



CATHOLIC PARISH OF
ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL
Newsletter

3rd Sunday in Ordinary
Time

26th January 2020

Mass Book page 127

Measuring Engagement

When I first came to the Richmond in October 2015 I wanted to get an objective assessment of how people felt about their parish. To do this we used a special survey developed by Gallup called the ME25. Gallup specialises in “quantifying the unquantifiable” and the survey is designed to measure “membership engagement”. It consists of 25 *engagement* questions followed by 11 *demographic* ones. The latter allow Gallup to weight our results so that we are compared with similar parishes on their Faith Database.

Gallup defines an engaged parishioner as “loyal with a strong psychological connection to their parish. They are more spiritually committed, more likely to invite friends, family members and co-workers to parish events,

and give more both financially and in commitment of time”. An “actively disengaged” parishioner “may be regular in their attendance. If that is the case they are physically present but psychologically absent. They are unhappy with their parish and insist on sharing that unhappiness with just about everyone”. Gallup calculates it takes four engaged people to counteract the negative influence of a single actively disengaged one. When we first carried out the survey in February 2016 only 10% of our parishioners were engaged whereas 48% were actively disengaged. Two years later we repeated the survey with much better results: 30% of our parishioners were engaged and the actively disengaged had fallen to 23%.

Over the next few weeks I would like us to carry out the survey once again. From next week there will be paper copies of the survey at Mass. These are meant to be anonymous so please do not write your names on them. We will also publish a link where you can fill out the survey online if you prefer.

I would like to encourage all of you to complete the survey as it is really helpful for us to have the information it provides. Gallup calculates that in a typical Catholic parish 31% of parishioners are engaged and 22% actively disengaged.

A great deal has improved in the parish over the last few years. The survey provides us with a detailed analysis of how we are doing and where we might improve. So please do help us by taking part.

Parish Life & News

Did you receive an email from me this week?

This week I emailed all our parishioners with details of three consultation evenings concerning the restoration of the church in preparation for our bi-centenary. Some bounced, some people had given us work emails but have changed jobs, and one person reported us as spam! Most, however, were delivered. So if you did not receive it you may need to check your junk folder or whether you are actually registered with us as a parishioner.

I would like to encourage you to sign up for one of these "At Homes". They are an important part of our communication and consultation process. If you are unable to make one in February we are planning some more in March. You can sign up through the link on the email, by clicking the event on the parish website calendar, or through your MyChurchSuite account. I am immensely grateful to our parishioners who have so kindly agreed to host these events for us.

Help Needed with our Lent Mission

Once again this year we will have a group of young adults from the Fellowship of Catholic University Students who will help us run a short Lent Mission in the parish. Currently the plan is for there to be sixteen students who will be with us from Sunday 15th until Sunday 21st March. We need help two sorts of help. First of all, accommodation: we would like to accommodate the students in pairs. Could you put up two missionaries for a week? Secondly, we need to feed them. Could you help prepare simple meals that we could serve them? Please contact the parish office if you can help: richmond@rcaos.org.uk

Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals is a charity that sets up school feeding programmes in communities where poverty and hunger prevent children from gaining an education. Four full black sacks of good quality clothing will feed a child one good nutritious meal every school day for a whole year! Mary's Meals will be at the parish until 11am on Sunday 23rd February. Please put leave donations of clothing in tied black sacks that morning before 11am or the evening before. Please note: the parish **WILL NOT** accept donations at other times as we are unable to store them.

Richmond Irish Network Presents
St. Patrick's Dinner and Dance
Friday 13th March 2020

Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club in Richmond, Surrey

Supporting the local charities - Home Start & The Otakar Kraus Music Trust.

To secure your tickets and add any dietary requirements please go to the following link:

<http://buytickets.at/richmondirishnetwork/308321> .

Enquires to seamusjoyce@yahoo.co.uk or 07969 065009.

Parish Life & News

Parish Lunch Club

The next parish lunch club will be in the crypt on Tuesday 4th February at 12.30pm. All welcome.

Bible Study

A reminder that we have a group that meets in the presbytery at 8.30am on Friday mornings to study St Mark's gospel. Participants need to give their contact details to Shanker Singham who leads the group so that they can be kept informed of any last minute changes.

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 short talk.

Introductory Course on the Catholic Faith

Starting this week at 7.30pm in the crypt we are hosting an introductory course on the Catholic Faith - a sort of *Catholicism 101*. Each session will last about an hour. The course is for anyone wanting to learn more about the faith, to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, adults wishing to be received into the church, and Catholics who are simply

looking for a refresher course. We will run every Tuesday evening until just after Easter. Here are the initial topics:

Tuesday 28th January:

Faith & Reason - Is it reasonable to believe?

Tuesday 4th February:

God the Father - Creator of heaven and earth?

Tuesday 11th February:

The Fall and Promise of Redemption

We look forward to seeing you in the crypt on Tuesday evening. If you are able to attend on Tuesdays and would be welcome to help with hospitality (welcoming people, offering them a drink, showing them where to go, etc. please let us know by contacting the parish office. Your help is very much appreciated.

Natural Fertility Matters

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

for a free and confidential consultation. Natural Family Planning can also help women prone to miscarriages.

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 | £577.00 |
| Not Gift Aid | £58340 |
| Total: | £1,160.40 |

The second collection for the Night Shelter raised an impressive total of £2,136.14p. Thank you for your support.

Mass Attendance Last Week:

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Sat. 5:30pm | 111 |
| Sun. 9.30am | 115 |
| Sun. 11.00am | 99 |
| Sun. 5.30pm | 142 |
| Total: | 467 |

Social Media



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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Holy Souls

Fr Martin Joseph O'Brien RIP

Pro Populo

Richard Grady RIP

Feria

Deceased members of O'Brien family

St Thomas Aquinas

Fionnula Ryan RIP

Feria

Angel and Veronica Peters

Feria

Holy Souls

St John Bosco

Alberto O'Brien RIP

The Presentation of the Lord

Anne Ellis RIP

Pro Populo

Dainius Juzefa RIP

Beattie Smith RIP

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.

Also please pray for all those mentioned in the Parish Prayer Book.

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