



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL

Newsletter

Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Sunday 27th
January 2019

Mass Book: Page 129

Punxsutawney Phil

While we have enjoyed an especially mild winter, many of our US cousins have been shivering under the effects of polar blasts. Some will have been looking anxiously towards Philadelphia and in particular the actions of a large rodent in Punxsutawney. The tradition goes that if a groundhog emerges from his burrow on 2nd February and sees his shadow the winter will last another six weeks.

Elsewhere on the planet the 2nd February has another significance. It is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, often known in the English speaking world as Candlemas. The celebration takes place forty days after the Saviour's birth at Christmas and commemorates Mary and Joseph observing the Law by presenting

the baby Jesus in the Temple. Traditionally it is also the day when Cribs are taken down in homes and churches.

Jesus is hailed as the long-awaited Messiah by the Simeon and Anna. Simeon, in particular, speaks of his hopes fulfilled by this encounter: "At last," he says, "you can let your servant die in peace for my eyes have seen the salvation you have prepared for all nations: the light to enlighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel".

Again we see how in the scriptures, what for many would have been an unnoticed, hidden event takes on a universal significance. Christ must not be hidden because he is the one who gives light, he is the Saviour not only of the Jews but of the non-Jews as well. Whenever Christ is

encountered there is an imperative to make him known.

It is from this idea of light that the title of Candlemas came to be associated with the feast. The days are getting longer. Light is increasing and so at Mass on this day the Church blesses candles which were the source of light for many centuries, and people carry them to their homes. They take home a symbol of the Messiah and allow it to be the light at the heart of their families.

As always, however, there is also a shadow over this feast. Christ comes as Saviour but because of human sin the means of his salvation is the offering of his life on the Cross. So Simeon also speaks of the "sword of sorrow" that will pierce his mother's heart.

Parish Life & News

2019 St Patrick's Dinner & Dance

Hosted by the Richmond Irish Network
in aid of The Vineyard Community Centre

Following the success of last year's event, the Richmond Irish Network will once again host its annual charity St. Patrick's Dinner and Dance on Friday 15th March at London Welsh Rugby Club.

The night will begin with a drinks reception at 7pm followed by a three course meal and live band. The entertainment on the night will be provided by Sugar T & The Swells. Last year, your generous support helped us raise over £5,000 for SPEAR. This year we are hoping to exceed that number and will donate all money raised on the night to The Vineyard Community Centre. Tickets are now on sale priced at £75 per head which includes a three course meal, half a bottle of wine and live entertainment or £750 for a table of 10.

Sponsorship options available please contact email below.

To reserve your tickets, please email

seamusjoyce@yahoo.co.uk or phone **07969 065009**

All payment must be processed by Friday 15th February to secure your tickets.

New Parishioners' Evening

At St Elizabeth's we try to find ways of breaking down anonymity and getting to know our parishioners. One of these ways is a termly evening welcome party for all our new parishioners.

Our next one is scheduled for Monday 4th February at 8.00pm and if you are new, or relatively new, to the parish we would love to see you there.

You can let us know you are coming by clicking on the event in the parish calendar (on the website or on ChurchSuite) or by emailing us at:

office@stelizabethschurch.org

*St Elizabeth's
forming intentional
disciples
who
joyfully live out
the
mission
of
Jesus Christ*

Parish Life & News

Parish Surgery

The parish surgery this week will take place on Tuesday evening from 6.00pm until 8.00pm. Parish surgery is the time to come to see me to book baptisms, weddings, have references signed and that sort of thing.

Second Collection

Thank you for supporting last week's second collection for the Nightshelter which raised £1,304.94.

Lunch Club

The parish Lunch Club will resume on Tuesday 5th February. The lunch club usually meets in the crypt on the first Tuesday of the month at 12.30pm. All proceeds go to supporting the charity SPEAR which works with the homeless in Richmond.

Divine Renovation Conference

In early February Fr Stephen and some of our parishioners will be attending the Divine Renovation Conference taking place at the Bethel Conference Centre near Birmingham. St Elizabeth's is part of the global Divine Renovation

Network which is a movement dedicated to the renewal of parish life. Fr Stephen is one of the coaches for that network. You can learn more or sign up for the conference here: divinerenovationuk.org

To understand the principles of parish renewal and the paradigm shift from maintenance to mission we recommend you read the book Divine Renovation, by Fr James Mallon, which is available on Amazon.

Fr James Mallon

On Sunday 10th February Fr James Mallon, the author of Divine Renovation, will be joining us for our morning Masses.

Altar Servers' Albs

I am grateful to a benefactor who has bought new albs for our altar servers. Hopefully they will be simpler to maintain. They also have a very special advantage which is that they only require one hanger (rather than two) and so we can fit more of them in the sacristy for our growing number of altar servers.

Safeguarding

At St Elizabeth's we are determined to create a culture in which we all recognise and take seriously the importance of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Many of our activities require references and a DBS check. The procedure for managing this is very straightforward and is managed by our excellent Safeguarding Team who are always ready to help and give advice.

If you are helping out in a role that requires a DBS check please ensure you complete the forms and return them to the Safeguarding Team as quickly as possible.

There is a leaflet at the back of the church with more details of safeguarding at St Elizabeth's.

Thank You

Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

Gift Aid	£276.00
Not Gift Aid	£632.88
Total	£908.88

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	119
Sun. 9.30am	194
Sun. 11.00am	89
Sun. 5.30pm	134
Total:	536

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday

5.30pm

Third Sunday of the Year

Private Intention

Sunday

9.30am

Pro Populo

11.00am

Goodhart Intentions

5.30pm

Fr. Martin Joseph O'Brien RIP

Monday

9.00am

St. Thomas Aquinas

Maria Dempsey and Ian

Tuesday

9.00am

Feria

Fr. Martin Joseph O'Brien RIP

Wednesday

9.00am

Feria

Michael O'Brien RIP

Thursday

7.00pm

St. John Bosco

Goodhart Intentions

Friday

10.00am

Feria

Mamie Sodon-Bird RIP

Saturday

5.30pm

Fourth Sunday of the Year

Holy Souls

Sunday

9.30am

Pro Populo

11.00am

Elizabeth Doughty RIP

5.30pm

Stephen Ratchford 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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