



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Third Sunday of Easter

Sunday 5th May 2019

Mass Book page 265

Divine Renovation Open House

This week there will be no morning Mass in the parish on Monday or Tuesday as I have been invited to attend the annual *Leadership Conference* taking place at the Albert Hall. The conference brings together church leaders of all Christian denominations from all over the world. The organisers contacted me a few months ago inviting me to attend as a guest of the organisers, presumably because of the good things that have been happening here at St Elizabeth's in recent years. Although we can get used to a steady growth in numbers, we should not forget that this is not the norm in Catholic parishes. Our fifty percent growth over three years is a great blessing and an inspiration for others.

There will also be no morning Mass here on

Tuesday 14th May. I have been asked to give the input for a meeting of a missionary institute who are now working parishes here in England. What does mission mean in the context of parish life in a post-Christian context?

Recently I was asked to write a short article on parish renewal for an Irish newspaper and on 20th & 21st May shall be in Belfast tackling some of the principles with the priests from the diocese of Down and Connor. At the end of the month I will be in Gibraltar at the request of the bishop to work with a group of laity and to give some input to his priests as well.

I mention this not only to explain why I will be away from the parish quite a bit over the next few weeks but, more importantly, to show that there is a great desire in the church for the

renewal of our parishes. God does not desire decline and parish closures. It is true that many places have a shortage of priests that makes it impossible to maintain the present structures, but simply restructuring to give fewer priests more responsibilities is not the solution.

The thing about parish renewal is that it does not depend primarily on the personality of the priest. Priests are gifted in different ways. All that is needed is that they be open to renewal in their parishes and a willingness to take the necessary steps for it to happen. Here at St Elizabeth's we have done little more than apply some of the principles outlined in the book **Divine Renovation** by Fr James Mallon. Please keep these engagements in your prayers.

Parish Life & News

Parish Renewal

The Divine Renovation Model

I had only been in the parish a few months when the mother of one of our parishioners asked me as she left the church if this was a “Divine Renovation parish”. I was impressed both that she knew what to look for and also that she had spotted the signs here at St Elizabeth’s. So what are the key principles that form the basis of renewal according to the DR model?

Three Keys

- **Evangelisation:** The church exists to evangelise. Even so-called ‘cradle Catholics’ need to be evangelised before they can fully participate in the Mass and sacraments of the Church: an encounter with Christ precedes the decision to follow him. In the early church a distinction was made between the proclamation of the kerygma (evangelisation) and the teaching (catechesis) which followed. In common with many parishes, the tool we currently use most consistently for evangelisation is **Alpha**.
- **Leadership:** The model of leadership is given by Christ when he kneels down to wash his apostles’ feet. Leadership is to serve others in such a way that they can in their turn put their gifts and talents at the service of the wider community. In the church we have increasingly invested all leadership in clergy and religious and so infantilised lay people who expect “Father” or someone else to do everything. By virtue of our baptism, however, we are called to holiness, share in Christ’s leadership and are sent out to give witness.
- **Reliance on the Holy Spirit:** in the Valley of Dry Bones, Ezekiel is asked whether they can come back to life. “You know it, Lord” he replies. He is then told to call down the Spirit of God on the devastating scene and when he does so he sees an immense army come back to life. The same is true today if we cooperate with the Holy Spirit and allow him to be the inspiration of everything we do and the source of its power.

The application of these three keys to renewal will vary somewhat from place to place. To help parishes apply them we use a framework which we call the DR Pyramid - but more about that next week.

Parish Life & News

Masses this Week

Fr Stephen gets back from his short break tonight (Sunday) but is at a conference on Monday and Tuesday and so there will not be a morning Mass on either day.

Easter Newsletter

If you didn't get a copy of the special colour edition of our newsletter please pick one up today. It has lots of lovely insights into the life of our parish.

Parish Lunch Club

The Parish Lunch Club will meet at 12.30pm on Tuesday 7th May. Invite your friends for a wonderful three-course lunch for only £7.50. All proceeds go to the work of SPEAR, a local homeless charity.

Arranging a Funeral

From time to time we have had undertakers arrange funerals without first checking the availability of the church. (It happened again this week). It is very upsetting for a family to be told a funeral has been arranged only later to discover the church is not available. If you have to arrange a funeral please ask the undertakers to check with the parish first..

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.

CWL

The Catholic Women's League will have a stall at the May Fair (on the Richmond Green) on Saturday, May 11th: stall 99, near Duke Street. We shall raise funds for Aid to the Church in Need and the running of our section. We shall greatly appreciate your custom on the day, and, if you can, donations of home-made cakes and preserves to sell on the day. Contact: Aline Cook on alinejcook@hotmail.com

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. Natural Family Planning can also help women prone to miscarriages.

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.

Please Support Us

During the school holiday seasons we notice a big drop in our Sunday collection. One way to avoid this is by supporting the parish with a Standing Order (known in some countries as “Pre-authorised Giving”). To set one up you can use the parish form, or do it yourself using the following details:

Account Name: **RCAS St Elizabeth, Richmond,**

Sort Code: **60 17 31**

Account No. **27031527**

Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5:30pm	75
Sun. 9.30am	185
Sun. 11.00am	112
Sun. 5.30pm	140
Total:	512

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk



StLizRichmond/



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Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday

5.30pm

The English Martyrs

Tom and Joan Bryan RIP

Sunday

9.30am

Third Sunday of Easter

Elizabeth Doughty RIP

11.00am

5.30pm

In thanks to the Bl. Virgin Mary

Monday

7.00pm

Feria

Monica Scudder RIP

Tuesday

Feria

No Public Mass here today

Wednesday

9:00am

Feria

Josephine Hamilton RIP

Thursday

7:00pm

Feria

Deceased Members of the O'Brien family

Friday

10:00pm

Feria

Fr Martin Joseph O'Brien RIP
Patricia Woram RIP

Saturday

5.30pm

Feria

Alberto O'Brien RIP

Sunday

9.30am

11.00am

5.30pm

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Lani Vera Japlit 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:

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