



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

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 12th May 2019

Mass Book page 268

## Confirmations

We did not have confirmations here in the parish this year. This is not unusual, many parishes only offer confirmations every second year. The break has afforded us a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the Sacrament and how we might prepare young people for it more effectively.

Amongst many priests there is a sense that, as one put it, Confirmation is the “sacrament of ritualised apostasy”. In other words, instead of being the sacrament whereby young people become independent in their faith, for many it is the moment when they become independent of their faith. This isn’t helped, of course, when parents effectively force their children to be confirmed and then, the arsenal of sacramental carrots having run dry, give up on the effort of getting them to come to

Mass. The problem with that approach is that (not to mix metaphors) there is no second gnaw at the carrot. In other words, if we confirm people when they are not ready, there is no second opportunity at some later stage when their faith might mean more to them.

It is not parents’ fault. The problem is that as a church we continue to follow sacramental timetable that no longer work and have effectively forgotten the meaning of the sacraments. We associate sacraments with a particular year group and have forgotten their purpose.

The sacraments confer God’s grace upon us to strengthen us in our discipleship, our relationship with Christ. They presume a relationship with Christ. That is why the Catechism of the

Catholic Church says that sacraments must be preceded by *evangelisation* - in other words not by *teaching*.

We can see the difference when we look at the early church where a distinction is made between the **kerygma** and the **didache** of the apostles. The ‘kerygma’ was the proclamation of Christ’s saving death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins that led to a commitment to Christ and the beginning of the journey of discipleship. The ‘didache’, or ‘teaching’, was the content of the faith which was imparted to the new disciples **after** their conversion. In other words the proclamation, leading to a personal conversion and commitment to Christ, **preceded** instruction in the faith and sacramental life.

## Confirmations (continued)

So the question for us becomes how we might recover those two distinct elements: present the kerygma leading to a personal commitment, which in turn creates the desire to lead a life of discipleship with all that involves.

Having looked at various possibilities, we have decided to introduce a two-stage process. The first stage will be a

stand-alone, kerygmatic, course towards the end of which young people will be invited, if they wish, to renew their baptismal commitment to Christ. Whether or not they decide to do so, we will continue to offer them fellowship and the space to ask questions so that they can continue their inquiry irrespective of the decision to be confirmed. Those who

decide they do want to follow the path of discipleship will be invited to enrol to be prepared for a short confirmation preparation. It will be short because a disciple is a lifelong learner and there is no need to shoe-horn everything into one course.

We will flesh out some dates for you next week.

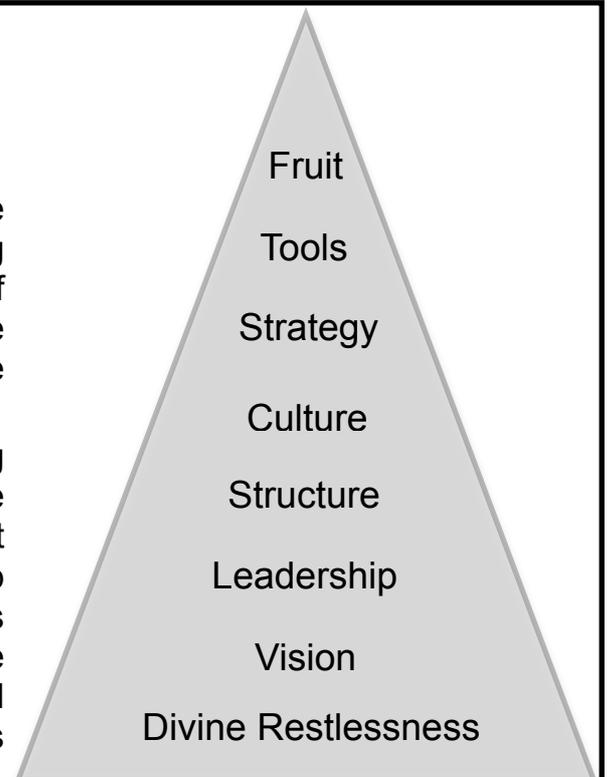
### **Parish Renewal**

#### **The Divine Renovation Pyramid**

One of the things I do as a coach for the Divine Renovation Network is take parishes wanting renewal through the so-called DR Pyramid. Lots of people want results but they don't always realise the work that has to be put in to achieve those results.

Renewal begins with a sense that God is asking more and the desire to respond (base of the pyramid); this leads to developing a vision of what could be; then there is the need to raise up leaders in the parish to help make it happen; as more people work together structures need to be established to make the renewal scalable and sustainable; with more people engaged effort is

required to establish and maintain a healthy culture. Once these are in place strategies can be developed, and tools for renewal (like Alpha) adopted. Only then do we see lasting fruit.



---

## Parish Life & News

---

### Masses this Week

Please note the change to Mass time on Tuesday this week. Fr Stephen will be speaking at a conference during the day and so the Mass will be in the evening.

### Pentecost Novena

The days between the Feast of the Ascension and Pentecost are traditionally a *novena* of prayer for the renewal of the church. This year we invite you to join us for a short service of prayer which will take different forms each evening (for example, Adoration, Holy Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet). This will culminate in the Pentecost Vigil Mass (our 5.30pm Mass on Saturday evening) the texts of which can be found on page 285 of the Mass book. For those who can stay, the Mass will be followed by an extended time of prayer concluding in a consecration of our parish, our families and all our parishioners to the Holy Spirit. Please join us and invite your friends if you can.

### 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 11<sup>th</sup>: 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](mailto:alinejcook@hotmail.com)

### Teaching Vacancies

St Elizabeth's School is seeking to appoint EYFS and KS1/KS2 Teachers. NQTs welcome to apply (possible TLR dependent on experience). For further information please email: [admin@st-elizabeths.richmond.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-elizabeths.richmond.sch.uk). Closing date for applications: Friday 17th May 2019.

### School May Fair.

St Elizabeth's School May Fair is being held on Sunday 19th May from 12 noon to 3pm. There will be a variety of stalls, plus some fantastic foods on offer together with a fun filled programme of activities. All welcome.

### 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.

## Weekly Collection

Gift Aid	£98.00
Non-Gift Aid	£587.99
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£685.99</b>

## Second Collection

There is a diocesan second collection today for the Ecclesiastical Education Fund

## Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5:30pm	101
Sun. 9.30am	149
Sun. 11.00am	107
Sun. 5.30pm	130
<b>Total:</b>	<b>487</b>

## Social Media



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



StLizRichmond/



@StLizRichmond

## Mass Intentions this Week

### 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

### Monday

7.00pm

### Our Lady of Fatima

Goodhart Family

### Tuesday

7.30pm

### St Matthias, Apostle

Deceased Members of the O'Brien family

### Wednesday

9:00am

### Feria

Thanksgiving to our Lady

### Thursday

7:00pm

### St Simon Stock

Rev Martin Joseph O'Brien RIP

### Friday

10:00pm

### Feria

Shirley Muir RIP

### Saturday

5.30pm

### Feria

Mary Frances Morrell RIP

### Sunday

9.30am  
11.00am  
5.30pm

### Fifth Sunday of Easter

George Dixon and Annie Kehoe RIP  
Rev Alexander Fraser 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 Address:

### Parish Office:

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

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