# 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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**15 DECEMBER 2024 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR C**

**TODAY'S MASS READINGS**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

**First Reading:** Zephaniah 3:14-18

**Responsorial Psalm:** Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**Second Reading:** Philippians 4:4-7

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 3:10-18

**Communion Antiphon:** Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

**THIS WEEK’S MASSES**

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| **Date** | **Mass** | **Time** | **Intention** |
| Sun 15 Dec | **3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  ‘Gaudete Sunday’ | 6pm (Sat) | Mary & Liam Brophy |
| 9am | Pro Populo |
| 11am | Michael A. Skinner, RIP |
| Mon 16 Dec | Advent Weekday | 10am | Peter Lawrence & Family, RIP |
| \*Tues 17 Dec | Advent Weekday | 10am | Mary Clerkin, RIP |
| Wed 18 Dec | Advent Weekday | 10am | Wolfgang Resch, RIP |
| Thurs 19 Dec | Advent Weekday | 10am | Francisco de Souza |
| Fri 20 Dec | Advent Weekday | 10am | Gilbride & Loughran Families |
| Sat 21 Dec | Advent Weekday *(St. Peter Canisius)* | 10.30am | Holy Souls |
| Sun 22 Dec | 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 6pm (Sat) | Eileen Mabbutt, RIP |
| 9am | Pro Populo |
| 11am | Bill & Catherine Walsh, RIP |

\*From today (Tuesday) the readings at Mass are taken from the late Advent period and the remaining readings for the Third Week of Advent (Tuesday onwards) are abandoned.

* Weekday Masses are preceded by Morning Prayer at 9.40am.
* There will be no Exposition & Benediction on Tuesday.
* During Advent Mass will be celebrated on Thursdays at the normal weekday time of 10am.
* Friday`s Mass is followed by the Rosary.
* There are devotions to Our Lady on Saturday morning at 10am.
* Confessions: Saturday after the 10.30am Mass and from 5.30-5.45pm.

**COFFEE MORNING** The Community & Social Group invite you to refreshments, including mince pies, in the hall after 11am Mass today (Sunday). From January, there will be a coffee morning on the first Sunday of each month after the 9am Mass and after 11am Mass on the third Sunday of each month. See the notice board in the church porch for details.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** Application forms will be available after all Masses until 5 January and must be returned, in person, to Fr Julian or Deacon Philip by 12 January at the latest.

**THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN’S SOCIETY** Donations for the CCS given at our crib this year will help families in our diocese who are facing a crisis in their lives, practical support such as providing beds for children without their own and cookers for families who are unable to provide their children with a cooked meal. See the CCS website www.cathchild.org.uk/crib

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS** All are invited to sing outside Selsdon Sainsbury’s from 11am till noon on Saturday (the 21st). It’s being organised by Churches Together to show local people that Christians are alive and well and active in Selsdon.

**NEXT WEEKEND’S READERS, BIDDING PRAYERS WRITER & EUCHARISTIC MINISTER** Readers: Saturday 6pm Richard. Sunday 9am Mike. 11am Janice. Bidding Prayers: Stephen & Brigid. Eucharistic minister 9am Mass: n/a.

**FR JULIAN: AN APOLOGY** “At the 11am Mass last Sunday I implied that certain parishioners had been thoughtless in blocking the drive of a local resident. I have since learned that there was no problem at all, so I apologise for any distress caused by my reaction. As good relations with our neighbours are paramount and as I had received an approach which I thought was genuine, I reacted accordingly – perhaps understandable in the circumstances, but still unacceptable.”

**CHRISTMAS SPRING CLEAN** We all want St Columba’s looking its best for the Christmas services. So a special church-cleaning session is being organised for Monday the 23rd, 10.30am- 7pm. Please come along, even if only for half an hour, to lend a hand (men and women!) – and the quicker the job will be done. Sign up using the rota in the porch.

**HOSPITAL CHRISTMAS CAROLS** Come and join us singing around the wards at Croydon University Hospital on Wednesday (the 18th): meet at 6pm in the chapel for a 6.30pm start, returning by 7.30pm for mince pies and mulled wine.

**MONEY MATTERS** 7-8 December: basket £519.97 (Gift Aid £198.67), card machines £218.50 (Gift Aid £171.50).

**OUR REPOSITORY** Please support our shop at the back of the church: there you can buy Christmas cards, Advent calendars, diaries and children's books. Available throughout the year are Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, Mass intention and sympathy cards plus others. Also available are rosaries, missals and CTS booklets and other items.

**CROYDON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL** There will be no Mass in the chapel there on Christmas Day or New Year’s Day.

**MISSIO RED BOXES** Please bring them in to be emptied: leave them in the sacristy and then collect from the porch.

**MARY'S MEALS** BuyingyourChristmas presents from their online shop supports their vital work to bring food, education and hope to hungry children across the world. Check out their website at [www.marysmeals.org.uk/shop](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk/shop)

**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 easyfundraising link), a donation is made to St Columba’s. There are more than 4,000 retailers to choose from.

**FOOD BANK** Please help. Most urgent needs are: soup, tinned meats (meals), pasta sauce, tinned fruit, tinned veg, pasta, tuna, porridge/oats and other cereals, toilet rolls, bleach and washing-up liquid. Thank you for your support.

**CAFOD GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS** Take a catalogue home with you or check it out online at cafod.org.uk/worldgifts

It’s a wonderful way for our parish to share the hope and joy of Christmas with our global family.

**GOING INTO HOSPITAL?** Let Fr Julian/Deacon Philip know so that you can be visited and receive Holy Communion.

**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.

**MEN’S WELLBEING WORKSHOPS** Beyond Equality are delivering a national project to improve men’s wellbeing and would love to support the men within our community. They have a team of local facilitators trained to deliver a series of three workshops looking at mental wellbeing, healthy masculinity and building supportive communities. The workshops are fully-funded by Movember and will be hosted in our hall in the new year. This is an opportunity for men in our area to access safe conversations about their wellbeing and to build the tools to support themselves and others. For more details see the leaflets in the porch or visit <https://www.beyondequality.org/programs/connectionasresilience>

**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](mailto:email%20selsdonsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk) Richard Mills E: [selsdonsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:selsdonsg3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk) Clare Morgado E: [selsdonsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:selsdonsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk) and Patsy McFarlane E: [selsdonsg4@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto: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.