#  St Columba’s Church, Selsdon

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

Parish Priest: Fr Julian Shurgold, T: 020 8657 3747 E: selsdon@rcaos.org.uk

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

**9 FEBRUARY 2025 – 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR C**

**TODAY'S MASS READINGS (DON’T FORGET: THE CHURCH IS CLOSED TILL LATE FEBRUARY)**

**Entrance Antiphon:** O Come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

**First Reading:** Isaiah: 6:1-8

**Responsorial Psalm:** In the presence of the angels I praise you, O Lord.

**Second Reading:** Corinthians: 15-1-11

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! Follow me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of men. Alleluia.

**Gospel:** Luke: 5:1-11

**Communion Antiphon:** Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

**MASS AT ST COLUMBA’S**

There will be Mass in the hall on Tuesday (the 11th) at 10am.

**CHURCH CLOSURE: AN UPDATE** Last Saturday (February 1) all the scaffolding was removed from the church in a six-hour operation involving two lorries. The ceiling of the nave is now complete with all new tiles and insulation. By Tuesday morning most of the old tiles in the Lady Chapel had been removed; likewise, on Friday, those in the Sacred Heart Chapel. Many of the pews have now been moved back into the body of the church. A cleaning company will be engaged to ensure that all the dust and debris are cleared. Our Masses can then begin in tandem with the redecoration of the interior - it is sorely needed on the sanctuary wall where the curtains were. See the parish website for photographs showing the work. If you come into the car park, do peer over the hedge into the presbytery garden and view the (almost) completed patio.

**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.

**MASS INTENTIONS WHILE THE CHURCH IS CLOSED** If you have made a donation towards a Mass intention then there are two options: *either* the donation can be refunded (contact the parish office) *or* the intention will be offered after the church reopens on a first-come-first-served basis. You can check developments on the parish website.

**PREMA MEEWELLA RIP** Please keep Prema in your prayers. Her funeral will take place at 11.15am on Thursday (the 13th) at the East Chapel of Croydon Crematorium/Cemetery. Pray also for her husband, Chrys, and their family.

*Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.*

**MONEY MATTERS** 4 February: basket £116 (£100 Gift Aid), repository £1. In January standing orders totalled £2,167.67 (£2,155.67 Gift Aid); the card machine payments, £527 (£305 Gift Aid). Thank you for your generosity.

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

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

**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 from the hall 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.

**FOOD BANK WHILE THE CHURCH IS CLOSED?** It is not be possible to donate items to the Food Bank via the boxes in the porch until the church reopens. So please store any donations at home for the time being.

**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

**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 this year 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** Interested in learning more about the Bible and reflecting on Scriptural themes? Why not join a virtual Bible study group which meets online every Friday evening at 7.30pm? Once a month, on the second Friday, the group also meet in person at the SDC House at 38 Ryefield Rd, Upper Norwood, SE19 3QU. The focus for 2025 is the Jubilee Year. To join online visit the website pwa.zoom.us/wc and enter the Zoom ID 4454292726.

**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>

**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; July 5, Dulwich; September 13, Amigo Hall, Southwark; and October 4, Catford. 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, Maureen Coffey, Joan D`Souza, Vera de Souza, Una Dunne, Irena Dziewulak, Eoin Egan, Bernardo Fernandes, Judy Freegard, Joan Hammett, 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 and 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 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.