



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

First Sunday
of Advent

Sunday 2nd
December 2018

Mass Book: Page 82

Not to be Taken for Granted...

It is amazing how often people, including non-Catholics, tell me that the reason they come to St Elizabeth's rather than another church is the welcome they receive here. I think we can sometimes underestimate just how important it is to reach out to others and to make them feel welcome and valued. It is something we should never take for granted. In the Gospels Our Lord tells us that whenever we welcome a stranger we welcome him.

If hospitality is a way of serving Christ in others, it is also a way of ministering Christ to others. For some people the first experience they have of God's love will be the welcome they receive from us. In other words, when we welcome we reach out to others with the love of God. And for some people the effort we

make to welcome them will be a first step on the way to encountering Christ in faith.

Even though we all share responsibility for welcoming, at St Elizabeth's we would like to have hospitality teams for all our Masses. It may be that one of the team members will ask you to help out in small ways. If they do please be generous in your response.

Closely linked to the virtue of hospitality, is the equally important value of being a parish that invites. We are striving to become an "invitational community". Some of you may remember that one of the questions in the Gallup ME25 survey asks whether we have invited someone to our parish *in the last month*. To invite someone does not necessarily mean

that we invite them to Mass. This week we might invite our friends to the **Parish Lunch Club** on Tuesday or to the **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols** that will take place on **Friday** at 7.00pm (followed by mulled wine and mince pies!). Thinking further ahead, we might invite people to the next season of **Alpha** due to start on 22nd January.

I am sure that as we get better at welcoming we will feel more confident about inviting. We will also take greater pride in our parish and in the good things God is doing here and we will want others to share those blessings.

I know many families can't come to the Carol Service this Friday because of school commitments. We will have something special for you later in Advent.

Richmond Council's proposal to create a *Public Spaces Protection Order* (“buffer zone”) around the BPAS abortion facility at 15, Rosslyn Road, East Twickenham.

Richmond Council is proposing to introduce a so-called “buffer zone” around the clinic in Rosslyn Road to prevent people from praying/holding vigils or handing out information leaflets not only on Rosslyn Road but also the three surrounding streets and through to St. Margaret’s station. Aside from the proposed boundaries being entirely beyond reason, none of the behaviours to be prohibited are illegal and some women, for whom a termination was the choice of last resort, have been given practical assistance in their situation. The proposed response also infringes on the right to free speech, a right long upheld by the Party currently running Richmond Council. Please have your say by visiting this site:

<https://haveyoursay.citizenspace.com/community-safety/rosslyn-road>.

You can also search for the consultation on the Richmond upon Thames Council website under Consultations. It is titled:

Consultation on a Public Spaces Protection Order for the Rosslyn Road area
- Have your say - Citizen Space haveyoursay.citizenspace.com

Security Alert

Let’s be Vigilant

Could I ask you please to keep an eye on your personal belongings when you come to Church and also to make sure you don’t leave things that can be stolen visible in your cars. Last Sunday a doctor in this area had his car broken into and important documents stolen. During the week someone who had chained a bike to our railings (please don’t do that!) came back to find it had been taken. And I’ve noticed on the CCTV a number of people doing a ‘sweep’ of the back of the church to see what they might take.

It is very important that the doors to the spiral staircase are kept locked outside of Mass and that the door to the choir loft as well as those into the crypt rooms are also locked when not in use.

The CCTV and alarms give us some security but in the end the best deterrent to would be crooks is the sort of good housekeeping that ensures nothing is left to attract ne’er-do-wells.

Parish Life & News

Parish Surgery

Please note: There will not be a parish surgery this week.

Parish Lunch Club

Tuesday this week is the date of our next parish lunch club. As the last lunch club before Christmas it will be a full Christmas lunch to which you are all invited. Proceeds from the lunch go to the work of SPEAR, a local homeless charity. The parish Mass on Tuesday will be at midday and lunch club will start at 12.30pm.

School Reference Forms

Quite a few parents have not responded to emails regarding ChurchSuite since we changed our system over a month ago. Please, ensure you and your children are registered on ChurchSuite so that your reference form can be logged each week. If you have any questions, please contact the parish office (info on back of this newsletter).

Moving the Organ

Many parishioners have asked if it would be possible to move the organ console from the Sacred Heart Chapel to the choir loft and we started seriously looking into the possibility early this year. Because our church is listed, the proposal has had to go through various committees and undergo quite widespread consultation. Next Thursday I have to go to Reading for a meeting of the Historic Churches Committee which is the body that makes the final decision. If we get the permission and can raise the money, it may be possible to move the console in the new year.

Homeless Lunch - Help Needed!

Each year St Elizabeth's hosts a number of Sunday lunches for the homeless and marginalised. Our next one will be on Sunday 16th December from 12.00 noon. As always we appreciate help from volunteers, and especially donations of food or towards the cost of food.

For more information, please contact the coordinator, Angela Smith: angosmith@hotmail.co.uk. Thank you.

Family of Faith

The Family of Faith community sessions will be today at 11am and at 4.00pm. The next parents' meeting will be on Wednesday at 8.00pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Children's Liturgists Needed!

We currently have an extremely low number of helpers for Children's Liturgy. Please consider joining the team so that Children's Liturgy can continue in a consistent manner without an extra workload on the current helpers. If you are interested in helping, please contact office@stelizabethschurch.org.uk

A Christmas Celebration for Everyone

We are planning a very informal Christmas Celebration on Thursday 20th December. It will be another opportunity to invite non-Catholic or non-practising family and friends as well as a great chance to step back from things a few days before the feast in order to reconnect with its meaning.

Thank You

Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

Gift Aid	£211.00
Not Gift Aid	£723.13
Total	£934.13

Last week the second collections for Catholic Youth Services raised £239.36 and thank you for your generosity.

Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5.30pm	104
Sun. 9.30am	151
Sun. 11.00am	94
Sun. 5.30pm	111
Total:	460

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

This Week

Saturday

5.30pm

First Sunday of Advent

Welfare of Sr. Mary Vaughan

Sunday

9.30am

Nora Walsh RIP

11.00am

Pro Populo

5.30pm

Monday

9:00am

St. Francis Xavier

Elizabeth Doughty

Tuesday

12noon

Feria

Holy Souls

Wednesday

9.00am

Feria

Fr. Michael Clifton RIP

Thursday

7.00pm

St. Nicholas

Goodhart Intentions

Friday

10.00am

St. Ambrose

Lani Reyes Vera RIP

Saturday

5.30pm

The Immaculate Conception

Bridie Naughton

Sunday

9.30am

Second Sunday of Advent

Pro Populo

11.00am

Evelyn & Yousif Farage RIP

5.30pm

Haythem & Susan Alsamarai

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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Planned Giving

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