#  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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**16 FEBRUARY 2025 – 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C**

**TODAY'S MASS READINGS (THE CHURCH IS CLOSED BUT DUE TO REOPEN NEXT WEEK)**

**Entrance Antiphon:** Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

**First Reading:** Jeremiah: 17:5-8

**Responsorial Psalm:** Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.

**Second Reading:** Corinthians: 15:12. 16-20

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Rejoice and leap for joy, says the Lord, for behold, your reward is great in heaven. Alleluia.

**Gospel:** Luke: 6:17. 20-26

**Communion Antiphon:** They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

**MASS AT ST COLUMBA’S** There will be Mass at 10am on Tuesday (the 18th), hopefully in the church. Yes!

**CHURCH CLOSURE: WE SHALL SOON REOPEN** On Thursday (the 13th), the work in the church was completed and the pews were restored. A deep-cleaning company is due this weekend to ensure that the church is cleaned thoroughly and it looks likely that we may be able to resume our normal liturgies this coming week, which is good news and earlier than anticipated. Check the parish website for updates. The church now has a complete new ceiling (nave and side chapels) with both insulation and insulated tiles and there is further insulation at the sides of the roof (which were never completed in 1962) between the side chapels and the sanctuary. It should now be a warmer church – certainly it is safer now that the unstable tiles have been removed. The next stage is redecoration which will be undertaken while the church is in use, but hopefully not too disruptive. We are almost there…

**WHAT ELSE IS NEW…** The patio outside the back door of the presbytery (which is effectively used as the ‘front’ door anyway) is now complete – do have a look! Also, the hall boiler which failed a couple of weeks ago has been replaced with a new one. There will always be work to be done on the premises of any parish – think of the analogy of the Forth Bridge – but, as far, as St. Columba`s is concerned, all the major work, which has occasioned so much disruption, is now complete. Thank you for your patience.

**WHAT NEXT?** See the parish website for updates or telephone the parish office. While the church is closed please attend Mass at any parish you wish – they all have websites and telephone numbers for you to check Mass times.

**MONEY MATTERS** February 11: basket £109.67 (£69 Gift Aid), First Holy Communion book donation £60.

**MASS AT CROYDON UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL** It is celebrated every Wednesday in the hospital chapel at 12 noon.

**FOOD BANK: PLEASE HELP** Hopefully next weekend we should be able again to start accepting foodstuffs for the poor and needy. 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. Leave them in the boxes in the porch.

**HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR ARCHDIOCESE** That’s the invitation and challenge in a consultation booklet being made available by our Archbishop to all parishioners – and that means you. It follows a pastoral letter from Abp John circulated at St Columba’s just before the church closed for building work. That pastoral letter was about the latest phase of *Called To Bear Fruit*, an initiative he launched in 2023. You can read more about *Called to Bear Fruit* on the parish website. Copies of the consultation booklet can be collected at Mass on Tuesday.

**A MAN AFTER GOD’S HEART** Among the many outsize characters in Scripture, David is one of the most compelling and controversial; a writer of psalms still sung today, the king who established Jerusalem and the monarchy, the man who defeated giants and the one from whom the messianic line proceeds. David is memorably described as ‘a man after God’s heart’ and yet he was also someone capable of the most appalling behaviour. How can we square the circle of his character and make sense of how God used someone so gifted but also flawed? That is the theme of a house-group Lent course starting on March 10. Use this link to choose a day of the week and venue in Selsdon that suit you best: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdThgb0AjDnWfhqBhcjHh7YiFxDlohXWukWAWfu-xRI3B5BQw/viewform?usp=sharing> Alternatively phone Deacon Philip for details and to book.

**MAJOR MARRIAGE PROBLEMS?** Do you feel alone? Are you constantly frustrated or angry with your spouse? Have you stopped talking to each other? Retrouvaille may be for you. Its programme has helped hundreds of couples through difficult times in their marriages. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about Retrouvaille or to register for the next online programme running from February 27 – March 2 call 07887 296 983 or email info@retrouvaille.org.uk

**QUIZ NIGHT** It’s on March 1, starting at 7pm, at St John the Baptist church hall in Purley. Tickets £15pp including food, with proceeds going to the Handicapped Children’s Pilgrimage Trust who take youngsters to Lourdes each year at Easter – a very worthy cause. For details email group14@hcpt.org.uk

**MIKE GOODWIN RIP** Pray for the repose of the soul of former parishioner Mike who died on Tuesday and for his family. *Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen*

**A JUBILEE YEAR?** 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 that means by visiting this website: <https://cafod.org.uk/news/events/a-year-of-hope-an-introduction-to-the-jubilee-year>

**JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO IRELAND** It includes Knock, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick and Ballintubber Abbey. Dates are April 6-10; price, £799pp. More details: 01268 762 278 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

**FOR THE BEREAVED** *Grief In Loss: Hope In Christ* is a weekend for those who have been bereaved. This weekend, from March 21-23, will take place away from the pressures of day-to-day life and can help one begin to come to terms with bereavement. It is a time for quiet, prayer, talking and acceptance. Due to the special nature of this weekend retreat, held at Aylesford Priory in Kent, places are limited and subject to a telephone call to determine if it is right for you – 01622 717 272 or email reception@thefriars.org.uk

**FAN THE FLAME OF HOPE** CYMFed Flame is the largest Catholic youth event in the UK. It’s aimed at young people in school year 9 up to university age and takes place on March 15 from 11am-6pm in Wembley Arena. A block booking by our Archdiocese means tickets cost £29 each but you need to book now. For more information visit https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/

**LEARN ABOUT THE BIBLE** Why not join a virtual Bible study group which meets online every Friday evening at 7.30pm? To join visit the website pwa.zoom.us/wc and enter the Zoom ID 4454292726.

**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.

**PRAY FOR THE SICK AND NEEDY** Rob Adams, Jean-Claude Anthony, Alice Barclay, Maria Baretto, Rene Barrett, John Belli, Maureen Coffey, Joan D`Souza, Vera de Souza, Una Dunne, Irena Dziewulak, Eoin Egan, Bernardo Fernandes, Judy Freegard, Joan Hammett, John Kidwell, Tony Melvin, Veronica Moor, Winifred Mulvaney, Jill & Jim O`Donnell, Roselyn Ping, Pedrinha Ramos, Elida Scasso, Clementia Stoneman, Sean Walsh and Jacqueline Wheatley. Also family/friends of parishioners: Isobel Barbour, Margaret Bolton, Ann Brennan, Michael Medhurst, Christopher Onyeachom, Jonathan Raki, Kathleen Sampson, Michael Skinner, Pat Taylor, David Wallace, Linda & Michael Watson.

**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 issues 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.