



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Twenty Eighth Sunday

13th October 2019

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Sign Up Sunday

We have called this weekend Sign Up Sunday because we are inviting all our parishioners to get involved in serving in one way or another in the parish. In the Gospels Jesus tells us he “came not to be served but to serve”. If we are to be imitators of Jesus then we too need to be people who serve.

First of all, however, a word of caution. I know that it sometimes happens in parishes that people are press-ganged into helping out simply because there’s a vacancy which the parish priest is desperate to fill. That is not good. It should not be that a warm body is all that is required to qualify us for ministry! I think it is important to make a

distinction between using people to build up the church and using the church to build up people. The first is basically exploitative and is born out of desperation. The second reflects an acknowledgement that God has given each one of us natural talents and supernatural gifts (charisms) which we can use to build up his Kingdom on earth by putting them at the service of his people.

Sometimes a great question to ask is, *What do I enjoy doing?* Another could be, *What am I naturally good at?* There are lots of different ways to serve in the Church. We have established teams to run our Night Shelter and our weekly Alpha sessions. We

also have a Social Committee who take care of our New Parishioner evenings and parish events. We have a Premises Committee taking responsibility for the restoration of the Church and a Finance Committee that keeps an eye on our income and expenditure.

There are also areas where we are short and need more help. Many of these happen to be things taking place on a Sunday and so would not require any massive time commitment: just a willingness to be part of a rota and to give it priority. The great thing about being on a rota is that we can usually arrange swaps if necessary but a willingness to commit is still important. An

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attitude that says, “Yes I’ll do it (unless something more exciting comes up)”, isn’t what we are looking for. The reason it’s not what we want is that it reflects a mindset that puts the individual’s wants before his service to the community. So while it is fine to arrange swaps when necessary, the fundamental desire to serve is what counts.

One of the areas we want to develop is **hospitality** at our Sunday Masses. You only get once chance to make a first impression and it is important that we work hard to ensure that first impression is as good as it possibly can be. Hospitality covers many things: from ensuring that all the different ministries are covered for each Mass (a so-called ‘Mass Lead’), to welcoming people as they come to Church, handing out hymn books or being a presence to answer questions at the welcome desk, to putting things away afterwards so that the church is tidy for the next Mass.

Another area that I am particularly keen we try to cover is **setting up and clearing away** the sanctuary before and after our Sunday Masses.

Currently it works well on Saturday evenings: as I am hearing confessions we have volunteer *sacristans* who let everything ready for the Mass. They prepare the water and wine and hosts and make sure the altar is set up. After Mass, as I am saying good-bye to the people, they clear the altar and put things away. It would be an enormous help to have some volunteer ‘sacristans’ on Sundays because there is very little time between the two morning Masses: sometimes I have less than ten minutes to turn everything around. If you ordinarily come to a particular Mass why not offer to help out in that way. We will show you what needs to be done.

Other areas we are seeking help with include Children’s Liturgy of the Word and the Creche at the 9.30am Mass.

Thinking more long-term, it would be good to have volunteers with more specialist and technical skills (photography, sound equipment, etc), social media interest, graphic design, musical ability, etc. What’s most important? We need you to pray for our parish.

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.

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Annual Retreat

Fr Stephen will be away for his annual retreat this week. There will be Mass in the parish on Monday morning at the usual time but no Mass on the other weekdays.

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.

November List

A November List is a list of deceased relatives and friends whose names are placed near the altar and whom we remember silently at daily Mass during the month of November. November List envelopes are available at the back of the church. It is traditional (but not obligatory) to leave a donation which in this parish is used to offer Masses throughout the year for the Holy Souls in purgatory.

Prayers Please

In September we submitted an application for a grant to develop our family ministries in the parish. It would be 75% of what we need to raise. Please pray that the application will be successful and that we will be able to raise the other 25%. We expect a response at the end of this month.

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.

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	£248.00
Non-Gift Aid	£747.55
Total:	£995.55

This week there will be a parish second collection for our Night Shelter which starts in November.

Next week there is a national collection for Missio.

Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5:30pm	103
Sun. 9.30am	148
Sun. 11.00am	111
Sun. 5.30pm	153
Total:	515

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk

StLizRichmond/

@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday

5:30pm

Twenty-Eighth Sunday

The Government

Sunday

9:30am

Canon John Bagshawe RIP

11:00am

Pro Populo

5:30pm

Holy Souls

Monday

9.00am

Feria

Holy Souls

Tuesday

9.00am

St Teresa of Avila

NO MASS HERE TODAY

Wednesday

9.00am

St Hedwig

NO MASS HERE TODAY

Thursday

7.00pm

St Ignatius of Antioch

NO MASS HERE TODAY

Friday

10:00am

St Luke

NO MASS HERE TODAY

Saturday

5:30pm

Twenty-Ninth Sunday

Ann Sweeney RIP

Sunday

9:30am

Holy Souls

11:00am

Pro Populo

5:30pm

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