



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

First Sunday of Advent

1st December 2019

Mass Book page 82

Update on our Night-Shelter

Most parishioners will know that during the winter months we offer overnight shelter for the homeless one day a week in our crypt. Teams of parish volunteers take turns to provide a three-course meal for up to thirty guests, both male and female, who would otherwise find themselves sleeping on the streets during the winter months. We also have parishioners to welcome them when they arrive and to sit and converse with them during the meal.

The project is coordinated by a Christian charity called GlassDoor and without their help it could not go ahead.

GlassDoor work with six other local churches to ensure that each night of the week is covered in the Richmond area. They also register the guests and provide overnight security for the venues.

The combination of our relationship with GlassDoor and our close relationship with our neighbours in the Vineyard Centre means that our Night Shelter is particularly successful. GlassDoor also provide a Case-Worker who can meet with the guests during the day at the Vineyard Centre. This combination of factors has meant that not only are we able to meet the immediate needs of

the homeless at the Night Shelter but that in November **five people** were helped out of homelessness into stable accommodation. That is really wonderful news and I want to share it with you so that we can be grateful to God for the little ways he makes use of us to help transform the lives of others. Those who attend the Night Shelter also have the opportunity of signing up for the Roots Project, an initiative of the Vineyard Centre which we host here at St Elizabeth's. It has been amazing to see how Roots has helped restore confidence and dignity to people who had lost hope.

Nine Lessons & Carols

*Friday 13th December
7.30pm*

Please Invite Your Friends

From time to time in the parish we try to offer a musical celebration to reflect the liturgical season or time of the year. Our next event will be a celebration of Nine Lessons and Carols on Friday 13th December at 7.30pm.

Afterwards we invite you and your guests to join us in the crypt for some



Loretto Praise & Worship Night

Next Sunday 8th December - Feast of the Immaculate Conception - we will have a special Praise & Worship Night here at St Elizabeth's.

We will meet in the crypt at 6.30pm, straight after the evening Mass. there will be a time of praise and worship, a period of Eucharistic Adoration, and a talk on "The Power of YES!"

Please join us for a time of fellowship, prayer together, and formation. We encourage you to invite your family & friends.

Christmas Offerings

Priests in this diocese do not receive a wage and are dependent on the generosity of their parishioners for their annual income. The largest part of that income comes by way of the Christmas and Easter offerings which are meant to be an expression of gratitude to the priests for their service. Because many of our parishioners are away

at these times we make the envelopes available before the school holidays begin. They can be returned any Sunday over the next few weeks and, of course, on Christmas Day itself.

Christmas Offering Donations can also be Gift Aided in which case the priest receives the donation and the parish benefits from the extra 25% tax reclaimed.

Parish Life & News

Flowers Collection

After Mass today there will be a second collection for flowers to decorate the Church at Christmas time.

Parish Lunch Club

In December the Parish Lunch Club hosts a special Christmas lunch with turkey and all the trimmings. It will take place this Tuesday 3rd December at 12.30pm in the crypt. The lunch costs £10.00 and all proceeds go to support the work of SPEAR, a local homeless charity. Do join us and please invite your friends.

Bible Study: St Mark

Our Friday morning Bible Study continues this week. We start at 8.30am and end by 9.30am in good time for the morning Mass. Please come along to the parish office. All you need to bring is your bible.

Children's Christmas Concert

This year's children's Christmas Concert will take place on Saturday 14th December at 3.00pm. We are grateful to Filip Kucera for making this family celebration possible once again.

Bibles for Prisoners

Fr Valentine has written to say that his prisoners have asked him to get them Bibles rather than chocolates for

Christmas this year. There is a very nice edition published by the Catholic Truth Society which costs £17.95. Fr Valentine has 120 Catholic prisoners. To buy each one a bible would cost £2,154.00. Would your family be willing to donate £20 to help us provide prisoners with Catholic Bibles? If so, please put your donation in an envelope marked "Bible Project". *Next Sunday is **Bible Sunday** and we will have a second collection for this project.*

Interested in Becoming a Catholic or Learning More about the Faith?

In the New Year we could offer an introductory course for those wishing to know more about the Catholic faith. It would also suit anyone who may be thinking about becoming a Catholic. These courses take a while to organise and it would be good to ascertain how much appetite there might be in the parish. If you are thinking about becoming a Catholic or would be interested in such a course please let us know. You can email us at richmond@rcaos.org.uk.

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 baptism or a wedding.

Thank You

Thank you for your offering last week which came to:

Gift Aid	£312.00
Non-Gift Aid	£738.32
Total:	£1,050.32

This week there is a second collection for Christmas Flowers & Decorations.

Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5:30pm	87
Sun. 9.30am	177
Sun. 11.00am	141
Sun. 5.30pm	151
Total:	556

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk

StLizRichmond/

@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday 5:30pm **First Sunday of Advent**
Yousif & Evelyn Farage RIP

Sunday 9:30am Elizabeth Doughty RIP
11:00am Fr Colin Ward RIP
5:30pm Pro Populo

Monday 9.00am **Feria**
Nora Walsh RIP

Tuesday 9.00am **St Francis Xavier**
Goodhart Family Intentions

Wednesday 9.00am **Feria**
Fr Jim Kirby RIP

Thursday 7.00pm **Feria**
Max Rossi RIP

Friday 10.00am **St Nicolas ('Santa Klaus')**
Patrick Diskin RIP

Saturday 5:30pm **Second Sunday of Advent**
Yousif & Evelyn Farage RIP

Sunday 9:30am Fr Donal O'Brien RIP
11:00am Holy Souls
5:30pm Pro Populo

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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