



# CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL

*Newsletter*

Sixth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Sunday 17th  
February 2019

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## The Price of Success

It is great that over the last few years more and more people have started coming to Mass here at St Elizabeth's. Many of them have chosen to enrol as members of our parish community and to get involved in the different activities that take place here. That is something we very much encourage. While anyone is welcome to simply join us for Mass, our hope is that parishioners will become engaged at a deeper level by encountering Christ, growing as disciples, and committing themselves to witnessing to God's love. Recently I have been asking our Senior Leadership Team to think about what that "looks like" here at St Elizabeth's. How do we help people here begin and make progress in

their Christian journey? What 'entry points' do we offer and how do we support people when they realise that their Christian commitment should be more than simply 'attending Mass' on Sundays. A visual representation of the journey to be followed towards greater engagement can help us recognise that Christian life is much richer than meeting the minimal obligations imposed upon us by the Church.

This week we received a somewhat unusual confirmation that good things are happening in our parish. It came in the form of a letter from the diocesan Finance Office informing us of the taxes they will be charging us this year. The assessment of diocesan taxes is complicated because it depends on two factors:

a parish's annual income and the number of people who attend Mass in that church.

This can lead to some 'creative' reporting to the diocese. My first parish priest used to calculate Mass attendance not on the basis of how many people went to church but on how low a figure he could send in each year without risk of losing his curate!

In 2017 we payed a total of £17,733.62 to the diocese in tax. This year we have to pay £24,462.50. This is because both our Mass numbers and our income have increased.

It equates to £2038.54 every month or £470.43 a week and you can see why we encourage 'standing orders' or 'pre-authorised remittance' as it is sometimes called to avoid a dip in income during holidays!

## **Church Restoration**

### Essential Repairs and Future Development

For some time now we have had a team of architects working on a planned restoration of St Elizabeth's. There are a lot of external repairs that need to be carried out. These include repairing the stonework, wood and copper of the two turrets; replacing the rainwater goods; roof and leadwork repairs; and substantial work on each of the windows. The hope is for this to be carried out as Phase One of the project and for it to take place this year.

A second phase will look at questions of access, compliance with fire regulations and disability legislation, as well as a more effective use of our space. I hope that work will be carried out as part of a more general refurbishment of the interior of the Church including more efficient heating and sound systems as well as internal restoration and redecoration.

Currently we are working on the tendering documents for the first phase and I have no concrete sums to go on, only a few rather scary 'ball-park figures' for the overall project. Our Church was first built two hundred years ago and substantially expanded one hundred years ago. Our task is to get it ready for the next one hundred years.

## **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](mailto:office@stelizabethschurch.org)**

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

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## *Parish Life & News*

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### **Children's Liturgy & School Reference Forms**

As most schools in the area are on a break, there will be no Children's Liturgy, or School Reference Forms.

### **Making An Appointment**

We are currently experimenting with a new online system of making appointments to see Fr Stephen. The process is simple: just visit the website: <https://calendly.com/frstephenlangridge>

There you will be able to see his availability up to twenty one days in advance and book either a fifteen or thirty minute appointment. There may be some initial teething problems but the hope is that this will be an easier and more flexible way of booking an appointment with the parish priest.

### **No Mass Wednesday Morning**

There will be no Mass here on Wednesday morning. The Requiem Mass for Canon Francis Moran will take place at the cathedral at 12 noon that day.

### **The Catholic Women's League**

The Catholic Women's League will have their Annual Review (AGM) in the crypt on Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 19.30. This will be followed by a social time with light refreshments. Visitors welcome.

### **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](http://www.naturalfertilitymatters.com) or call Freda McMahon on 07887 676 923 for a free and confidential consultation.

### **Health & Safety Checks**

On Monday we have our annual Health and Safety inspection - so don't be surprised to see men with clipboards wandering round the church. We are all responsible for health and safety in our parish. If you see something that is not as it should be please report it to the parish office. If necessary take remedial action (for example by removing obstacles from a fire escape) and then let the office know what has happened.

Please do NOT leave any food in the kitchen fridge. We do not want the inspectors to find sour milk or out-of-date food and close down our kitchen! The fridge should be left empty after each activity.

If any parishioner would like to take on responsibility for overseeing Health and Safety issues please contact Fr Stephen.

## Thank You

Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

<b>Gift Aid</b>	£205.00
<b>Not Gift Aid</b>	£758.61
<b>Total</b>	£963.61

### Second Collections:

This week: Racial Justice Sunday

Next week: Poor Parishes.

### Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5.30pm	98
Sun. 9.30am	180
Sun. 11.00am	105
Sun. 5.30pm	127
<b>Total:</b>	<b>510</b>

## Social Media



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



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

## Mass Intentions this Week

**Saturday**  
5.30pm

**Sixth Sunday of the Year**  
Deceased Members of the  
O'Brien Family

**Sunday**  
9.30am  
11.00am  
5.30pm

Eileen O'Hara RIP  
Fr. Colin Murphy  
*Pro Populo*

**Monday**  
9.00am

**Feria**  
Deceased members of the  
O'Brien Family

**Tuesday**  
9.00am

**Feria**  
Fr. Martin Joseph O'Brien RIP

**Wednesday**

**Feria**

**No Mass: Requiem for Canon Francis Moran**

**Thursday**  
7.00pm

**Feria**  
Alberta O'Brien RIP

**Friday**  
10.00am

**The Chair of St. Peter**  
Deceased Members of the  
O'Brien Family

**Saturday**  
5.30pm

**Seventh Sunday of the Year**  
Fr. Martin Joseph O'Brien RIP

**Sunday**  
9.30am  
11.00am  
5.30pm

Mary Comerford RIP  
Dora Gill RIP  
*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:

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)