



CATHOLIC PARISH OF  
**ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL**  
*Newsletter*

Thirty-First Sunday

3rd November 2019

Mass Book page 157

## Escape the Algorithm

With an election looming it is good for us to reflect on how much of our lives is being run by algorithms these days. It is something that has changed rapidly in the last decade almost without us noticing it. Algorithms drive the suggestions you see on Amazon or Netflix or Spotify. Gone are the days when you scrolled down your Facebook account to see what your friends were up to. Now the app itself decides what content you should see and what you shouldn't. And that can undermine our freedom in many ways. First of all, as you click more your decision making ability deteriorates because you see more of what you already like/

believe/accept. Algorithms don't challenge *confirmation bias*, they fuel it and this inevitably leads to a growing tribalism and intolerance of others. As you click you are drawn into an algorithmic wormhole where everyone thinks the same, believes the same and acts the same way as you do but probably in more extreme ways.

Paradoxically rather than opening up the world, algorithms mean our choices usually end up becoming more limited, not greater. In the past you thought about what CD you wanted to buy and you saved up to get it. Now for a monthly subscription you could listen to almost anything - except that most people don't.

They content themselves with what the algorithm puts before them. So in an online culture run by algorithms, you don't actually choose more you choose less.

In a fascinating interview with TED founder Chris Anderson, historian Yuval Noah Harari argues that our minds are effectively being *hacked* with a consequence loss of autonomy and ability to think freely.

As Christians our convictions should deepen not because we've avoided opposing world views or open dialogue but because we've engaged them. We don't need to defend ourselves by getting angrier and louder and more intolerant.

# Fauré's Requiem

TODAY - Sunday 3rd November

**Please Invite Your Friends**

*One of our aspirations at St Elizabeth's is to be an **invitational community** where we happily invite others to get to know our arms and its people. We want everyone to feel they are welcome and have a home here. For that to be a reality it's important that we have some events to which we can invite our friends and neighbours. That's why this year we are starting a **concert series** in the parish.*

*The first concert is **this afternoon**:*

Stephen Bick, our Director of Music, will lead a chamber choir of professional singers in a performance of **Fauré's Requiem** and some other choral works, with Jon Booth, our parish organist, at the console.

Faure's Requiem is a well-loved classic and we hope to see many parishioners present at the concert. Please join us and invite your friends and neighbours: Sunday 3rd November, 3pm until around 4:30pm.

Free admission with a retiring collection in support of our music ministry.

## **New York Marathon**

Many of you will know husband and wife doctors Charlotte Bearcroft and David Peterson from the parish. Next month they are running in the New York Marathon and have offered to seek sponsorship for our parish restoration fund.

We have set up a JustGiving page which you can access here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/stephen-langridge1>

Please pop over and show them your support.

## **Supporting Your Parish**

Our income always takes a significant dip during holiday periods including half-terms. One way to avoid this is by taking out a monthly direct debit with your bank.

You will need our Sort Code: 60 17 31 and Account Number: 27031527. The account name is: RCAS St Elizabeth, Richmond.

If you pay UK tax please contact us for a Gift Aid declaration which increases the value of your donation by 25% with no extra cost to you.

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## *Parish Life & News*

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### **An Apology**

On Friday evening I was attending an event at the Cathedral and Fr Valentine was scheduled to say the Mass here at 7.30pm. He left the East London prison where he is chaplain at 4.00pm but ran into an Extinction Rebellion demonstration which blocked the traffic. He eventually arrived here at 8.00pm. Although I assured him there was nothing else he could have done, nevertheless Fr Valentine has asked me to pass on his sincere apologies to everyone who was inconvenienced.

It is helpful to know that in situations like this - when we turn up and the priest isn't there to say a Mass - the church automatically removed the obligation to attend Mass on that day.

### **November Masses**

The 5.30pm Mass on **Sunday 10th November** will be for the repose of the souls of priests who have served in the parishes of this deanery. These include Fr Philip Matthias of this parish and Canon Francis Moran of Mortlake, both of whom died this year. The 5.30pm Mass on **Sunday 17th November** will be for the repose of the souls of parishioners of St Elizabeth's who have died in the last twelve months. *You might want to mention these Masses to*

*family members. They would be very welcome to join us.*

### **Parish Lunch Club**

Our next Parish Lunch club will be on Tuesday 5th November at 12.30pm in the crypt. All welcome.

### **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.

### **Mothers' Prayers**

Our next Mothers' Prayers group is Friday 8th November. We gather from 9:00am in the Crypt of the Church, to begin prayer at 9:15am and to finish by 10:00am, which allows those who would like to attend the Friday 10.00am Mass. Mothers and children of all ages are welcome.

N.B The group will next meet on 22 November and 6 December.

### **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	£290.00
Non-Gift Aid	£832.02
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£1,122.02</b>

Next Sunday there will be a second collection for the **Archbishop's Administration Fund.**

## Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5:30pm	89
Sun. 9.30am	130
Sun. 11.00am	104
Sun. 5.30pm	154
<b>Total:</b>	<b>477</b>

## Social Media



[stelizabethschurch.org.uk](http://stelizabethschurch.org.uk)

StLizRichmond/

@StLizRichmond

## Mass Intentions this Week

### Saturday

5:30pm

### Thirty-First Sunday

Holy Souls

### Sunday

9:30am

Elizabeth Doughty RIP

11:00am

Intentions of CWL

5:30pm

Pro Populo

### Monday

9.00am

### St Charles Borromeo

Frederick Walters RIP

### Tuesday

9.00am

### Feria

Eoin McGloughlin RIP

### Wednesday

9.00am

### Feria

Fr Gerry O'Brien RIP

### Thursday

7.00pm

### Dedication of St George's Cathedral

Alberta O'Brien RIP

### Friday

10.00am

### St Willibord

Juliana-Marie Sellwood RIP

### Saturday

5:30pm

### Thirty-Second Sunday

Pro Populo

### Sunday

9:30am

George Kirch RIP

11:00am

For this who died in the Wars

5:30pm

Deceased Priests of this Deanery

### 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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Richmond,  
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Tel. 020 8940 2439

### Email Addresses

**Parish:** richmond@rcaos.org.uk

**Gift Aid:** richmondgac1@rcaos.org.uk

**Safeguarding Team:**

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