



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

**The Baptism of the Lord**

**12th January 2020**

Mass Book pages 118

## **Welcome Back Everyone!**

I am guessing that most people who were away for Christmas are now back home and so I would like to take the opportunity to welcome you back and to wish you all a very blessed New Year.

A lot of people have asked where I went for Christmas. I'm not sure the bishop would approve of me heading off to a ski resort on Christmas Eve! I did get away on New Year's Day until last Sunday and was able to enjoy a bit of a break - albeit somewhat limited by the bug that has been going round: Benji (the ever-friendly Cockapoo) didn't get the long walks he was probably hoping for.

Christmas went very well in the parish and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to our celebrations and especially to our outreach and efforts to

welcome visitors. We had 796 people at our Christmas Masses - the highest number in my time here. With many parishioners away I feared we would struggle to have people covering all the different jobs - hospitality, reading, serving, helping distribute Holy Communion, - but in the end we were fine and I am particularly grateful to the volunteers who stepped in at the last minute to help out. It is good for everyone to feel ownership of the parish and to realise that we can all make a difference. We don't need an official 'title' to step in and help.

I would like to thank all those who worked to ensure the church looked beautiful and those who took such care of the ceremonies themselves. The Night Mass was especially

beautiful and the choice of Byrd's Mass for Five Voices was ideal as the Mass setting.

I'd like to thank you also for the many cards and gifts I was given at Christmas. I was very touched by your thoughtfulness and generosity - even the ever-friendly Cockapoo got presents and happily spent Christmas afternoon chewing on bones! And, of course, thank you for the Christmas Offering. In this diocese priests don't receive a wage and so we depend on the Christmas and Easter offerings for the bulk of our annual income.

So now it is 2020 - a new year and a new decade. There will be lots of exciting things in our parish. Let's ask God that we will continue to grow in numbers and in personal holiness.

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## Parish Life & News

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### Applications to St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School

The closing date for applications to primary school for pupils due to start Reception in September 2020 is Wednesday 15th January. St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School welcomes applications from Catholic families living in our parish. Details of the admission arrangements can be found on the school website:

[www.st-elizabeths.richmond.sch.uk/about-our-school/admissions/](http://www.st-elizabeths.richmond.sch.uk/about-our-school/admissions/)

Please note St Elizabeth's is not a fee-paying school and welcomes applications from all practising Catholics.

*If you need a reference for the school **and** have been registering your attendance at Mass please come along on Tuesday **14th** January from 11.00am until 12.30pm (half past midday). This is the third and final reference signing session this year. Please do **NOT** use Calendly for school references.*

### Head Teacher Needed

The governors of St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School in Mortlake, London SW14 8HE are looking to recruit a Headteacher to take up post in September 2020. For more information, please visit: [www.st-marymagdalens.richmond.sch.uk/](http://www.st-marymagdalens.richmond.sch.uk/).

### JOIN THE TEAM

Starting from 12th January we will be hosting the Loretto Worship Night every Sunday at 6:30pm in the Crypt. It is a time of prayer and Eucharistic adoration, worship, formation and fellowship. If you are interested in

supporting the team, we are looking for help in the welcome, facilitation, worship, prayer stations, technical and social media team (get in touch with Elisa 07306 013041). Being part of the team is a great opportunity to serve, experience fellowship, and learn new skills.

Otherwise feel free to just come along and invite some friends!

### Christmas Mass Attendance

Mass attendance at Christmas was significantly up again this year: 9% on last year and 16% on 2017. For those of you interested in statistics, here's a comparison:

	2017	2018	2019
Vigil Mass (5.30pm)	256	162	230
Night Mass	138	209	196
Dawn Mass (9.30am)	110	194	171
Day Mass (11.00am)	184	164	199
Total:	<b>688</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>796</b>

### Christmas Newsletter

If you were away for Christmas you may not have seen a copy of our colourful Christmas Newsletter. Please feel free to take some copies today and to share them with your friends.

I am sure we all know people who, for whatever reason, no longer attend St Elizabeth's or no longer go to church. We would really love it if you would take a copy to give to them as well so that they can see some of the good things that are happening here in our parish. It may encourage them to come home.

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## *Parish Life & News*

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### **Creative Community Group**

*Save the Date: Friday 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.

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

The CWLe have their monthly meeting on Thursday, January 16th in the crypt at 13.30. Visitors welcome.

### **Sunday Morning Coffee Bar**

The morning coffee bar in the crypt after the 9.30 Sunday Mass raised £1,106.00 for CAFOD in 2019. Many thanks to all our happy customers. We are still looking for a couple more volunteers to serve, once every 5 or 6 weeks on average.

### **Loretto Praise & Worship Night**

This evening after the 5.30pm Mass we have a special Praise & Worship Night here at St Elizabeth's. Starting in the crypt at 6.30pm, there will be a time of praise and worship, a period of Eucharistic Adoration, and a talk on "Does God have a purpose for me?" All 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 interested in such a course please let us know. You can email us at [richmond@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:richmond@rcaos.org.uk).

### **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.*

### **Natural Fertility Matters**

For more information about natural ways to achieve or space out pregnancy please visit: [www.naturalfertilitymatters.com](http://www.naturalfertilitymatters.com) or call Freda McMahon on 07887 676 923

### **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	£394.00
Not Gift Aid	£489.87
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£883.87</b>

No cash? Please consider taking out a monthly Standing Order to help ensure that we do not suffer a drop in our income during the holiday seasons. Contact the Office for details.

## Mass Attendance Last Week:

Sat. 5:30pm	95
Sun. 9.30am	129
Sun. 11.00am	97
Sun. 5.30pm	136
<b>Total:</b>	<b>457</b>

## Social Media



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

StLizRichmond/

@StLizRichmond

## Mass Intentions this Week

### Saturday

5:30pm

### The Baptism of the Lord

William Loh Oi Tet RIP

### Sunday

9:30am

Pro Populo

11:00am

5:30pm

### Monday

9.00am

### St Hilary

Jerry Coffey RIP

### Tuesday

9.00am

### Feria

Angel & Veronica Peters

### Wednesday

9.00am

### Feria

Holy Souls

### Thursday

7.00pm

### Feria

Tom Flynn & Claude Sarphie

### Friday

10.00am

### St Anthony

Lesley Newman RIP

### Saturday

5:30pm

### Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Holy Souls

### Sunday

9:30am

Pro Populo

11:00am

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