



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Twenty-Ninth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Sunday 21st
October 2018

Mass Book: Page 146

How do we compare?

With half term already upon us I know that many of you will have an opportunity to attend Mass in other parishes. I wonder what the experience will be like and whether there will be any tips or ideas you can bring back to us here at St. Elizabeth's.

What sort of recognition or welcome did you receive as a visitor? How did it make you feel?

Taking the overall experience into account, who would you say were the main focus of the parish you visit - the resident congregation or the outsiders? How do you know?

Was there anything special that would make you want to go back again?

Again, taking the overall experience into account, what might we improve here at St Elizabeth's, and what aspects of

parish life here might we now appreciate more?

We often say that our parish purpose is to "raise up intentional disciples who joyfully live out the mission of Jesus Christ". The way to achieve it is for us to be both continuously looking for ways to improve and for us all to work together to bring about that improvement. We can't leave it to someone else.

A parish that is focused on catering to the whims of its own parishioners is going to slowly asphyxiate itself. And it won't be a happy death because you can't give everyone what they want and indeed nor should you. The mission of the church is to create disciples not consumers. A consumer wants things on their own terms and resents any inconvenience. A consumer is likely to be

vocal in his or her opposition to change that doesn't suit them. A disciple, on the other hand, embraces sacrifice in order to remain focused on Christ. A disciple is therefore Christ-centred, grateful and filled with an inner peace and joy. A disciple wants others to come to share in Christ's love and is willing to work to make that a reality.

Many people visit our church each week. Often they are looking for acceptance and a place of welcome. Sometimes they yearn for personal recognition and a home within a joyful community. They also respond to beauty and goodness. If they find those things they will develop a positive association with the Church which is the first step towards personal conversion.

Parish Life & News

Fr Stephen

I'm sure you will be pleased to know that Fr Stephen's surgery went well on Monday although there was an unexpected complication with the anaesthetic which left him requiring oxygen overnight and still breathless during the day. He has now gone away to convalesce and is staying with friends until the end of the month.

We are grateful to Fr Peter Geldard who is covering the Masses this weekend and to Fr Geoffrey Smith who will be here next week.

New Parishioners Party

I would like to invite all our new parishioners to a special reception at 8.00pm on Monday 29th October. At St Elizabeth's getting to know our new parishioners and putting people in contact with each other is an important part of our parish life because for us hospitality is a core value.

If you have not yet attended a New Parishioners Party please join us for the next one. It really is a great introduction to the parish. As always, you can let us know that you are coming by clicking the link on the parish calendar which is to be found on our website: www.stelizabethschurch.org.uk.

Mission Sunday

MISSIO: formerly the Association for the Propagation of the Faith

At every Mass this Mission Sunday weekend (October 20th/21st), Aline, your local MISSIO secretary will offer Red Boxes to Parishioners who wish to support missions across the world on a regular basis, collect any Red Box which has not been emptied since January and give out any autumn magazine which has not yet been distributed to members.

There is a second collection today for the work of Missio.

MISSIO is the Church's official organ for the support of the foreign missions. The collection taken on World Mission Sunday supports churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the church is new, young or poor. MISSIO works through local bishops, churches and missionary congregations to ensure that resources are distributed equitably and justly on the basis of need.

Parish Life & News

Parish Surgery

There is no parish surgery this week or next.

Annual Mass Count

Each year the parishes of England and Wales have to submit to the Bishop's Conference their Mass attendance numbers over a four week period. I'm really pleased to let you know that for the third consecutive year we have seen an increase in Mass attendance. Last year's average of 475 has increased to 488 (and would have been even higher had the weather not been so bad last weekend).

Winter Night Shelter

On Monday November 5th we will open our doors to the homeless of Richmond to provide them with a hot meal and a place to sleep. This project is being run in cooperation with other local Christian communities to provide overnight accommodation throughout the winter months. It is being overseen by a charity called Glassdoor who carry out a pre-assessment of the guests and provide security in each venue overnight. Glassdoor are also equipped to work with the homeless in order to find pathways back into society. I am grateful to all our parishioners who have volunteered to help with this venture.

TB Screening

I have invited the NHS mobile TB screening unit to the parish on Wednesday 21st November. The unit will set up in the space next to the Church and will be available until

midday to screen the homeless who wish to have that service.

October Rosary

Pope Francis has encouraged all Catholics to pray the Rosary daily during October along with the *Sub tuum praesidium* prayer and the prayer to St Michael. He asks that we pray these for the Church.

Mass Intentions

Please use the printed envelopes to request as Mass to be said for a specific intention. Please make sure that the details are legible. As someone blessed with illegible handwriting myself, I know that requires an effort, but it is important if you want the intention to be published correctly!

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.

Remembrance Sunday

On Remembrance Sunday at the 11.00am Mass our local branch of the Catholic Women's League will lay a special centenary wreath in the Lady Chapel which is our parish war memorial.

Altar Servers' Practice

There will be training for new Altar Servers on Saturday 10th November from 10.00am until 11.00am.

Thank You

Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

Gift Aid	£152.02
Not Gift Aid	£637.34
Total	£789.36

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	116
Sun. 9.30am	174
Sun. 11.00am	82
Sun. 5.30pm	97
Total:	469

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

This Week

Saturday
5.30pm

Twenty-Ninth Sunday
Julie Lambert RIP

Sunday
9.30am
11.00am
5.30pm

Pro Populo
Margaret & Chris Larkin
Fr. Phillip Mathias

Monday

St. John Paul II
No Mass Here Today*

Tuesday

St. John of Capistrano
No Mass Here Today*

Wednesday

St. Anthony Mary Claret
No Mass Here Today*

Thursday

Feria
No Mass Here Today*

Friday

Ss. Chad & Cedd
No Mass Here Today*

Saturday
5.30pm

Thirtieth Sunday
Holy Souls

Sunday
9.30am
11.00am
5.30pm

Pro Populo

* Fr Stephen will be away convalescing after surgery this week and there will be no Masses on weekdays.

Please Pray For:

Juliana Ditsche, Ava Borsley, Christopher Browne, Gaye Delanghe, Ben Horgan, Ella Dale, Stella Richards, Anne Wilkinson, Peter Connor.

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Planned Giving

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