



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

Laetare Sunday

Sunday 31st March 2019

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Mass Book page 160

## Mother's Day

Have you noticed that in England Mother's Day is always celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent which we also call *Laetare Sunday*? The reason is to be found in the liturgy of today's Mass.

The entrance antiphon tells Jerusalem (an image of the Church) and all who love her to rejoice ('laetare!'). It presents her as a mother where those who once mourned may suckle at her breast. In other words, the 'mother' of Mothering Sunday is the Church herself. From this arose the custom of visiting a cathedral, the 'mother church' of a diocese, on this day. Later people began to visit their parish church (as opposed to other chapels, monasteries, convents or shrines where the faithful might have attended Mass in

the past). By the 19th century in England girls in domestic servitude were given the day off to visit their mothers, often with some gift from the house where they worked and hence today it is a time when we try to make a special fuss of all our mothers.

It would be good, however, not to lose sight of the religious origin of the celebration and one way of marking it would be to visit the church as a family today and perhaps pray and light a candle in the Lady Chapel, honouring in that way the Mother of Christ and of each one of us.

Of course Laetare Sunday also means that we are now more than half way through our Lenten journey and so once again the penitential purple is softened to a more consoling Rose colour in

the vestments we use at Mass.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has taken the trouble to transfer their Barclays standing orders to the diocesan NatWest account. It is a requirement of the Charities Commission that the diocese have a centralised account even though for all intents and purposes we retain autonomy over our own finances. As it happens Barclays is moving its business accounts to another branch and the existing account will be closed anyway. Many thanks also to those who have increased their donations.

We now have a system for taking credit card donations but we need volunteers to staff it at our Masses. Please let us know if you would be willing to help with that.

## **Lenten Almsgiving**

*Parishioner Nick Deeming writes...*

*During the course of the last five years my two brothers, some friends and I have worked together to raise money to help educate girls who live in a Catholic parish in Eastern Uganda, near Mbale (Our Lady of the Assumption, Buchunya). The parish has already built a nursery school which can accommodate 100 young children up to*



*the age of 7 - we have provided uniforms for all of them. It is a large parish covering many square miles with one main church and various outpost chapels. It lies about 6 hour's drive north east of the capital, Kampala and is led by Father Timothy Mayamba Masaaba who makes visits throughout his parish as often as possible, although the terrain is not the easiest for comfortable travel!*



*In Uganda education is focused on the boys of a family who are traditionally seen as the bread winners and who merit this investment in education. Four years ago we funded the building of a piggery consisting of 8 sows and 1 boar. We bred the pigs and from the profits of the sale of the piglets were able to fund the education of up to eight girls in the parish right through senior school. Our aim, using the profits from the pig farm, is to help give*

*even more girls an education they deserve.*

*The plan is working well but it is not always reliable or consistent; the profits of the piggery can be a little precarious. Although pork is a staple part of their diet, the retail price can fluctuate widely which in turn has an impact on the level of funding we can provide. As well as helping the girls we would like to help with the nursery school and their specific needs, and also the parish in general.*

*To this end, over Lent, we are making an appeal to the congregation of St Elizabeth's to support us with this initiative. We are not a charity so all donations will be made directly to a dedicated bank account and from there to Buchunya parish. Please contact St Elizabeth's Parish Office for more details or watch out in future newsletters. So far we have visited the parish three times and any parishioners from St Elizabeth's who would like to visit would be very welcome to do so.*

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## *Parish Life & News*

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### **Waitrose**

During March Waitrose will be supporting our night shelter through its green token scheme. Please support our night shelter in March by putting your green tokens in the instore box throughout March.

### **Monday this Week.**

On Monday a production crew will be filming locally for Peter Rabbit 2. For the sake of continuity they have asked us to keep the area beside the church free of cars throughout the day and have offered to make a donation to our restoration fund. As it happens I am not about during the day on Monday and our church will be closed after the morning Mass.

### **Reserved Parking**

Some of our less mobile parishioners much appreciate a lift to church. So to make it easier for those who kindly offer lifts to others, **one space in the car park will regularly be marked with a “No Parking” sign.** A “helper-driver” can ask for it be kept for their car so that they can also go to Mass. Please let us know by each Friday morning.

### **Stations of the Cross**

During Lent Stations of the Cross are every Friday at 7.00pm. The Stations last about half an hour.

### **Parish Lunch Club**

The next parish lunch club will be on Tuesday 2nd April at 12.30pm in the crypt. All welcome to come and enjoy a great three-course lunch for only £7.50. All money raised goes to the work of SPEAR.

### **Catholic History Walks**

Our next Catholic History walk will be on Monday 8th April to Bl. John Henry Newman’s childhood home at Ham.

We meet outside the church at 7.00pm.

### **Easter Offering Envelopes**

The collection on Easter Sunday (like that on Christmas Day) is your personal gift to the priests of the parish. As many parishioners in this parish are away at easter we make the envelopes available early. The Easter Offering envelopes also give tax payers the opportunity to Gift Aid their donation. The priest receives the donation and the parish benefits from the Gift Aid. Envelopes are available this weekend.

### **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.

### **Making An Appointment with 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 is also the option of booking an appointment to discuss a wedding.

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## Thank You

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Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

<b>Gift Aid</b>	£277.00
<b>Not Gift Aid</b>	£874.45
<b>Total</b>	£1,151.45

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 the parish office.

### Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5.30pm	96
Sun. 9.30am	229
Sun. 11.00am	118
Sun. 5.30pm	132
<b>Total:</b>	<b>575</b>

## Social Media

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



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

## Mass Intentions this Week

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### Saturday

5.30pm

### Feria

Dr. Ernest Dureke RIP and Ita Dureke Snr.

### Sunday

9.30am

11.00am

5.30pm

### Laetare Sunday

Pro Populo

Elma & Frank O'Shea RIP

Canon John Bailey RIP

### Monday

9.00am

### Feria

Fr Alexander Fraser RIP

### Tuesday

9.00am

### Feria

Ruadrai Boyle

### Wednesday

9.00am

12.00am

### Feria

Maria Hair RIP

Requiem Mass: Itohan Erhahon

### Thursday

7.00pm

### Feria

Catherine Diener RIP

### Friday

10.00am

### Feria

Dinnorah Rodriguez & Gerald Howard

### Saturday

5.30pm

### Feria

Julie Lambert RIP

### Sunday

9.30am

11.00am

5.30pm

### Passion Sunday

Elizabeth Doughty

Pro Populo

Philomena Hammond

## Please Pray For:

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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 Address:

### Parish Office:

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

**Confessions:** After each weekday Mass and Saturdays 4.45pm-5.15pm.