



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Twenty-Fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Sunday 16th
September 2018

Mass Book: Page 132

First Holy Communion

Over the last few months we have reflected on the meaning and purpose of the sacraments given by Christ to enable us to grow in our relationship with him as his disciples in the world. They are not rites of passage attached to specific year groups at school and have no meaning outside of the context of a lived faith.

Like many priests I have been unhappy with preparation for the sacraments taking place outside of the context of faith within the family. After all, the church teaches that parents are the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith. I suspect that it is because we lack confidence in parents - and so encourage them to lack confidence in themselves - that in most places we opt for the sausage factory

approach to preparation for the sacraments whereby every child receives them on a specific day irrespective of whether or not they have the right internal dispositions.

To continue in that way is to perpetuate a disservice to children and their families. Parents do have what it takes to be the primary educators of their children in the ways of faith. The role of the parish is to assist them in that task.

In our parish, therefore, we are adopting a new model of family-based catechesis called "Family of Faith". I am very confident that, once people have gotten over the change in approach, everyone will experience "Family of Faith" as a more fruitful approach to fostering the faith within family life.

I have set aside two evenings to explain to parents why we are changing. We invite parents with children in year three and above to come to a meeting in the crypt on either Wednesday 26th September or Wednesday 3rd October.

If, after attending one of these evenings, you decide the time is right for your family, there will be an information evening on the process on Wednesday 10th October. All meetings at 8.00pm.

So, just to be clear: if you have a child in year 3 or above and would like them to prepare for First Communion either this year or next, you initially need to come on either 25th September or 3rd October. This is the case irrespective of the school your child attends.

Fr Stephen

What do people say about Alpha?

The other day when I invited someone to Alpha the response was basically 'No way!'. But he then showed that what he was rejecting was some impression he'd picked up rather than the real thing. So I thought it might be good to share some experiences of Alpha from real people who have experienced it here in the parish. I'm grateful to those who sent in written testimonies and also to those who have agreed to speak at Mass.

Here are two recent accounts:

"Encouraged by a parish friend and Father's enthusiasm, I decided to make this a priority over late nights in the City. It was well worth it and I would recommend it to anybody: it helped me rekindle my faith through discussions with people bringing different experiences and perspectives culminating in an amazing retreat at

Worth Abbey. It also resulted in building friendships having a ripple effect within the St Elizabeth community and beyond."

"I'd been thinking of doing Alpha for a while after several people had told me how brilliant it was. As a young adult who'd drifted away from Christianity during my years at university, I was keen to reconnect with my faith and get to know more people in the Parish. The Alpha course surpassed all my expectations, offering me the opportunity to explore "the big questions" in a non-judgemental environment, meet some truly lovely people and eat incredible food! I would wholeheartedly encourage anyone, even if you are only vaguely thinking about it, to go along to the introductory session- you have nothing to lose and so much to gain!"

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> or 07840182866 (Maria).

Parish Life & News

Parish Surgery

I will be available in the parish office on Tuesday evening this week from 6.00pm until 8.00pm for any parishioners who would like to see me without needing an appointment. Please wait in the church.

Scott Coleman

Scot left for seminary on Thursday morning. It would be good to show our appreciation for the work he did here and to support him as he prepares for the priesthood and there will be a collection after Mass next Sunday. If you pay tax and want to gift aid your donation please use the envelopes provided.

Homeless Lunch

A special word of thanks to all the helpers and cooks at our homeless lunch last Sunday. We fed forty-eight guests, our largest number so far!

Catholic Women's League

The Catholic Women's League is back in action after the summer. Anyone interested in making new friends, please join us in the crypt on Thursday, September 20th at 19.15 for a nice cup of tea followed by our monthly meeting.

Winter Night Shelter

This year we would like to extend our winter Nightshelter for the homeless to cover the 22 weeks from 5th November to 7th April. We would again cover Monday nights from 6.30pm - 10 pm. There will be a meeting for parishioners willing to commit to the scheme at 7.30pm on Monday 17th September in the crypt.

You can sign up through MyChurchSuite or by clicking on the event on the calendar page of the parish website.

Alpha Day

Sometimes parishioners ask why we run Alpha. On Saturday 22nd September we have a training day with a morning session dedicated to why we run Alpha in the parish. If you would like to come to learn more about Alpha in our parish please email the parish office. Places are limited.

Welcoming Works!

I thought I'd share this email with you: *"I decided to go to the Mass for Fr Philip Mathias, but was a few minutes late for the start of the Mass. I felt a bit ashamed arriving late and when I arrived at the church I could see it was quite full. I noticed the volunteers there with their red lanyards round their necks. I really thought I was going to get a long face, sort of reprimanding me for arriving late on such an important occasion. I really did! And was so impressed and pleasantly surprised, when several volunteers came up to me, with smiles on their faces, handing me the brochure for the Requiem Mass".*

St Elizabeth's Nursery

St Elizabeth's Nursery still has a few spaces left for this academic year. Situated within the grounds of St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School on the borders of Richmond Park, we have an "Outstanding" Ofsted. If you are interested in a place and your child is 3 years of age, please call 0208 940 9141.

Thank You

Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

Gift Aid	£142.00
Not Gift Aid	£792.99
Total	£934.99

Today there is a second collection for the Bishop's work of evangelisation in our country. Next week there is a second collection to support and show our appreciation to Scott Coleman.

Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5.30pm	107
Sun. 9.30am	147
Sun. 11.00am	89
Sun. 5.30pm	147
Total:	490

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

This Week

Saturday
5.30pm

Twenty-Fourth Sunday
David William Kerrigan RIP

Sunday
9.30am
11.00am
5.30pm

Pro Populo
Dennis Ferdinando RIP

Monday
9.00am

St. Robert Bellarmine
Lani Vera Japlit RIP

Tuesday
9.00am

St. Edith of Kemsing
Fr Michael Clifton RIP

Wednesday
10.00am

St. Theodore of Canterbury
Requiem Mass for
Jean Reilly RIP

Thursday
7.00pm

St Andrew Kim Tae-gon
Fr Michael Clifton RIP

Friday
10.00am

St Matthew Apostle
John Roderick Seagrave

Saturday
5.30pm

Twenty-Fifth Sunday
Teresa Salmon RIP

Sunday
9.30am
11.00am
5.30pm

Pro Populo
Ava Beorsley & Family

Please Pray For:

Miia Beorsley, Christopher Browne, Gaye Delanghe, Ben Horgan, Ella Dale, Stella Richards, Anne Wilkinson, Peter Connor.

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Planned Giving

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