



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Twenty Fourth Sunday

15th September 2019

Mass Book page 136

Practice Makes Perfect

It was great to see we had 571 people at Mass last weekend. That's the highest number, outside of Christmas and Easter, since I came here nearly four years ago. But while numbers are important, they are not everything.

Quite often people who don't attend weekly Mass come to see me because they want a child to receive a sacrament. The request is problematic at a number of levels. The sacraments exist to help us in our Christian discipleship, our relationship with Christ. They are not fairy-dust sprinkled over the pumpkin of our lives that transforms us into a crystal carriage to sweep us through the pearly gates into heaven. If sacraments

exist to help us in our relationship with Jesus, the foundation of that relationship needs to be there already. That is why in the Catechism the Church teaches that participation in her liturgy (in this case the sacraments) needs to be preceded by evangelisation. It is good that here at St Elizabeth's we can offer Alpha to non-practising Catholics. Alpha is a proven tool for evangelisation.

There is another level, however, at which the request is problematic. Almost every single person who requests a sacrament for a child wants their children to grow up in the Christian faith and to embrace its beliefs and values. That is what they want. But if they don't practise their

faith it is not what they are going to get. Research published in the National Study of Youth and Religion shows that 67% of children who have parents for whom the faith is a very important part of their lives are likely to believe faith is important. When parents hold faith to be only somewhat important only 8% of teens give it any real relevance. It is a dramatic difference. There is also plenty of evidence to show that when a father lives the faith and holds it to be important, the impact on children's practice rate is much, much greater. It is a wake up call to parents and especially to dads: if you really want your children to share your faith you need to come to Mass with them.

Parish Life & News

Alpha

Whom will you invite?

Our next season of Alpha begins on Tuesday 24th September with a “**Come & See**” session. This is a no-commitment taster session for anyone who would like to find out more about Alpha and whether or not they would find it helpful. There’s no pressure on anyone to come back again.

Alpha begins with a great meal at 7.00pm, after which there is a short presentation (about 20 minutes) followed by a chance for discussion. Simply for the purposes of catering it helps us have some idea of how many people are attending.

You can sign up through the link on the parish website:

www.stelizabethschurch.org.uk/alpha

Local History Walk:

There will be another Catholic History Walk on Tuesday October 1st, starting 6.30pm at St Elizabeth's. Learn about Richmond's history: Tudors, trials, and a timely saint - the walk will finish at John Henry Newman's family home at Ham. All welcome. Suggested donation: £10. More info on www.catholichistorywalks.com.

Fancy a Cuppa?

The COFFEE BAR in the crypt after the 9.30 Sunday Mass is recruiting. Our teams work on a rota of about every 5 to 6 weeks. They serve tea, coffee and soft drinks. The proceeds go to CAFOD. Above all, they provide a meeting point and social focus for all after the family Mass. Ask at the bar or contact: alinejcook@hotmail.com

Prayers Please

This month we have submitted an application for a grant for £25,000 to enable us develop our family ministries here in the parish which would be 75% of what we need to raise. Please pray that the application will be successful and that as a parish we will be able to raise the remaining 25%.

Songs of the Sea

12th October 2019

St Mary's Parish Church, Twickenham, at 7.30pm. Elizabeth Benedetto (mezzo contralto) and Jon Booth (piano) present a programme of French and English romantic song inspired by waves and tides. Tickets available at: www.jonbooth.co.uk. John is our parish organist and we warmly recommend this concert to you.

Remember a Charity in Your Will Week

9th - 15th September 2019

Your will can make a lasting difference to the Catholic community here in Richmond. Did you know that you can leave more than just money to your favourite charity? Your property and even your jewellery can be gifted. A gift to St Elizabeth's is also exempt from Inheritance Tax.

Please remember us in your will.

Parish Life & News

St Elizabeth's School

At St Elizabeth's we have a Catholic Primary School which welcomes applications from all Catholic families. ***It is not a private school and there are no fees to pay.*** The main requirement for entry is evidence that you attend Mass each week. The school will be holding open mornings for parents of children who will be starting primary school in September 2020. The school currently has vacancies for children in Y3 and Y4. If you are interested in visiting the school or applying for a place for your child, please contact the school office on: 0208 940 3015.

Farewell to Summer Party

Tickets are running out for our romantic boat trip down the Thames on Saturday 28th September. The evening includes a complimentary welcome drink and a succulent onboard BBQ. The boat also runs its own cash bar. Tickets cost £35 per person. They are on sale after Masses from this weekend. You can pay by credit or debit card as well as cash or cheque.

Raffle

We need prizes for the onboard raffle during our boat trip. Is there something

you could contribute? All donations gratefully accepted.

ADVERTISING / SPONSORSHIP

Would you, your company, or a friend like to advertise in the event programme? We have a bottle of champagne for the person who raises most by way of sponsorship! The deadline for sponsorship is midday on Friday 20th September.

School References

It will soon be that time of year again! Please do NOT use Calendly (see below) for school references. Fr Stephen will set aside a number of evenings and a morning to sign references. Please remember that to give a reference **we need to have a record of your Mass attendance.** During term there are sign on slips available at all the Masses each weekend.

Pre-Confirmation Course

Our pre-Confirmation course will start on Thursday 3rd October. Youngsters will have to have completed this course before enrolling for the confirmation course.

Making An Appointment with Fr Stephen

Calendly - the online Diary

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	£359.50
Non-Gift Aid	£717.30
Total:	£1,076.80

The second collection for the Catholic Education Service came to £384.52.

Today there is a national second collection for the bishops' Home Mission appeal.

Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5:30pm	108
Sun. 9.30am	193
Sun. 11.00am	119
Sun. 5.30pm	151
Total:	571

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk

StLizRichmond/

@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday

5:30pm

Sunday

9:30am

11:00am

5:30pm

Monday

9.00am

Tuesday

9.00am

Wednesday

9.00am

Thursday

7.00pm

Friday

10:00am

Saturday

5:30pm

Sunday

9:30am

11:00am

5:30pm

Twenty-Fourth Sunday

Health of Francella

Holy Souls

Pro Populo

Sts Cornelius & Cyprian

Fr Martin O'Brien RIP

St Robert Bellarmine

Familjen Bofacher

Feria

Fr Gregory Moore RIP

Feria

Alberta O'Brien RIP

St Andrew Kim Taegon & Companions

Deana Tuck

Twenty-Fourth Sunday

John Roderick Seagrave RIP

Fr Gregory Moore RIP

Pro Populo

Bridie O'Grady

Please Pray for:

Margaret Moore, Judiel Valdez, Juliana Ditsche, Ava Borsley, Christopher Browne, Gaye Delanghe, Ben Horgan, Ella Dale, Stella Richards, Sha Smith, Anne Wilkinson, Peter Connor.

Parish Contact Details:

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