



CATHOLIC PARISH OF  
**ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL**  
*Newsletter*

The Epiphany of  
The Lord

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>  
January 2019

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Mass Book: Page 115

We observed his  
star at its rising  
and have come  
to pay him homage.

*Matthew 2.2*



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## *Parish Life & News*

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### **Fr Stephen Away**

Apart from a brief visit to my parents on Thursday, I didn't get a break over Christmas and New Year and so will be going away on Thursday for a week.

### **Help Needed**

Thank you to those who have volunteered to help staff the parish office. We currently have four of the ten slots filled (if we had enough volunteers we could push it to fifteen slots!). Helping in the office contributes to our desire to be a welcoming parish as it is always much nicer to be received by a human being than an answering machine.

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. Please contact Nazar if you have any questions:

**office@stelizabethschurch.org**

### **Christmas Newsletter**

If you didn't get a copy of our Christmas Newsletter we encourage you to take one today. It gives a great insight into the life of our parish.

### **Natural Fertility Matters**

For more information about natural ways to achieve or space out pregnancy please visit [www.naturalfertilitymatters.com](http://www.naturalfertilitymatters.com) or call Freda McMahon on 07887 676 923 for a free and confidential consultation.

## **Alpha**

### ***Who will you invite?***

Our next season of Alpha begins on Tuesday 22nd January with a "Come & See" session. This is a no-commitment taster session for anyone who would like to find out more about Alpha and whether or not they would find it helpful. There's no pressure on anyone to come back again.

Alpha begins with a delicious meal at 7.00pm, after which there is a short presentation (about 20 minutes) followed by a chance for discussion.

Simply for the purposes of catering it helps us have some idea of how many people are attending. You can email the office:

**office@stelizabethschurch.org**

or go to the calendar on the parish website and click on the event.

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## *Parish Life & News*

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### **School References**

A school reference is a statement from a priest in the parish where you go to Mass confirming that he knows you and that you attend either weekly or less frequently. That statement is then used by schools when they allocate places to assess whether or not you meet their admissions criteria or where you fall within those criteria.

It is important for parents to familiarise themselves with the admissions criteria of the schools to which they wish to apply. For many Catholic schools weekly attendance at Mass is likely to be a more significant factor

than distance from the school or the presence of a sibling at the school.

The priest's role is simply to confirm the frequency of Mass attendance. Like many parishes, at St Elizabeth's we do this by asking parents to register whenever they are at Sunday Mass here during term time. We use that information to provide an accurate reference.

If you need a school reference please come to the parish surgery on Tuesday 8th January (this week) as I will be away later in the month and you may otherwise miss the deadline of your chosen schools.

### **Christmas Mass Attendance**

Mass attendance at Christmas was significantly up this year. A total of 729 people joined us for our Christmas Masses compared to 688 last year. There was also a better spread at all our Masses with the revised time for the Christmas Night Mass proving particularly popular.

For those of you interested in statistics, here's a comparison of the two years:

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
<b>Vigil Mass (5.30pm)</b>	256	162
<b>Christmas Night</b>	138	209
<b>Christmas Morning Mass 9.30am</b>	110	194
<b>Christmas Day Mass (11.00am)</b>	184	164
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>688</b>	<b>729</b>

## Thank You

Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

<b>Gift Aid</b>	£240.00
<b>Not Gift Aid</b>	£515.67
<b>Total</b>	£755.67

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](mailto:giftaid@stelizabethschurch.org.uk)

### Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5.30pm	48
Sun. 9.30am	80
Sun. 11.00am	123
Sun. 5.30pm	84
<b>Total:</b>	<b>335</b>

## Social Media



[stelizabethschurch.org.uk](http://stelizabethschurch.org.uk)



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

## Mass Intentions this Week

**Saturday**  
5.30pm  
**The Epiphany of The Lord**  
Bridie Naughton

**Sunday**  
9.30am  
Dora Gill RIP  
11.00am  
Elizabeth Doughty RIP  
5.30pm  
*Pro Populo*

**Monday**  
9.00am  
**Feria**  
Cleary Family

**Tuesday**  
9.00am  
**Feria**  
Lani Vera Japlit

**Wednesday**  
9.00am  
**Feria**  
Shelia Ryde RIP

**Thursday**  
7.00pm  
**Feria**  
Bishop Elect Larry Duffy

**Friday**  
10.00am  
**Feria**  
Holy Souls

**Saturday**  
5.30pm  
**The Baptism of The Lord**  
Francella

**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.

### Parish Contact Details:

St Elizabeth of Portugal  
The Vineyard,  
Richmond,  
TW10 6AQ

**Tel.** 020 8940 2439

### Email Addresses:

#### Parish Office:

[office@stelizabethschurch.org.uk](mailto:office@stelizabethschurch.org.uk)

#### Planned Giving

[giftaid@stelizabethschurch.org.uk](mailto:giftaid@stelizabethschurch.org.uk)