



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Feast of SS Peter & Paul Sunday 30th June 2019

Mass Book page 180

Party Time!

Thursday this week is the feast of our patroness St Elizabeth of Portugal. Ours is the oldest church in the diocese. It was built a full quarter of a century before any Catholic dioceses were established in post-Reformation England. Some people ask why the church is dedicated to a Spanish princess who became wife to the heir to the Portuguese throne. There are possibly two answers to that question. The first is that the church was built by Elizabeth Doughty who used to spend her summers in Richmond. In the absence of any bishops at the time it made sense that she should choose the dedication. The second is possibly more intriguing which is that some people have speculated that had the line of succession sketched out on his

death bed by Henry VIII been followed, in the absence of a male heir the crown would finally have passed to the Doughty family. And given that her brother pre-deceased her, Elizabeth would eventually have been crowned the first Elizabeth, Queen of England. It is an intriguing possibility that Miss Doughty wanted to establish in stone a monument to a rightful Queen Elizabeth but I guess we will never know! I'd be very interested to hear whether any portraits of Elizabeth Doughty exist.

For those interested her summer home, Doughty House, still exists. It is at the top of Richmond Hill just before the two hotels. Currently it is wrapped in hoardings and scaffold as it undergoes a major redevelopment.

We celebrate our feast day with a special evening Mass at 7.00pm followed by a parish party in the crypt and garden to which you are all invited. It would be great to have you join us. I'd like also to extend a special invitation to all our new parishioners as it will be a wonderful way to get to know the parish better and make new friends.

Our social committee already have things in hand and will no doubt once again come up with the most amazing canapés. If anyone would like to make some finger food that we could have as a dessert it would be very welcome (nothing that requires a spoon or fork please!).

Our parish celebration isn't an all-night affair - we try to be over by about 9.30pm and people can of course leave earlier if they wish.

First Holy Communion

I would like to explain again why we are changing preparation for First Confession and First Holy Communion in the parish. People are always telling me that the church has to change but inevitably when changes occur they don't want them. Everyone wants change but no one wants to change!

Currently 90% of young people are lapsed by the time they go to university. The vast majority of them have been to Catholic schools and were prepared in the so-called traditional way for Holy Communion and Confirmation. It doesn't make sense to continue doing the same thing year after year expecting different results. That is the definition of madness.

There is no point changing things for the sake of change. It must be rooted in the Gospels and in the Church's teaching. It must also take seriously the fact that we no longer live in Christendom where the wider culture supported Christian belief and practice.

In the Gospels Jesus teaches adults and blesses children. Somehow we have flipped that on its head: the Church has devoted her energies to teaching children and blessing adults. It is not what Jesus did. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that her liturgy (which includes the Sacraments) has to be preceded by a call to faith. The Church also teaches that parents (not catechists) are the 'primary educators of their children in the ways of faith'.

So the fundamental shift that we are introducing is one which takes seriously

the role of parents in passing the faith on to their children. By introducing what is known as "family based catechesis" we are taking conversations about our faith out of the classroom and putting them back into the family where they belong: at the heart of the relationship between parent and child.

Practically this means that each year, over a seven month period we will have a monthly evening session with parents. They will then choose two appropriate activities to do at home with their children. At the end of each topic there will be a monthly 'community day' where all the families can come together for a morning or afternoon session. Throughout the focus is on making these activities fun and enjoyable for the whole family.

The course we are following is a four year programme. Year One (just completed) looks at the Creed; Year Two focuses on the Sacraments; while years Three and Four consider the Commandments and Prayer respectively. We obviously hope that parents who seriously want their children to persevere in the faith will join us for all four modules.

Next year, to make the transition to the new system easier, we will continue to offer First Communion in Year Three but in subsequent years children will need to be in the second year of family based catechesis, irrespective of what school year they are in. That is why we are inviting parents with children going in to Year Two to sign up now.

Parish Life & News

Parish Feast Day

Thursday 4th July is the Feast of St Elizabeth of Portugal and once again, to mark our parish feast day, we invite you to join us for a special Mass here in the church at 7.00pm followed by a party in the parish garden. It has always been a great occasion and we look forward to seeing you there.

First Holy Communion

If you have a child going in to year TWO or above and would like that child to be prepared for First Holy Communion please let us know as soon as possible. You can email us at: richmond@rcaos.org.uk. We are introducing Family Based Catechesis to the parish and are moving away from the idea that a child must make his or her first Communion in year 3. Instead the focus going forward will be on when the child is ready. The deadline is 15th July.

Pre-Confirmation Course

To ensure our young people are better prepared for confirmation we require them to take part in a pre-confirmation course after which they will be invited to renew their baptismal commitment and enrol if they wish for confirmation preparation. We will take applications for the pre-confirmation course from anyone going in to years 8, 9, or 10.

Please email us to enrol: richmond@rcaos.org.uk. The deadline is 15th July.

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.

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.

School Librarian

St Elizabeth's School is seeking to appoint a part-time librarian to work throughout KS1 and KS2. For further information please contact the school office on 0208 940 3015 or email:

admin@st-elizabeths.richmond.sch.uk

Closing date for applications: Monday 8th July.

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.

Thank You

Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

Gift Aid	£200.00
Non-Gift Aid	£675.69
Total:	£875.69

Second Collection

Today there is the annual national Peter's Pence collection. The collection supports the charitable initiatives of Pope Francis,

Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5:30pm	73
Sun. 9.30am	154
Sun. 11.00am	167
Sun. 5.30pm	96
Total:	490

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk

StLizRichmond/

@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday

5:30pm

Saints Peter & Paul

Nellie Diskin - in Thanksgiving

Sunday

9:30am

Deceased of O'Brien Family

11:00am

Peter & Kathleen Woplin RIP

5:30pm

Pro Populo

Monday

9.00am

St Oliver Plunkett

Fr Martin O'Brien RIP

Tuesday

9.00am

Feria

Holy Souls

Wednesday

9.00am

St Thomas the Apostle

Michael O'Brien RIP

Thursday

7.00pm

St Elizabeth of Portugal

Elizabeth Doughty RIP

Friday

10:00am

Feria

Patricia Woram

Saturday

5:30pm

Fourteenth Sunday of the Year

In Thanksgiving: Nicholas Cobbon

Sunday

9:30am

Dora Gill RIP

11:00am

Pro Populo

5:30pm

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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Richmond,
TW10 6AQ

Tel. 020 8940 2439

Parish Email:

richmond@rcaos.org.uk

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