



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

Fourth Sunday of Advent 22nd December 2019

Mass Book page 90

Welcoming Jesus...

We only get one chance to make a first impression and a warm welcome can be the deal breaker when it comes to people deciding whether or not to come back to our church. In the Gospels Jesus is very explicit: when we welcome the stranger we welcome him. When we do not welcome the stranger we do not welcome him. It is so simple that we cannot claim to be a Christian community, to be followers of Christ, if we do not welcome the stranger.

At Christmas many of our regular parishioners, and especially those who serve in different ways throughout the

year, are away visiting family and friends. This is both a challenge and an opportunity. It is a challenge because there is a real danger that people will come to our church and not experience a welcome. It is an opportunity because it gives all of us who will be here the chance to step into the breach and to serve in perhaps a new way.

So here's an idea: are you willing to help out at one of the Masses on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day? If so why not don something festive (*like a Santa Hat?*) and arrive at least fifteen minutes early to be shown how **you** can make a difference.

Christmas Services This Week

This year, the Christmas Mass times will be as follows:

Christmas Eve	5.30pm Vigil Mass
	10.00pm Night Mass
Christmas Day	9.30am Dawn Mass
	11.00am Day Mass

On St Stephen's Day ("Boxing Day") the Mass will be at 10.00am

Confessions will be available immediately after the weekday morning Masses on Monday and Tuesday this week from approximately 9.20am until 10.00am.

*We do **not** have sufficient priests to make confessions available at call so please come at one of these times.*

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.*

*To avoid disappointment please do not request a reference unless you attend weekly Mass on Sundays or Saturday evenings at St Elizabeth's **and** have provided us with the evidence by filling in a Mass attendance slip each week.*

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

Many Thanks...

- to Stephen Bick, Jon Booth, our choir and all the extra musicians for a truly wonderful celebration of Nine Lessons and Carols.
- to Filip Kucera and his helpers for organising another magical Family Christmas Concert last weekend.
- and to all those who have stepped in to help with hospitality in recent weeks while so many of our regular parishioners are away.

Parish Life & News

Homeless Sunday Lunch

Today we have our termly Sunday Lunch for the homeless in the crypt from 12.15pm. Please don't forget if you have offered to help with food, to serve or to set up or tidy up afterwards. Many thanks. Special congratulations to Angela Smith who looks after the Homeless lunches as a little birdie tells us she celebrates a significant birthday this weekend!

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.

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.

Servers' Practice

There will be a practice for new servers and for those serving at the Night Mass on Christmas Eve at 10.00am. Please do not be late to avoid eating into the rehearsal time.

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	£315.00
Non-Gift Aid	£556.09
Total:	£871.09

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%? Had all the collection been Gift Aided last week it would have been worth £1,088.86!

Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5:30pm	69
Sun. 9.30am	143
Sun. 11.00am	93
Sun. 5.30pm	117
Total:	422

Social Media



stelizabethschurch.org.uk

StLizRichmond/

@StLizRichmond

Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday

5:30pm

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Yousif & Evelyn Farage RIP

Sunday

9:30am

Fr Brian Sandeman RIP

11:00am

5:30pm

Pro Populo

Monday

9.00am

Feria

Deceased of the O'Brien Family

CHRISTMAS EVE

5.30pm

Fr George Barrett RIP

10.00pm

Night Mass

CHRISTMAS DAY

9.30am

FAMILY MASS

11.00am

Pro Populo

Thursday

10.00am

St Stephen

Int of the Goodhart Family

Friday

10.00am

St John

Michael O'Brien RIP

Saturday

5:30pm

Feast of the Holy Family

Holy Souls

Sunday

9:30am

Michael O'Brian's Intentions

11:00am

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:

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:

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