



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

Third Sunday of Advent

15th December 2019

Mass Book page 88

## What Time's Midnight Mass?

The question priests get asked most frequently at this time of year is what time is Midnight Mass. My first parish priest wasn't particularly known for his charm and I would always try to beat him to the telephone because his typical reply was "What time's midnight?" and hang up!

However amusing he thought his response to have been, sarcasm does nothing to encourage or build people up. It is a particularly cruel form of wit. In fact the question is not so daft because although we have become used to the expression "Midnight Mass", the Church says nothing about the specific time. The Latin missal speaks of *Missa in Nocte* - or "Mass during the Night".

Last year, after consultation and by way of an experiment, we changed the time of our "Midnight" Mass and held it at 10.00pm. I had been struck by how few people had attended the later time in previous years and wondered if an earlier time would make a difference. A number of people commented that being on a hill, with no parking to speak of, made it difficult for older people to get to us when there is no public transport. The decision to change seems to have been right as the Night Mass last year was much

better attended than the later one the year before (207 v 138 people). It also meant that there were fewer people at the Vigil Mass which in previous years had been very over-crowded. The Vigil Mass is not yet Christmas (there's no Baby in the crib for example) and it never felt right that this had become the best attended Mass of the season.

So this year, the Mass times will be as follows:

<b>Christmas Eve</b>	5.30pm Vigil Mass 10.00pm Night Mass
<b>Christmas Day</b>	9.30am Dawn Mass 11.00am Day Mass

**Confessions** will be available immediately after the weekday morning Masses this week. On Monday and Tuesday mornings next week they will be available from 9.30am until 10.00am. Confessions are also available on Saturday evenings from 4.45pm until 5.15pm. *We do not have sufficient priests to make confessions available at call so please come at one of these times.*

I would like to encourage you to invite your friends to join us for the Night Mass on Christmas Eve. They would be very welcome and as last year we are putting special effort into the music for this Mass.

# Primary School References

## New Year Signing Sessions

*The deadline for applications to Reception Class at St Elizabeth's and other primary schools is Wednesday 15th January.*

*If you need a reference for the school **and** have been registering your attendance at Mass please come along to one of the **three** sessions when I will be available to sign references.*

*These are: Wednesday **8th** January from 7pm until 9pm; Friday **10th** January from 11am until 1.00pm; and Tuesday **14th** January from 11.00am until 12.30pm.*

*Please do NOT use Calendly for school references.*

**Why do schools require references?** *Catholic schools were built and maintained by the Catholic community to ensure its children could be educated in an environment that extended the religious ethos of the home. This ethos can only be maintained if a majority of families value and are committed to it. One of the ways of measuring this commitment is Mass attendance because the official teaching of the Church is that we have an obligation to go to Mass every Sunday (or Saturday evening) unless impeded through sickness or some other grave reason. A "School Reference" is, therefore, a statement from a priest where the family attends Mass to confirm they do actually attend and with what regularity. It is simply a statement of fact and not a recommendation on the part of the priest.*

*Families should always read carefully the school's Admissions Criteria.*

## We Need Your Help this Christmas...

At Christmas time we will have a large number of visitors to the parish many of whom will be people living locally who do not ordinarily go to church. We only get one chance to make a first impression and we want it to be a great one for everyone who comes here. A welcome can make all the difference as to whether a person will come back again. Could you be part of our hospitality teams for the Christmas Masses? We can show you what needs to be done.

We especially need help on Christmas Day itself. Please email the parish if you can help: [richmond@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:richmond@rcaos.org.uk)

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## *Parish Life & News*

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### **Catholic Women's League**

The CWL will have their Christmas party on Thursday 19th December at 1.30pm in the Crypt. This will take the form of a finger buffet to which all participants are welcome to contribute. There will also be a collection for a CWL good cause - details will be given on the day. Visitors are very welcome.

### **Homeless Sunday Lunch**

Our next Sunday Lunch for the homeless is on Sunday 22nd December from 12.15pm. Could you help with contributions of food or on the day itself? Please contact Angela Smith on [angosmith@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:angosmith@hotmail.co.uk). Thank you.

### **Creative Community Group**

*Save the Date: January 24th 10:30 - 12:30 (after morning Mass)*

Please join us in the crypt for our creative group 'taster'! Feel free to bring along any art or craft project you might currently be working on or drop in for a cup of tea, a chat and maybe be inspired to learn something new. Absolutely everyone is welcome.

### **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](mailto:richmond@rcaos.org.uk).

### **Christmas Offering**

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. Many of our parishioners are away at these times so 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.

### **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	£286.50
Non-Gift Aid	£743.69
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£1,030.19</b>

The Bible Sunday collection to buy Catholic Bibles for prisoners raised £1056.17.

## Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5:30pm	89
Sun. 9.30am	126
Sun. 11.00am	97
Sun. 5.30pm	155
<b>Total:</b>	<b>467</b>

## Social Media



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

StLizRichmond/

@StLizRichmond

## Mass Intentions this Week

### Saturday

5:30pm

### Sunday

9:30am

11:00am

5:30pm

### Monday

9.00am

### Tuesday

9.00am

### Wednesday

9.00am

### Thursday

7.00pm

### Friday

10.00am

### Saturday

5:30pm

### Sunday

9:30am

11:00am

5:30pm

### Gaudete Sunday

Monica, James & George Patchett RIP

Francis O'Shea RIP

Fr Thomas Creagh-Fuller RIP

Pro Populo

### Feria

Fr Martin O'Brien RIP

### Feria

Holy Souls

### Feria

Alberta O'Brien RIP

### Feria

John Good RIP

### Feria

Michael O'Brien RIP

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Yousif & Evelyn Farage RIP

Fr Brian Sandeman RIP

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:

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