



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Twenty Sixth Sunday

29th September 2019

Mass Book page 143

Remembering our *Why*.

Over the last few weeks we have been looking at the essential Christian proclamation of faith which is known as the *kerygma*. We have repeated each week that it consists of four fundamental propositions: 1). God created the world out of love; 2). mankind turned away from God in sin; 3). God reconciles us in Christ; 4). and now we are entrusted with new life in the Spirit. This week I was reading a book about, of all things, Church finances, and came across a statement of the *kerygma* I thought I'd share with you:

When it came to our parish, what was our why? We had no idea starting out. Consequently, we had no way of knowing if we

*were succeeding or even moving in the right direction - even when we **were** moving in the right direction.*

*Before Jesus left this earth, he was very clear about the mission and purpose of the Church. He gave us our **why**. The twenty-eighth chapter of Matthew recounts the empty-tomb narrative and what happened after Jesus rose from the dead. Before he ascended into heaven, he gathered the eleven remaining loyal apostles and said, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Mt 28:18).*

To truly understand this teaching, we have to go all the way back to the book of Genesis. When God created the earth, he gave

authority over it to our first parents saying to them, "Fill the earth and subdue it" (Gn 1:28).

God gave humanity power and authority over the earth, but we know what happened next. Our first parents surrendered that authority to the Evil One when they ate the forbidden fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Subsequently, the story of the Old Testament explains God's preparation to win back that authority for humanity - preparation that took generations upon generations to complete.

Finally, at the appointed time, God sent his Son into the world. He worked miracles. He healed

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people. He preached an amazing message of grace and truth. And then, when his hour came, he entered his Passion. He was beaten, bloodied, mocked abused and abandoned, crowned with thorns, and then nailed to the Cross. All this he endured in perfect obedience to the will of his Father to give back to humanity the authority it had surrendered in the Garden of Eden.

Then, following his Resurrection, Jesus says to the Apostles, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Now, guys, I am passing it on to you. I want you to take that authority, and I want you to go. I want you to go and..."

Now, think about what he **doesn't** say: "go and run raffles... host

spaghetti dinners... put parish life on hold for the spring carnival... sell stuff in your lobby nobody wants". No, remarkably, he says, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Mt 28:19-20).

That's it. That's our **why**. Our mission is to make disciples, or followers of Jesus Christ.

Here at St Elizabeth's we express this in the words of our 'parish purpose' which is to *form intentional disciples who joyfully live out the mission of Jesus Christ.*

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.

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. Jon is our parish organist.

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.

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Alpha

Whom will you invite?

Our next season of Alpha began on Tuesday with a “**Come & See**” session. If you missed it but would still like to join us, you would be very welcome this Tuesday.

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

Conference

From Monday through Wednesday this week Fr Stephen will be attending a conference in central London. He will leave immediately after the morning Masses and will not be available at that time.

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%.

Parish Lunch Club

Our next parish lunch club will be at 12.30pm on Tuesday 1st October in the crypt of the church. All welcome. Please invite your friends. A wonderful three course lunch is served for £7.50 with all proceeds going to SPEAR.

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.

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

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	£266.50
Non-Gift Aid	£68047
Total:	£946.97

Did you know that if you pay UK tax and use one of our blue Gift Aid envelopes on Sunday your donation is worth an extra 25% to us? Had all the collection been Gift Aided last week it would have been worth £1,183.71!

Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5:30pm	97
Sun. 9.30am	113
Sun. 11.00am	107
Sun. 5.30pm	137
Total:	454

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk

StLizRichmond/

@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday

5:30pm

Twenty-Sixth Sunday

Ernest Dureke RIP

Sunday

9:30am

Pro Populo

11:00am

Dec'd members of O'Brien Family

5:30pm

Jack Lindley

Monday

9.00am

St Jerome

Elizabeth Doughty RIP

Tuesday

9.00am

St Thérèse of the Child Jesus

Intentions of CWL

Wednesday

9.00am

The Guardian Angels

Alberta O'Brien RIP

Thursday

7.00pm

Feria

Dec'd members of O'Brien Family

Friday

10:00am

St Francis of Assisi

Fr Martin O'Brien RIP

Saturday

5:30pm

Twenty-Seventh Sunday

Dec'd of Naughton Family

Sunday

9:30am

Pro Populo

11:00am

Kathleen O'Sullivan RIP

5:30pm

Elizabeth Doughty RIP

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.

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

Parish Contact Details:

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Email Addresses

Parish: richmond@rcaos.org.uk

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Safeguarding Team:

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