



CATHOLIC PARISH OF  
**ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL**  
*Newsletter*

Twenty-Seventh Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Sunday 7th  
October 2018

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Mass Book: Page 140

## You can make a difference!

Last week in the newsletter I wrote about the different sorts of activities people can get involved with that really make a difference to people's experience of our parish. This week I am asking you to consider helping in areas where we need it most. They are all things with a direct impact on what people see and hear when they come to church. There is no second chance to make a first impression and so it is really important to get this right at St Elizabeth's.

One of the things you will have heard me say from time to time is that rather than having some people doing everything, I would prefer to have everyone doing something. With the newsletter today you will have received a leaflet that outlines some of the Sunday tasks we

need to cover. Each area of service, or ministry, can be covered by teams of people working on a rota. Some of them, like hospitality, can be broken down into smaller tasks. In other words, by signing up you are not giving your life away and nor are we asking you to commit yourself to something beyond your comfort zone.

Why is it important to get the 'human dimension' of our Sunday experience right? Well, first of all, because it is part of what we are offering God in our Sunday worship. When we visit friends we often bring some small gift as a token of our appreciation for their kindness towards us. Taking care of all the practical details of Sunday Mass and ensuring people are welcomed is a similar

principle. We are making an effort to show thanksgiving for God's goodness to us.

Another reason is if that we really want people to feel at home and to join our community we need to make them feel welcomed.

From time to time I invite people looking at the outside of the church to come in for a visit. Their response is nearly always the same: "Oh, is that ok? Are we allowed?" We shouldn't under-estimate how alien going into a church is for some people. So we need to make an effort to ensure that when they do take that step, they feel welcome and are put at ease. A gesture of kindness can go a long way to changing a person's heart.

Please volunteer if you can. You will be part of the difference we make.

## **School References**

If you need a reference for a Catholic school and have been registering your Mass attendance in the parish please come along to the parish surgery on Tuesday this week. The surgery takes place in the parish office but we ask you to wait your turn in the Church. Please do not come to the front door, particularly if you can see that I am with someone. Parish Surgery runs from 6.00pm until 8.00pm. This is also the time to book weddings and baptisms.

We remind parishioners seeking a school reference that we keep a three-year record of Mass attendance and that it is your responsibility to ensure you register every Sunday during term time.

## **Mass Attendance**

You may have noticed that we count the number of people at Mass each week. This helps us keep an accurate track of numbers and plan for the future. For example, during August we usually had fewer than 300 people at our four Masses. It would make sense, therefore, introduce a summer timetable and reduce the number of Masses that month.

Each year we have to send our Mass attendance numbers to the diocese for what is known as the 'annual Mass count'. The count is taken in all parishes across the country on the last two weeks of September and the first two weeks of October.

These days most parishes have a website with Mass times easily available and if you are going away it is always sensible to check before turning up at the Church. I am often surprised by the number of people who come here presuming the Mass times are the same as their home parish!

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and go to confession (cf. paragraph 1389).

## **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](http://www.stelizabethschurch.org.uk).

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## *Parish Life & News*

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### **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.

### **Mission Sunday**

At every Mass on Mission Sunday (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.

### **Helping Out**

We are trying to introduce a staged approach to asking for volunteers here in the parish. This will ensure we can give people support to get things running smoothly rather than starting lots of different things and not being able to manage them properly. So currently we are looking for help with our Sunday Masses because that is when we have the greatest impact on

the greatest number of people. Please help if you can. We ask you to complete the printed form and to let us have it back as soon as possible.

### **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!

### **Thank You**

I feel we have gotten off to a really good start this term. There is a great positive buzz in the parish. And having now completed three years here, I just wanted to say "Thank You" for everything you do for our parish.

### **Just so that you know...**

On Monday 15th October I have to go into hospital for an operation requiring a general anaesthetic. I know how tedious it can be when some people go on about their ailments so all I will say is that it is nothing cancerous or life-threatening! The surgeon has asked that I take two weeks off to convalesce. For the first few days I shall be here in the parish but unavailable to people and then I shall go to stay with some friends. Weekend Masses will continue as usual but there will be no weekday Masses in the parish during that period.

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## Thank You

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Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

<b>Gift Aid</b>	£243.50
<b>Not Gift Aid</b>	£691.96
<b>Total</b>	£935.46

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](mailto:giftaid@stelizabethschurch.org.uk)

### Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5.30pm	90
Sun. 9.30am	177
Sun. 11.00am	96
Sun. 5.30pm	137
<b>Total:</b>	<b>500</b>

## Social Media

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[stelizabethschurch.org.uk](http://stelizabethschurch.org.uk)



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

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## Mass Intentions this Week

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### This Week

**Saturday**  
5.30pm

**Twenty-Seventh Sunday**  
Holy Souls

**Sunday**  
9.30am  
11.00am  
5.30pm

*Pro Populo*  
Joan Bryan & Julie Lambert RIP  
Robert Castell Rice RIP

**Monday**  
9.00am

**Feria**  
Lani Vera Japlit

**Tuesday**  
9.00am

**Bl. John Henry Newman**  
Mr Enrique & Mrs Maria  
Quezada (40th Anniversary)

**Wednesday**  
9:00am

**Feria**  
Holy Souls

**Thursday**  
7.00pm

**Feria**  
Fr. Michael Clifton RIP

**Friday**  
10.00am

**St. Wilfrid**  
Fr. Michael Clifton RIP

**Saturday**  
5.30pm

**Twenty-Eighth Sunday**  
Holy Souls

**Sunday**  
9.30am  
11.00am  
5.30pm

*Pro Populo*  
Agostinho Goncalves RIP

### Please Pray For:

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Juliana Ditsche, Ava Borsley, Christopher Browne, 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](mailto:office@stelizabethschurch.org.uk)

#### Planned Giving

[giftaid@stelizabethschurch.org.uk](mailto:giftaid@stelizabethschurch.org.uk)