



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Second Sunday
of Advent

Sunday 9th
December 2018

Mass Book: Page 84

The people who forget their history...

In Britain we tend to regard ourselves as a fairly tolerant society. We accept other religions, value freedom of speech, and have even embraced in schools an 'inclusive' agenda so radical it may prevent some children getting the support they need as they grow up.

It was not always the case. At the back of the Church there is a plaque commemorating one of our former parishioners, Fr Hugh Rich, who was hanged, drawn and quartered for daring to disagree with the claim that Henry VIII was supreme head of the Church. He is not the only one: Richard Reynolds School is named after a Brigittine martyr who lived at nearby Syon Abbey. Fr John Haile, whose church can be seen from the river bank, was another local parish priest put to death for

publicly professing his faith.

Recently Richmond Council began an online consultation on establishing a buffer zone around the abortion clinic housed in a former convent in St Margaret's. There were a number of things about the survey that shocked me when I completed it. First of all, it charges the Good Council Network of displaying graphic images and harassing people. Having known the Network for many years, I know that they have a very strict policy not to engage in such activities under any circumstances. The only evidence to support the claim seems to be the word of the clinic. Why is there no photographic evidence?

Even more concerning is what the 'buffer zone' intends to criminalise.

The survey is very explicit that praying or kneeling in prayer would become a criminal activity and not just outside the clinic but also on the surrounding roads all the way up to St Margaret's Station. I sometimes walk that way praying the Rosary. The punishment may differ but under the proposal I would be just as much a criminal as Richard Rich or John Haile. I do not support harassing people. But nor can I support the criminalisation of praying in public. There are other odd things about the survey: why does it ask whether respondents are Christians or whether they are pro-life?

Today is the last day of the consultation and I encouraged you to respond if you have not already done so. Details are overleaf.

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

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

Please note: The parish surgery will be from 6.00pm until 7.00pm this week. There will not be a parish surgery next week as we have the school nativity in the church.

CWL Christmas Party

The Catholic Women's League will have their Christmas Party on Thursday, December 13th at 18.30 in the crypt, our opportunity for a good chat and a festive finger buffet. Visitors welcome.

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.

Festival of Lessons & Carols

We had pretty well a full house on Friday for our magnificent festival of Carols and Readings in preparation for Christmas. Our gratitude goes to Stephen Bick (Director of Music) and Jon Booth (parish organist), to the choir and to the Brass Ensemble who came to play. We are also immensely grateful to the Social Committee who served mulled wine and mince pies afterwards, as well as to Tesco and Waitrose who donated the mince pies for the occasion.

ALPHA

Follow the link below to sign up
<http://bit.ly/2ALnzoX>

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.

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

What Time's Midnight Mass?

Officially these days Midnight Mass is called the "Night Mass" ("*Missa in Nocte*"). For some weeks we invited people's comments about whether we should bring the time of the Mass forward from Midnight. The majority of people asked for the Mass to be at 10.00pm - particularly if they were reliant on public transport. With that in mind, and for an experiment this year, we will have our Night Mass on Christmas Eve at 10.00pm. Many thanks to everyone who took the time to respond.

Thank You

Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Gift Aid | £201.50 |
| Not Gift Aid | £879.43 |
| Total | £1,080.93 |

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 | 110 |
| Sun. 9.30am | 172 |
| Sun. 11.00am | 83 |
| Sun. 5.30pm | 124 |
| Total: | 489 |

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

This Week

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

Monday

9:00am

Feria

Padraig Lafferty

Tuesday

9:00am

Feria

Fr. Michael Clifton RIP

Wednesday

9.00am

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Holy Souls

Thursday

7.00pm

St. Lucy

Edith Cooper

Friday

10.00am

St. John of The Cross

Monica, James, & George Patchett RIP

Saturday

5.30pm

Third Sunday of Advent

Bridie Naughton

Sunday

9.30am

Pro Populo

11.00am

Herbert Fuchs

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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Planned Giving

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