



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Third Sunday
of Advent

Sunday 16th
December 2018

Mass Book: Page 87

Gaudete!

Today is *Gaudete Sunday*. "Gaudete" is a Latin imperative meaning "Rejoice!". The name is taken from the opening words in Latin of the antiphon at today's Masses: "*Gaudete in Domino semper*" ("Rejoice in the Lord always").

Here at St Elizabeth's we usually sing the antiphons and their accompanying psalms at the 11.00am Mass. On Saturday evenings we recite them **together** as the priest genuflects at the beginning of Mass (the words are found in our parish Mass books). At the other Masses the antiphon is usually replaced by a hymn. The Church invites us to rejoice because we are more than half way through Advent and will soon be celebrating the Lord's birth.

In the parish let's all continue to try to be as

welcoming as possible to everyone who comes here. We have our special **Christmas Celebration for Everyone** on Thursday this week. The idea is that we should all try to invite people who don't ordinarily go to Church so that we can share something of our Christmas joy with them in a very natural way. It will be very upbeat and family friendly so please don't be shy about inviting your friends.

As part of our desire to excel in hospitality in the parish we have been reflecting on the fact that most people prefer to speak to a human being rather than leave a message on an answerphone. Ideally we would love it if there were someone in the office for the best part of the day to respond to phone calls and passers-by as well as to receive deliveries.

During the week the office is the public face of the parish and it would be great if we had people who could ensure that everyone who reached out to us received a warm and friendly response.

To make this possible we invite you to consider whether you might be able to take a regular three hour slot one day each week: 9.00am to midday or midday to 3.00pm. If you can help it would be tremendous and would make a real difference. Please contact Naz in the parish office for more details.

In the newsletter this week we publish the times of the Christmas Masses. We have brought the Christmas Night Mass forward to 10.00pm to encourage more people to join us for what will be a very beautiful celebration.

Parish Life & News

Christmas at St Elizabeth's

Thursday 20th December

9.00am Holy Mass
7.00pm A Christmas Celebration
for Everyone

Monday 24th December

9.00am Parish Mass followed by
Confessions
5.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass
10.00pm Christmas Night Mass

Tuesday 25th December

9.30am Dawn Mass
11.00am Christmas Mass

Wednesday 26th December

10.00am Holy Mass

Thursday 27th December

10.00am Holy Mass

Friday 28th December

10.00am Holy Mass

CONFESSIONS

Confessions are heard immediately after the morning Masses on weekdays and from 4.45pm until 5.15pm on Saturdays.

Recovering the Sacred Heart Chapel

On Thursday I attended a meeting of the Historic Churches Committee seeking permission to move the organ console from its present position in front of the Sacred Heart Chapel to the choir gallery. It had taken almost a year to get that far but I am pleased to report the Committee unanimously accepted the proposal. We now have to wait 21 days in case there is an appeal. The project will include moving cables and speakers as well. The estimated cost is going to be in the region of £10,000. This year we spent just over that from parish funds stabilising the wall paintings. In the new year we will ask for donations to enable us carry out the work.

Christmas Offering

The Christmas Offering envelopes are available today because many of our parishioners will be away for Christmas and the New Year.

In this diocese **priests do not receive a wage** and their main source of income is the Christmas and Easter Offering.

The parish can benefit from Gift Aid on the Christmas Offering but only if cheques are payable to the parish (not the priest). If you do not wish to Gift Aid or do not pay tax please do not fill out any details on the envelope. Thank you.

Parish Life & News

Parish Surgery

There is no parish surgery this week as we have the school nativity in the Church.

ALPHA

Over Christmas you may have conversations with friends and family about the meaning of feast or Christianity in general. It could be a great opportunity to invite them to our next season of Alpha which begins on Tuesday 22nd January. Here's a link to the information page:

<http://bit.ly/2ALnzox>

Next Saturday

Do you have some spare time next Saturday morning? We hope to decorate the Church between 9.00am and 11.00am. We could also take the opportunity to do some deep cleaning. Please let us know if you can help by leaving a message with the parish office. Thanks.

Help Needed in the Office

We would like to ask for help from anyone with 3 spare hours a week. Our aim is to staff the office through a small commitment of many as opposed to a large commitment from one. The time slots are 9am-12noon & 12noon - 3pm, on weekdays. If you can offer just one of those slots per week it would help us enormously. There is no long term commitment and all tasks are very simple and straightforward. Please contact Nazar if you have any questions.

office@stelizabethschurch.org

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.

A Christmas Celebration for Everyone

On Thursday evening this week we encourage you to join us in the church at 7.00pm for a very informal, family friendly, Christmas celebration. We also encourage you to invite your friends, especially friends and family members who do not ordinarily go to Church. The celebration will last an hour and afterwards there will be refreshments downstairs in the crypt.

Our **Christmas Celebration for Everyone** will be led by our Music Ministry and young adults. We very much look forward to seeing you - and your friends - there.

Thank You

Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

Gift Aid	£233.50
Not Gift Aid	£684.71
Total	£918.21

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	103
Sun. 9.30am	194
Sun. 11.00am	78
Sun. 5.30pm	122
Total:	497

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

This Week

Saturday
5.30pm

Third Sunday of Advent
Bridie Naughton

Sunday
9.30am
11.00am
5.30pm

Pro Populo
Herbert Fuchs

Monday
9:00am

Feria
Holy Souls

Tuesday
9:00am

Feria
Fr. Michael Clifton RIP

Wednesday
9.00am

Feria
John Good RIP

Thursday
9.00am
7.00pm

Feria
Eileen Van Driel
**A Christmas Celebration
for Everyone**

Friday
10.00am

Feria
Holy Souls

Saturday
5.30pm

Fourth Sunday of Advent
The Jones Family

Sunday
9.30am
11.00am
5.30pm

Pro Populo
Lani Reyes Vera RIP

Please Pray For:

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

Parish Contact Details:

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Email Addresses:

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Planned Giving

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