



CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL

Newsletter

Fourth Sunday
of Advent

Sunday 23rd
December 2018

Mass Book: Page 90

Last Minute Preparations

It's not long now to Christmas and I am sure you are all making last minute preparations. I hope that those of you flying from Gatwick (or any other airport) will find everything goes smoothly and without delays. Likewise, a safe trip to everyone travelling by road or rail over Christmas and New Year.

At St Elizabeth's we often speak of the importance of invitation. We try to be a community where inviting others to our events is a natural part of parish life. We also value hospitality and try to put ourselves out to welcome everyone who graces us with their presence. Sometimes, however, even at Christmas those core values can seem to clash, particularly when it comes to what is called "eucharistic

hospitality" - or receiving Holy Communion in a Catholic Church. Not everyone can receive Holy Communion at Mass and it is an important expression of hospitality to explain to our guests beforehand that they will be invited to come forward for a blessing but not to take Holy Communion.

It helps if we can explain the reason for the Church's discipline in this regard. First of all, receiving Holy Communion in the Catholic Church is a sign of the union we already live in our faith, in our Christian living, and in our worship of God. Unlike some other Christian communities, for us it is not a way of achieving that union. Consequently those who receive Holy Communion must share the same faith as us, be living according to the Commandments and

Christ's teaching, and be part of a worshipping community that keeps holy the Lord's Day by attending weekly Mass.

To receive Communion is also a public act of faith: Catholic Christians believe that the Sacred Host is the living Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus. Much as it may give us pleasure that our lapsed children or non-Catholic friends join us for Christmas Mass, it would be unfair to invite them to Communion if they do not share our faith because in saying "Amen" when the priest says, "The Body of Christ", they are publicly making a profession of Catholic faith (Amen is a Hebrew word meaning "It is so").

Please invite people to join us this Christmas but do also avoid any embarrassment by explaining this beforehand.

Parish Life & News

Christmas & New Year at St Elizabeth's

Monday 24th December

Christmas Eve

5.30pm Vigil Mass

10.00pm Christmas Night Mass

Tuesday 24th December

Christmas Day

9.30am Dawn Mass

11.00am Christmas Day Mass

Wednesday 26th December

10.00am Holy Mass

Thursday 27th December*

10.00am Holy Mass

Friday 28th December

10.00am Holy Mass

New Year's Day

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

The Mass on New Year's Day will be at midday.

* Please note: the Church will be closed after the Mass on Thursday.

Christmas Music at St Elizabeth's

There will be carols at all our Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The Mass setting for the Night Mass will be the *Missa O Magnum Mysterium* by **Tomas Luis de Victoria**, the sixteenth century Spanish priest and composer who was ordained in the chapel of the English College in Rome by Bishop Thomas Goldwell, the last of the pre-Reformation bishops of England and Wales. The Psalm will be sung to a setting by **William Byrd**, the English composer who, despite being a Catholic, served as musician of the Chapel Royal under Elizabeth I. The Communion antiphon will be to a setting by **James MacMillan**, the contemporary Scottish Catholic composer.

Recently the parish received permission from the Historic Churches Committee to move the organ from its current position obscuring the Sacred Heart chapel, to the choir loft. We are keen to carry out this work as part of our efforts to improve the quality of our liturgical music, both traditional and contemporary, here at St Elizabeth's.

To do carry out the necessary work, we need to raise £10,000 and we are inviting anyone who values Catholic musical heritage to help us by making a donation (which can be Gift Aided). Please contact the office for more details:

office@stelizabethschurch.org.uk

Parish Life & News

Parish Surgery

There is no parish surgery this week or next.

School References

In order to provide school references we keep a record of Mass attendance for three years. It is up to the family to register attendance using the forms which are provided at our weekend Masses outside of school holiday periods.

Nightshelter

Please don't forget if you have volunteered to help our night shelter over Christmas and New Year.

Thank You

Many thanks to everyone who came to help clean and decorate the Church in preparation for Christmas.

Christmas Celebration

Many thanks to the young adults of the parish who led us in our Christmas celebration on Thursday and then

feasted us with mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

Parish Newsletter: Christmas Edition

Please make sure you pick up a copy of the supplement to our newsletter on Christmas Day. You will find it contains all sorts of interesting and (hopefully) inspiring insights into the life of St Elizabeth's and our parishioners.

New Year's Day Mass

Please note the Mass on New Year's Day will be at midday. It is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. Attending Mass that day is a great way to sanctify the start of the New Year.

Friday Penance

Friday this week is within the octave of Christmas which we celebrate as an extension of Christmas Day. The discipline of abstaining from meat (=“fish on Fridays”) does not apply.

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.

Thank You

Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

Gift Aid	£395.00
Not Gift Aid	£746.60
Total	£1,141.60

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	67
Sun. 9.30am	157
Sun. 11.00am	125
Sun. 5.30pm	114
Total:	463

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday

5.30pm

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Jones Family

Sunday

9.30am

Pro Populo

11.00am

Lani Reyes Vera RIP

5.30pm

Fr. George Barrett

Monday

5:30pm

Vigil: Jim & Maya Kehoe, & May Dixon

10:00pm

Night: The Poor

Tuesday

9:30am

Christmas Day

Pauline Marenghi

11:00am

Pro Populo

Wednesday

10.00am

St. Stephen, First Martyr

Fr. Michael Clifton RIP

Thursday

10.00am

St. John, Apostle

Holy Souls

Friday

10.00am

The Holy Innocents

Ben Ball RIP

Saturday

5.30pm

The Holy Family

Greta Foy RIP

Sunday

9.30am

Pro Populo

11.00am

Dawson Family Intentions

5.30pm

Please Pray For:

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

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Email Addresses:

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Planned Giving

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