#  St Columba’s Church, Selsdon

37 Queenhill Road, Selsdon, South Croydon, CR2 8DW Parish website: [www.stcolumbaschurchselsdon.uk](http://www.stcolumbaschurchselsdon.uk)

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Deacon: Rev Philip Pond, T: 020 8651 4653 E: philippond@rcaos.org.uk

**12 JANUARY 2025 – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, YEAR C**

**TODAY'S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased.

**First Reading:** Isaiah: 40:1-5. 9-11

**Responsorial Psalm:** Bless the Lord, O my Soul! My God, how great you are.

**Second Reading:** Titus: 2:11-14; 3:4-7

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! He who is mightier than I is coming, said John. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke: 3:15-16. 21-22

**Communion Antiphon:** Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

**THIS WEEK’S MASSES**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Mass** | **Time** | **Intention** |
| Sun 12 Jan | THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD | 6pm (Sat) | Pro Populo |
| 9am | Bartholomew Ramos |
| 11am | Rita Slevin |

**CHURCH CLOSURE**

It is more than likely that the church will be closed for the next month or so because of building work starting tomorrow (the 13th). The parish website will keep you up to date on developments or you can telephone the parish office. From 21 January there will be Mass at 10am on Tuesdays in the hall – owing to the delivery of scaffolding this Tuesday (the 14th) it will not be possible to celebrate Mass that day. In the intervening period please attend Mass at any parish you wish – they all have websites and telephone numbers for you to check Mass times.

**MASS INTENTIONS WHILE CHURCH IS CLOSED**

During the period of possible closure of the church from tomorrow (Monday), Mass will not be celebrated apart from on Tuesdays – see above. If you have made a donation towards a Mass intention then there are two options: *either* the donation can be refunded (please contact the parish office) *or* the intention will be offered after the church reopens on a first-come-first-served basis. Remember: you can check developments on the parish website.

**MONEY MATTERS**

The collection for 5 January amounted to £517.89, (£245.34 of which was Gift Aided).

Standing Orders for the month of Dec amounted to £2,163.67 (£2,151.67 of which was Gift Aided).

Card Machine for the month of Dec amounted to £1,328 (£749 of which was Gift Aided).

Thank you for your generosity.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS**

All application forms must be returned, in person, to Fr Julian or Deacon Philip by today (Sunday) at the latest. Please ensure that you have made a note of the date and time of the initial meeting: if in doubt, contact the parish office.

**TIME TO PRAY FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

Next Saturday (the 18th) marks the start of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The disunity between Christians is a scandal given Jesus’s prayer “that they may all be one”. Between January 18-25 we are all called to make a special effort in this area. You can do your bit by attending the unity service at 3pm at Forestdale Primary School in Pixton Way, Selsdon, CR0 9JE, next Sunday (the 19th). See you there? Hope so…

**A JUBILEE YEAR: WHAT’S THAT?**

This year, 2025, has been designated a Jubilee Year for the Catholic Church across the whole world. You can make a good start finding out what it means by visiting this website: <https://cafod.org.uk/news/events/a-year-of-hope-an-introduction-to-the-jubilee-year> There you can register for an online celebration taking place next Saturday (the 18th) from 10.30am-midday featuring various celebrities including the Catholic band Ooberfuse. For more information visit cafod.org.uk/jubilee

**OUR REPOSITORY**

Please support our shop at the back of the church. There you can buy diaries and children's books, also Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, Mass intention and sympathy cards rosaries, missals, CTS booklets and other items.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING & MODERN SLAVERY**

A seminar on this shocking issue will be held at St Mary’s RC Church, 70 Wellesley Road, Croydon, CR0 2AR on 29 January from 6.30-8.30pm. The evening will focus on the work of the Santa Marta Group and how the Church is working to combat these crimes and support victims. All welcome.

**HELP ST COLUMBA’S** **BY SHOPPING ONLINE**

Buying something online? Anything? If so you can help St Columba’s at no cost to yourself. Just visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/) and register (which is quick and easy). Then shop online wherever and whenever you choose. Each time you then buy anything online (after clicking on the easy fundraising link), a donation is made to St Columba’s. There are more than 4,000 retailers to choose from including all the big-name High Street stores.

**FOOD BANK WHILE CHURCH IS CLOSED?**

If the church ends up being closed during the rebuilding work starting tomorrow (Monday), it will not be possible to donate items to the Food Bank via the boxes in the porch until the church reopens. So please store them at home for the time being. That includes any items brought in today (Sunday) – don’t leave them in the boxes in the porch.

**PATIENTS IN NEED**

The chaplaincy and spiritual care team charity at Croydon University Hospital does wonderful work helping and supporting patients and their families. It all needs financing of course. If you would like to help – and they need it – send a cheque to: Chaplaincy & Spiritual Care Team, CUH, 530 London Rd, CR7 7YE.

**WORD ON FIRE**

Join Bp Robert Barron and thousands of Catholics from across the UK for a Bible conference, *Evangelisation & Culture: The Bible* at the Excel Centre in East London on February 21-22. Other speakers include N.T. Wright and Professor Tracey Rowland. More information: wordonfire.org/the-bible-event.

**TELEPHONE CALLS**

If you leave a message with a phone number on the parish office answerphone it is vital to speak clearly, slowly and distinctly. Too many numbers are gabbled. Then it becomes impossible to return the call.

**GOING INTO HOSPITAL?**

If you or a family member are being admitted, let Fr Julian or Deacon Philip know so that, while in hospital, you are visited and receive Holy Communion and the Sacrament of the Sick.

**BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE**

This is a one-day marriage-enrichment course aimed at couples with average-to-good marriages who would like to make them better. There is no charge and no group sharing. Couples have the opportunity individually to explore their relationship and levels of communication, which is the key to relationship. These BABM days start at 9.30am and finish by 4.30pm. Dates and venues for 2025 are: March 15, East Sheen; April 12, West Croydon; June 28, Kingston-upon-Thames; and September 13, Amigo Hall, Southwark. More details – T: 07983 524 727 or E: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

**PRAY FOR THE SICK AND NEEDY**

Rob Adams, Jean-Claude Anthony, Alice Barclay, Maria Baretto, Rene Barrett, John Belli, Florinda & Simon Cardoso, Maureen Coffey, Joan D`Souza, Marion de Souza, Vera de Souza, Una Dunne, Irena Dziewulak, Eoin Egan, Bernardo, Manuel & Maria Fernandes, Judy Freegard, Joan Hammett, Prema Meeweller, Tony Melvin, Veronica Moor, Jill & Jim O`Donnell, Roselyn Ping, Pedrinha Ramos, Elida Scasso, Sean Walsh and Jacqueline Wheatley. Also pray for family and friends of parishioners: Isobel Barbour, Margaret Bolton, Ann Brennan, Mike Goodwin, Michael Medhurst, Christopher Onyeachom, Jonathan Raki, Kathleen Sampson, Michael Skinner, Pat Taylor, David Wallace, Linda & Michael Watson and Magdalene Wong.

**SAFEGUARDING** Our four Parish Safeguarding Reps are: Gill Tomei email selsdonsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk Richard Mills E: selsdonsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk Clare Morgado E: selsdonsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk and Patsy McFarlane E: selsdonsg4@safeguardrcaos.org.uk You can also contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator on 020 7261 1606. If you need help, information or advice concerning possible safeguarding issue involving children or vulnerable adults, contact any of the above. Your concerns will be dealt with discreetly and efficiently. For more information about Safeguarding please see the posters in the porch and church hall.