



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Twenty Seventh Sunday

6th October 2019

Mass Book page 146

Great Expectations

In the newsletter last week, we said that if we are to be true to the final command of the Lord in St Matthew's Gospel, the reason we exist as a parish is to make disciples, or followers of Jesus Christ. That is our **why**. Everything else is incidental. 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*.

In the Gospels we see a distinction between the "people" who listened to Jesus and "his disciples". The disciples were the one who made a deliberate effort to draw close to the Lord and who embraced the sacrifices following him would entail. In our

context today, of course, we are not called to wander the byways of Palestine to follow Jesus. So what are the expectations of a disciple? What are the hallmarks of someone who is making a conscious effort to be a follower of Christ? If we look at the scriptures we can identify five things that we could describe as characteristics of a disciple. The question we have to ask ourselves is how well we are living each one of them.

The first characteristic is that the disciples **grow**. They grow in faith and in prayer and so in holiness. They studied the scriptures and the 'teaching of the Apostles'. It is important to ask ourselves, therefore,

what effort have we made to grow in faith this year?

The second characteristic is that the disciples **connect** with each other. They lived a life of fellowship and cared for one another. This fellowship is a dimension of Christianity we lost at the Reformation when it became illegal to be a Catholic in these lands. It was dangerous to be associated with other Catholics and as a result we went underground. In time we thought that was normal but it is not. The second characteristic of disciples given in the Acts of the Apostles - even before prayer and the Mass - was their fellowship. So we might ask ourselves, how well do

Parish Life & News

we know and care for our brothers and sisters in Christ, our fellow parishioners?

The third characteristic is associated with the second. It is that disciples **serve** - they help out. they use their time and talents to build up the church and to care for those who would otherwise be marginalised: in biblical times these were identified as the widows and orphans but today we can add many more to that list including the elderly isolated in our community. Are we willing to serve? In what practical ways do we work to ensure our parish runs smoothly - especially our Sunday services? Do we ever ask ourselves what we could do to help? Do we remember that we serve not just because something needs to be done but because Jesus commands us to 'lay down our lives for our friends' and says that we will be known as disciples by our love for one another?

The fourth characteristic is again associated with the previous one and that is that disciples **give**. They give financially to build up the Christian community: both establishing new ones and supporting those in need.

Financial giving is part of being a disciple and in the Gospels Jesus focuses not on the amount but on the sacrifice our giving entails (think of the Widow's Mite). How often do we think about how much we give? Is our giving proportionate to our other expenses? Is it sacrificial?

The last characteristic we see of the disciples in the Scriptures is that they **worship**. Certainly they gathered together for the "Breaking of the Bread" or the Mass every week. At times of persecution they had to do this in secret but they did not abandon marking the *Dies Domini*, the day of the Lord's Resurrection, by coming together for the Mass. But they also prayed at other times as well both aloud and in silence. They joined together and sang hymns and sacred songs, they said prayers of thanksgiving and blessing at various moments throughout the day. And so we might ask ourselves how well we worship. Do we fulfil the most basic expectation the church imposes on us which is that we attend Mass every week? How often do we pray?

These are great expectations and they are the hallmark of Christian life.

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.

Parish Life & News

School References

I will be available to sign secondary school references on Wednesday 23rd October from 7.00pm until 9.00pm. The purpose of the priest's reference is to confirm attendance at Sunday Mass every week. We keep a record using the School Reference forms available at the back of the Church. Please do not ask for a reference if you have chosen not to use these forms.

On Wednesday 23rd September we ask you to wait in the church to be seen in order of arrival. It is fine to arrive early but you will have to wait until 7.00pm because I have a prior meeting.

MISSIO

This October has been declared an Extraordinary Month of Mission by the Holy Father. An ideal time to reflect on our missionary role and start giving regular support for foreign missions through MISSIO. Aline Cook, local MISSIO secretary, will be offering MISSIO Red Boxes and answering your questions at every mass on October 19th/20th. MISSIO members are invited to bring their Red Box or annual donation on that occasion.

Boat Trip

A word of thanks on all our behalf to Mike Hough and his team who did all

the hard work organising a fantastic Boat Trip for us last weekend. It was great to see so many parishioners of all ages from all our different Masses come together with their guests and family members to spend time with each other.

Prayers Please

In September 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%. We will hear if we have been successful at the end of this month.

Annual Retreat

Fr Stephen will be away for his annual retreat during the week beginning Monday 14th October.

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	£276.70
Non-Gift Aid	£679.76
Total:	£956.46

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 £1,195.57!

Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5:30pm	108
Sun. 9.30am	173
Sun. 11.00am	80
Sun. 5.30pm	143
Total:	504

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk

StLizRichmond/

@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

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

Monday

9.00am

Our Lady of the Rosary

Alberta O'Brien RIP

Tuesday

9.00am

Feria

Holy Souls

Wednesday

9.00am

Feria

The Jones Family

Thursday

7.00pm

Feria

Holy Souls

Friday

10:00am

Feria

Fr Martin O'Brien RIP

Saturday

5:30pm

Twenty-Eight Sunday

The Government

Sunday

9:30am

Canon John Bagshawe RIP

11:00am

Pro Populo

5:30pm

Holy Souls

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:

St Elizabeth of Portugal
The Vineyard,
Richmond,
TW10 6AQ

Tel. 020 8940 2439

Email Addresses

Parish: richmond@rcaos.org.uk

Gift Aid: richmondgac1@rcaos.org.uk

Safeguarding Team:

richmondsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk