



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

Thirty-First Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>  
November 2018

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Mass Book: Page 152

## Coming Home for Christmas

A while ago someone wrote asking what we could do to encourage older people who had stopped attending Mass to come back. It is a real concern and has been on my mind a lot recently. People have many reasons for walking away from the Church some of them very understandable. But once they have gone it can be very hard to come back. All sorts of fears about being judged or made to feel unwelcome can go through their minds. The best way to overcome those fears is for us to be proactive about inviting people to come to Church with us. That is part of what we mean when we say that we aspire to be an "invitational community": one which invites.

At the same time we need to recognise that a return to the Church has

to begin with small steps and so as a parish we need to look at what we offer to make it easier for people to come home. Just inviting them to Mass can be too much some people. There needs to be other things that can establish a foundation of trust as a precursor to an eventual openness to look again at what Christ is offering us in the Church. For example, inviting someone to help at our winter night shelter builds trust by showing we value their help and that our Christianity continues to be lived in our service of the poor.

In time an openness to rediscovering the faith may mean that the next step should be an invitation to look again at the essential content of the Christian faith (the "kerygma"). For this we offer Alpha with a

new course starting next term.

Christmas is, of course, a special time for getting back to essentials and for coming home. It is preceded by the four weeks of Advent when we are called to 'prepare a way for the Lord'. And so it seems appropriate that we should make a special effort to reach out to the lapsed at this time and try to offer events where they will be comfortable and feel at home. Once again we will be offering a number of different things to which you can invite people this Advent. The first will be a traditional service of Carols and Readings at 7.00pm on Friday 7th December, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the crypt. We will also have a weekend of prayer and a more informal service later in the month.

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## *Parish Life & News*

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### **Thank You**

I'd like to say thank you for all the cards and good will messages I received after my recent operation. I very much appreciate your concern and your prayers. It is good to be back in the parish. I'm also grateful to those who looked after things in my absence, especially to Nazar Alsamarai who kept an eye on the office and took care of the visiting priests.

### **Consultation**

Last year our Midnight Mass wasn't particularly well attended and a number of older parishioners said it was too late for them. We also found that the Vigil Mass was uncomfortably full. The new Missal doesn't speak of

a "Midnight Mass" but a "Mass during the Night". It would be legitimate to celebrate that Mass earlier in the night. What do you think? In addition to our regular Vigil Mass, we could start our Night Mass at 10pm or 11pm or keep it at Midnight. Please let me know your preference by emailing the office or dropping a note in the letterbox.

### **November Dead List**

November is a special month to pray for the dead and especially for our family, friends and benefactors. The box in front of the altar contains the names of people parishioners have asked us to pray for during Mass. To add to the list please use the brown envelopes from the back of the Church.

## **Divine Renovation Conference**

**7th - 8th February 2019**

Divine Renovation is the title of a book by Fr James Mallon that has sparked a movement of parish renewal across the Church. St Elizabeth's is part of the Divine Renovation Network and Fr Stephen is one of the official coaches for that network. The Network exists to help us respond to Pope Francis' call for parishes to move from maintenance to mission and specifically to raise up missionary disciples as the fullest expression of Christian life.

To learn more about the principles involved an obvious first step is to read the book which is available on Amazon. Parishioners are also invited to join us for the Divine Renovation Conference that will take place in Birmingham from 7th to 8th February next year. You can find out more about the conference, and book your ticket, here: <https://www.divinerenovationuk.org>.

If you know of a priest who may be interested in meeting with Fr Stephen to learn more about Divine Renovation and how it might look in their parish please invite him to contact me.

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## *Parish Life & News*

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### **Parish Surgery**

Parish surgery will be on Tuesday evening this week from 6.00pm until 8.00pm. Please wait in the Church.

### **Remembrance Sunday**

Our 11.00am Mass next week will be a Requiem Mass for those who fell in the Great War. It will begin with a two minute silence after which the Catholic Women's League will lay a wreath in the Lady Chapel which was built as our parish War Memorial. Please try to arrive in good time.

### **Winter Night Shelter**

Our night shelter for the homeless begins this week. Each Monday we will provide a hot meal for the homeless and allow those booked by the Glassdoor Charity to sleep in the crypt. We are working with other local churches to provide accommodation each night of the week during the winter months.

### **Parish Lunch Club**

The Mass on Tuesday will be at midday followed by a magnificent lunch in the crypt. All welcome.

### **Altar Servers' Practice**

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

### **Volunteering**

Many thanks to everyone who offered to help with our Sunday Masses. We will now begin contacting our volunteers so that we can provide training and update rotas.

### **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.

### **Notice to Readers**

Just a quick reminder to our readers that we ask you to read from the Lectionary which is on the ambo and **not** from the parish Mass books. The Lectionary contains the correct introduction to the readings ("A Reading from..."). Please arrive in time to check the Lectionary is open at the right page before Mass begins. Many thanks.

### **Natural Fertility Matters**

For more information about natural ways to achieve or space out pregnancy please visit [www.naturalfertilitymatters.com](http://www.naturalfertilitymatters.com)

or call Freda McMahon on 07887 676 923 for a free and confidential consultation.

### **Alpha**

Please keep our Alpha group in your prayers. They are preparing for their weekend away which will take place at Worth Abbey from 23rd to 25th November. Our next Alpha will begin in January.

### **Christmas Carols**

This year we hope once again to have two Carol Services. Our more formal festival of Readings and Carols will be on Friday 7th December. We have timed it to take place before any of the school holidays. The idea is to invite our friends to share our Christmas experience.

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## Thank You

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Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| <b>Gift Aid</b>     | £109.85 |
| <b>Not Gift Aid</b> | £633.46 |
| <b>Total</b>        | £743.31 |

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   | 84         |
| Sun. 9.30am   | 131        |
| Sun. 11.00am  | 78         |
| Sun. 5.30pm   | 147        |
| <b>Total:</b> | <b>440</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

#### Thirty-First Sunday

Dermot Costello

#### Sunday

9.30am

11.00am

5.30pm

#### *Pro Populo*

Evelyn & Yousif Farage RIP

Canon Eric Flood RIP

#### Monday

9.00am

#### *Feria*

Elizabeth Doughty

#### Tuesday

12.00am

#### *Feria*

Deceased Members of the CWL

#### Wednesday

9.00am

#### **The Dedication of St. George's Cathedral**

Fredrick Walters

#### Thursday

7.00pm

#### *Feria*

George Kirch

#### Friday

10.00am

#### **The Dedication of The Lateran Basilica**

Joan Bryan RIP

#### Saturday

5.30pm

#### Thirty-Second Sunday

Margaret & Chris Larkin

#### Sunday

9.30am

11.00am

5.30pm

#### *Pro Populo*

Deceased of Two World Wars

Fr. Brian Reeves 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

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