was that I had come down with flu-like symptoms after the morning school Mass and spent the rest of the day in bed fluctuating between the shivers and sweating profusely. I

was in the latter stage when I got up to say the festal Mass (probably the better of the two). After the Mass I went back to bed and so missed all the fun. I spent most of Thursday in bed. Fortunately, writing this on Friday morning I don't feel quite so washed out!

In my sermon on Wednesday I spoke not so much about St Elizabeth of Portugal but about Elizabeth Doughty who built our church at her own expense and gave it its dedication. The cost to her was far more than the financial underwriting of the building. She did so at a time when there were still no Catholic bishops in England and Wales and the riots and public opposition to their return twenty-five years later gives some insight into how her generosity

would have been considered by the members of her own social class. The fact that she also endowed a number of almshouses in Richmond almost certainly did little to reduce the hostility she would have encountered.

So my question was what can we do to honour her memory. Obviously we have to care for and preserve the beautiful church she has left us and we have a team of architects working on repairs and a scheme for redecoration. More importantly we can honour her by working to grow as a parish community. The target I suggested was an annual increase of 10%. We can achieve this if we all work to increase our numbers by inviting friends to things we offer in the parish especially Alpha.

Parish Life & News

Renewing our Sacramental Ministry: Baptism

The Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks of the need to evangelise those who seek to receive the sacraments: “the sacramental mission is implied in the mission to evangelise, because the sacrament is prepared for by the *word of God and by the faith* which is assent to this word”. “The preaching of the Word is required for the sacramental ministry itself, since the sacraments are sacraments of faith...” (CCC Paragraph 1122). Baptism is a sacrament of faith and is given in response to the lived faith of a

child’s parents and god-parents. These days many people, especially if they haven’t had much formation in the faith, do not realise the Church has any expectations of them when they seek baptism for their children. So the question becomes how do we best help them understand what is required of them? How do we offer them a chance, they may never before have had, to explore the Christian faith and come to a decision as to whether or not they want to follow it? I’d be happy to hear your suggestions...

"Understanding Sex and Gender"

A Conference for Catholic Educators

13-14 July 2018, St. Mary's Twickenham

Are you involved in education and in need of some help to understand the issues - moral and psychological - around questions concerning sex and gender identity? Are you a journalist experiencing first hand a bias towards a particular agenda and an unwillingness to allow discussion of wider issues? Are you in the medical profession and called upon to make life changing decisions for children, adolescents and adults?

In order to support those faced with these questions, the **Humanum Institute** is offering a two-day, multi-disciplinary conference on the topic of sex and gender. We will have experts from the fields of philosophy, psychology, spirituality, law, and others to help us gain insight into the Catholic perspective on this challenging topic. The conference is open to teachers, clergy, chaplains, parents, catechists, and anyone in a relevant role who is interested in learning more. Educators in Catholic schools will especially benefit from a 90 minute workshop with specialist lawyers who will explain the current legal landscape surrounding these issues, as well as answer questions about specific situations for faith schools.

Friday’s Keynote Address, “Sexuality, Discipleship, and Evangelisation: *Humanae Vitae* 50 Years Later” is free and open to the public. Speaker Fr. Anthony Doe, is a well-respected and experienced psychotherapist and priest.

RSVP at www.sexandgender2018.com

Parish Life & News

Becoming a Catholic

Looking ahead to next year, it would be very helpful to know how many of our parishioners have questions about becoming a Catholic. Sometimes it is possible to link people with an individual to help them explore the faith and sometimes it makes sense to have a small group exploring the faith together. Let me know if interested.

School References

Holidays have already begun for some local schools and so we will not be registering Mass attendance for the purpose of school references until September. In September we are planning to introduce a more personalised system whereby someone will log your attendance using ChurchSuite. For this you will need either to have ChurchSuite activated on your phone or to use a printed card which we can make available to you. We keep a record of attendance for three years not only in

order to provide school references but also to be able to demonstrate to admissions authorities that our references are accurate.

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

Fr Jonathon Flood

Next weekend we welcome Fr Jonathon Flood back to our parish.

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	£280.50
Not Gift Aid	£742.64
Total	£1,023.14

Collection for Peter's Pence: £111.55. Particular thanks for your support for Christian and his project with NET ministries: £742.64. Today's Second collection is for the Apostleship of the Sea.

Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5.30pm	80
Sun. 9.30am	152
Sun. 11.00am	114
Sun. 5.30pm	97
Total:	443

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk



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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

Fourteenth Sunday

Fr Michael Clifton

Lani Vera Japlit RIP

Fr John Pearson RIP

Pro Populo

Feria

Fr David Maskell RIP

Feria

Declan McHale

St Benedict

Peter McCormack RIP

Feria

Fr Michael Clifton RIP

Feria

Fr Michael Clifton RIP

Our Lady

Fr Michael Clifton RIP

Fifteenth Sunday

Fr Sean Hearty RIP

Pro Populo

Please Pray For:

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

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Planned Giving

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