



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Sunday 10th
February 2019

Mass Book: Page 135

Asking Why?

I read recently an article by a teacher who had been taught never to tell children they had a got an answer wrong. Instead she was to praise them for their point of view and offer another perspective. I couldn't help wondering whether her tutors might once have taught Pol Pot or any of the other genocidal maniacs of the last century.

Have you ever gone online to buy something for the house? A kettle? A washing machine? Something else? I randomly checked the Bosch website and found a choice of fourteen different front-loading washing machines. That's just one manufacturer! How do you choose between all the different machines out there? The answer is that we are manipulated by the seller. We just want

clean clothes but to get us to buy a particular machine we are offered all sorts of programmes and settings we will never use. We very quickly begin to expect special offers, cool electronic displays, and unexpected gizmos. In other words, we very quickly become consumers. Consumers are easily manipulated because it's all about their expectations and manufacturers are good at tapping in to that.

Isn't Henry Ford reputed to have said, "If I had asked people what they wanted, they would have said faster horses"? In other words, the significant sea changes that really determine future development, wouldn't take place if we just focused on preferences. So here's a question: why do people go to a particular church? The

music? The preaching? The convenience of Mass times? Availability of parking? Good sound-system? Facilities for the less mobile? Chance to meet up with old friends?

I'm sure you can add your own to the list. The point is that they are all about me and my preferences. I become a consumer. It's no longer about how can I be a better disciple of Christ but how can I most easily get what I want.

So if it's not about giving people what they want, what is it about? Surely the reason for attending a church is that it is helping people know Christ and equipping them to do his will and eventually get to heaven. Everything else is just a means to that all-important end. It's when a parish recovers its sense of purpose that it can begin to flourish.

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.

Do you pay Tax?

Catholic Churches in England rely entirely on the financial support of their parishioners. The more generous our parishioners are, the more we can do to change lives by introducing people of Christ's love, to build up people in the faith, to support families, and to enable our parishioners to reach out to the poor in our society.

If you pay UK Income or Capital Gains Tax, it can be possible for us to reclaim from the Inland Revenue 25% of the tax you have already paid on any money you donate to the Church. For more information please contact us:

office@stelizabethschurch.org

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

Parish Life & News

Parish Surgery

Parish Surgery will take place on Tuesday evening this week from 6.00pm until 8.00pm. That is the time to see me without the need for an appointment. Please wait in the church.

Making An Appointment

Some people have asked how they can make an appointment to see Fr Stephen at times other than the parish surgery (when no appointments are necessary). We will soon start trialling an online scheduling system which allows you to see for a number of weeks in advance and to book a meeting for a set period of time (typically fifteen minutes or half an hour). Watch out for more details next week.

Thank You!

Many thanks once again to our amazing parish social committee who hosted another wonderful reception for new and returning parishioners on Monday night. It is really great to be able to extend a personal welcome to new members of our parish family.

Weddings at St Elizabeth's

Just a gentle reminder that the diocese requires **six months** notice of a wedding. I'm aware that a local photographer recommends St Elizabeth's as a pretty church for a wedding and we get lots of requests from people who have no connection with our parish. I'm also aware that one of my predecessors encouraged such 'tourist weddings' as a source of income for the parish. My policy, however, is not to accept tourist weddings and to rely on the generosity of parishioners to sustain the parish.

Please be aware that we hope to start a major repair project in the church at some stage later this year.

Natural Fertility Matters

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

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	£170.00
Not Gift Aid	£666.95
Total	£836.95

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	88
Sun. 9.30am	193
Sun. 11.00am	109
Sun. 5.30pm	152
Total:	542

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday
5.30pm

Fifth Sunday of the Year
Alberta O'Brien RIP

Sunday
9.30am
11.00am
5.30pm

Beatia Beasley RIP
Fr. Thomas Foley
Pro Populo

Monday
9.00am

Feria
Goodhart Intentions

Tuesday
9.00am

Feria
Holy Souls

Wednesday
9.00am

Ss. Cyril, Monk, & Methodius
Deceased O'Brien Family
Members

Thursday
7.00pm

Feria
Lani Vera Japlit RIP

Friday
10.00am

Feria
Alberta O'Brien RIP

Saturday
5.30pm

Sixth Sunday of the Year
Deceased O'Brien Family
Members

Sunday
9.30am
11.00am
5.30pm

Eileen O'Hara RIP
Fr. Colin Murphy
Pro Populo

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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Tel. 020 8940 2439

Email Addresses:

Parish Office:

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Planned Giving

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