

# CHRISTCHURCH NEWSLETTER

CANONS REGULAR OF THE LATERAN

CHRISTCHURCH PRIORY 229 Eltham High Street, London SE9 1TX TEL: 020 8850 1666 FAX: 020 8294 2109

Website: [www.christchurcheltham.org.uk](http://www.christchurcheltham.org.uk)

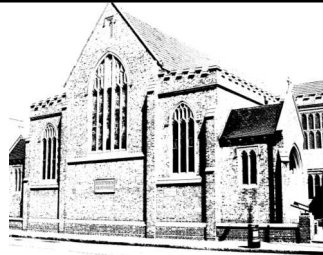
e-mail: [parishoffice@christchurcheltham.org.uk](mailto:parishoffice@christchurcheltham.org.uk)

## Sunday Masses

6pm Sat Vigil Mass  
9.30am Children's Mass  
11.30am Mass  
6.30pm Mass

## Confessions

Saturday 11-12 noon, 5-6pm



## Weekday Masses

Mon-Fri 9a.m.  
Saturday 12noon

Bank Holidays 12 noon

Holy Days of Obligation  
9am 12noon and 8pm

## Morning Prayer:

8.30am Mon– Sat

## Prayers for the Sick:

Tuesday after 9am Mass

## Exposition:

Mon & Wed after 9am Mass

Rosary: Saturday 11.30am

Parish Priest: Fr John Fricker CRL

Assistant Priest: Fr Denis O’Gorman CRL

Office Manager: Jeanette Fernandes

## 24th AUGUST 2014 TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A)

Missal: Mass pg 322 Scripture ref: 1st Isaiah 22:19-23 2nd Romans 11:33-36 Gospel Matthew 16:13-20

Psalm Response: Your love, O Lord, is eternal, discard not the work of your hands.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. Alleluia!

**Baptisms:** We welcome Henry Mathew Spicer, Peter Patrick Griffin and Samuel Harry Clarke into our parish family.

Please remember in your prayers the deceased of the parish, especially Angela Johnson whose funeral will take place on Friday 29th August at 9am followed by Cremation at Falconwood Crematorium.

The Sunday collection came to £1415. Thank you for supporting your parish.

**Sunday Teas and Coffees:** The teas and coffees after the Sunday morning masses has now started. Please do call in to get to know other members of the parish. The rotas are available in the sacristy.

**Christchurch Coffee Shop:** This will be open for the first time on Friday 5th September from 9am—11am in the parish hall. Tea, coffee, biscuits and cake will be available for you to enjoy. If you are in Eltham Friday morning do pop in for some refreshment and some friendly company. The coffee shop will be open every Friday morning at the same time. If you would like to join the team or just help out occasionally do pop in or contact the parish office. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Toddler Group:** We hope to restart this group on 3rd September. If you are able to help please contact the Parish Office. We especially need help to put out the equipment before the session and clear up afterwards. There is quite a lot of carrying that needs to be done.

**Food Bank:** Please remember our poorer members of society. Food is needed throughout the year but, as people are away, less donations are received. Please help, especially at this time of year when there are no school meals and less on the shelves of the food banks.

**First Holy Communion:** Application Forms are available at the back of the church.

- **If your child is at a Catholic school** and will be in Year 3 or above in September 2014, please

complete a **yellow** application. Children will make their First Holy Communions in May 2015.

- **If your child is at a Non-Catholic school** and will be in Year 2 or above in September 2014, please complete a **pink** application. Children will make their First Holy Communions in May 2016.

**School Forms:** Fr John will be signing school forms on the following dates (no appointment necessary):

Saturday	Monday	Thursday
27 September	6 October	9 October
4 October	13 October	6 November
11 October	3 November	
18 October		
1 November		

**Applications to St Mary's:** Fr John will only sign your child's application form for entry to St Mary's Nursery or Reception class if they are for September 2015 entry.

To be considered for entry to St Mary's:

**Nursery class** - your child needs to turn four between 1 September 2015 – 31 August 2016

**Reception class** - your child needs to turn five between 1 September 2015 – 31 August 2016

Returning application forms to St Mary's before your child is eligible for entry does not secure a place at the School.

- **Baptism Preparation Course** If you have a child under school age whom you wish to have baptised, please come on any Friday; the course lasts for 4 weeks. Meetings are in the Priory at 8pm. No need to book, just turn up. Leaflets are available in the Church. Next 29th August.



CHRISTCHURCH

Find us on:  
**facebook.**

Christchurch Catholic  
Church Eltham

- **Journey in Faith (RCIA)** Anyone interested in joining the Catholic Church should speak to Fr John. We run a course that meets in the Priory on Mondays at 8pm.

### ***LOST***

A long black dress coat was left in the Church on Sunday 10th August around 3 pm. If you have picked it up would you please hand into the Parish Office, or telephone.

### ***NOTICES***

#### **Faith Movement London Talks: 'Why The Church?'**

All are welcome to our series of talks on 'Jesus Christ and Human Love' on selected Tuesdays at 7:30pm from 23rd September (details at [www.faith.org.uk/events/evenings-of-faith](http://www.faith.org.uk/events/evenings-of-faith)) in the basement of 24 Golden Square, London W1F 9JR). Tube: Piccadilly Circus.

**Tuesday 23rd September** Dealing with our wound of original sin. *Mary Gray*

**Tuesday 7th October** The Old Testament: Preparation for a Saviour. *Fr Ian Vane*

Church Hall, Bexley: Wednesday 10th September, 7pm for 7.30pm. Showing a film on Padre Pio, the beloved friar who had such great spiritual gifts and who suffered the stigmata for 50 years. Admission free and includes light refreshments.

#### **Isaiah 22:19-23; Psalm 137:1-3,6,7c; Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20**

In the passage we read from the prophet Isaiah today we glimpse the internal workings and tensions of the royal household. It contrasts two officials who functioned as "chancellor", that is, in command second only to the king. "*Shebna*" is condemned and rejected for unacceptable actions, whereas "*Eliakim*" is commended and endorsed as a faithful and effective official – and in him we see envisaged the coming of "the good steward" in the future of Jerusalem. The passage begins with words typical of Isaiah, "*on that day*", signalling an anticipated future. This reminds us of Jerusalem's long-term hope of a coming good king, a messiah, an echo of the royal, Davidic ideology. The *ideal* of Eliakim is in complete contrast to the *reality* of Shebna. The promise to the coming Eliakim is full investiture of power and authority in which he is given the emblems of office and the official "key" to the royal establishment. He will be "*the peg*", that is, the lynchpin of administrative power, so that everything flows to and depends upon him. It is likely that the reference to Eliakim and "*the key of the house of David*" (v. 22) is repeated in **Matthew 16:19**, where Peter is promised, "*I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*" Enormously powerful authorization. Peter holds the office, not unlike Eliakim, second only to the reigning "David", Jesus. Peter, like Eliakim, is entrusted

with complete oversight of the household of the church. However, we see, after this high investiture of Peter, the very next paragraph in Matthew condemning him as a would-be Shebna: "*Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things*" (Matt 16:23).

Throughout history this Petrine promise has been interpreted in different ways. In Matthew, Peter is the model disciple who must be constantly sustained by Christ, and in the early Church he is remembered primarily as an apostle and martyr. The traditional notion that Peter is the type of every Christian, the "*rock*" on whom the Church is built, is very early. The Eastern interpretation is that the "*rock*" is the faith of Peter, so that the Church is built on the faith of believing Christians. In the Middle Ages there was the strong Christological understanding of Christ as the "*rock*" (cf 1 Cor 3:11; 10:4). An interpretation dating from the fourth century is the Roman/pontifical interpretation: the "*rock*" is Peter, and promises to Peter extend to successors in Petrine ministry. Fundamental to all interpretations and to the Johannine version of the Petrine promise (John 21:15-19) are Jesus' words that the Church is "*my Church*" and the sheep are "*my sheep*". Ultimately, faith rests on Christ, who is the Good Shepherd of the flock.

Our psalm today, **Psalm 137**, is in praise of the LORD's faithful love for his people. Homage is paid by great and small alike, "*all earth's kings*" as well as "*the lowly*". All shall "*sing of the LORD's ways*" – and, as we know from our Isaiah reading – and, indeed, Matthew's Gospel, "*our ways*" are likely to be different from "*the LORD's ways*" and lessons have to be painfully learnt.

The utter confidence expressed in the LORD in Psalm 127: "*How great is the glory of the LORD*" whose "*love*" is "*eternal*" is echoed in our passage from **Romans**, where Paul, at the end of chapter 11, brings to a triumphant conclusion his anxieties for his fellow Jews, focussing on the inscrutable wisdom of God. Confidently, he leaves all to an unknown, eschatological future which will be in God's hands and in God's good time: "*How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his ways.*" To underline his words, he quotes from our friend, the prophet Isaiah: "*Who could ever know the mind of the LORD? Who could ever be his counsellor?*" (Isaiah 40:13).

Sr 

<b>THIS WEEK</b>
------------------

 Margaret

<b>Sunday:</b>	<b>3pm Baptisms</b>
<b>Monday:</b>	<b>8.30am Morning Prayer (Mon—Sat) Exposition after 9am Mass</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<b>9:30am Prayers for the Sick 11am Legion of Mary</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	<b>Exposition after 9am Mass 2pm Church cleaning</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>	
<b>Friday:</b>	<b>9am Funeral of Angela Johnson</b>