

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

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25 SEPTEMBER 2022 YR C

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A QUEEN FOR ALL OF US

A few days ago, along with more than half the population, I watched the funeral of Queen Elizabeth on television. I did so with a mixture of deep sorrow at her death, of gratitude that so many good people had felt drawn to wait for hours or even days to honour her, and of pride that we were commemorating, so beautifully, this great and wonderful woman. I write that of her because *who* in public life, anywhere in the world, can hold a candle to her in terms of her personal integrity, her commitment to duty and her openhearted service?

Some disparage the whole idea of monarchy, often citing the evils that have been associated with it in the past or, closer to our own time, the mediocrity that sometimes characterises the lives of 'royals'. But if we all dissociated ourselves from institutions on the basis of their imperfections, I, for one, would have nothing to do with the Catholic Church, with its centuries-long history of savagery towards dissidents and, more recently, the scandal of sexual abuse and coverup.

Institutions are not static: they change, and to do so they must be honest about their past and seek to address their failings. This was especially true of the transformation of the British Empire into the Commonwealth for which, as its head, the Queen worked so hard. I never fail to be amazed at how, during her reign, the Commonwealth grew so prodigiously from the crumbling remains of Empire to embody so much that is good in international relations. The Empire, after all, for all the good things it undoubtedly gave rise to, was founded on the overrunning of other people's countries, maintained by violence or the threat of violence, and pervaded with rank racism and condescension towards subjugated peoples. Yet, as countries regained their independence, it was as though the leaders of the former imperial power and of the newly-independent countries agreed to try to step out of the mess of Empire, to set aside past differences and antipathies and to move forward, sometimes falteringly, as best they could, as sister nations, respecting each other, and committed to shared, solid humanitarian values. That, at least, is the theory, though I am well aware that it didn't always work out like that. Yet for all the wrangling and worse that have sometimes characterised relations within the Commonwealth, I still see it as a towering example of how we should try to be, with its formidable record of economic, agricultural and infrastructure development in poorer countries and of fruitful collaboration in the areas of education, social development, human rights, sport and culture.

It came as a shock to me, then, as I watched the Queen's funeral, to see that the faces lining the streets in London and Windsor were overwhelmingly white; and I realised that my sense of shared nationhood that the Commonwealth aims to promote was, to say the least of it, dewy-eyed. I should have known better. As a white man, brought up in this country and able to pass as English, I suffered little from the downside of empire

apart from sneers about my Irish ancestry from the Head of English at my (privileged) school. But I should also have remembered how my parents ensured that my Irish family never met my English grandfather because he had been a Black and Tan, one of the special constables used by the British to suppress the pro-independence rising in Ireland in 1916 and who were notorious for their brutality. And I should have remembered how my adoptive father, a noble and kindly man from what is now Ghana, was never able to forgive the British colonialists for the racism and injustice he encountered. Nor could he forgive the gunning down in 1948 of unarmed ex-soldiers, men who had fought for the Empire in the Second World War, and who were protesting at the shabby treatment they received on returning home. And when, last weekend, I spoke with a parishioner from the Commonwealth of my sorrow at the Queen's death, she would have none of it. Her country, more than fifty years after independence, is still in dispute over some islands that the British refused to hand back, and it continues to rankle.

Personal pain runs deep; collective pain about historic injustices can run deeper. For many people from overseas and now living in this country, the undoubted good that has come out of the existence of the Commonwealth must seem little more than a nice-sounding top dressing that does not take away the pain of humiliation, racism, hypocrisy and abuse of power that are still part of their memories. For many, that pain continues, reinforced by their lived experience in a Britain where the overt racism of the past may have subsided but which still lingers in an attenuated form in so many parts of the life of this country. And that, I wonder, might explain the almost uniformly white faces at the Queen's funeral. For many people, I would hazard to guess, and despite the Queen's unquestioned goodness, she was still not 'Our Queen' but 'Their Queen'.

This, I am sure, would have pained the Queen, devoted as she was to strengthening ties and increasing understanding between the different countries of the commonwealth and across the world. When speaking of the rancour that afflicted this country in the wake of BREXIT, she said, 'As we look for new answers in the modern age, I for one prefer the tried and tested recipes, like speaking well of each other and respecting different points of view; coming together to seek out the common ground; and never losing sight of the bigger picture. To me, these approaches are timeless, and I commend them to everyone.'

on Saturday 5th November we will be offering a Mass in St Edmund's to celebrate the late Queen and to pray for the new King and members of the Royal Family. May those words of the Queen be our prayer for people now, within our own community and across the wider world.

Deacon Seán

PARISH UPDATE

Over twenty parishioners joined me for the Zoom meeting last Tuesday. I had no idea how many to expect but was delighted with this. There was a lively discussion which produced some good ideas. The next meeting will be in the Hall on Wednesday October 5 at 7.00 pm. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

The work on the heating system is going well. Your patience will soon be rewarded. *Fr Steve*

EPISCOPAL VICAR FOR THE SOUTH EAST AREA

Fr Victor Darlington who has recently been appointed to this post will be spending Sunday 2 October at St Edmund's.

'LOCKDOWN' REQUIEM MASS

You may remember that at various times between March 2020 and March 2021 it was not possible for Catholic funerals to be celebrated in the customary manner. When churches were completely closed a Requiem Mass was not possible; also, particularly in the early months, numbers at the graveside and in crematorium chapels were severely limited. The clergy felt at the time, and said this to mourners, that when possible we would arrange a Requiem Mass for the souls of those whose funerals took place here in that period. For many people the pain of bereavement was exacerbated both by being unable, in many cases, to be with a family member or friend at the time of death, and by having a very attenuated and simple funeral.

Therefore it has been decided to have a Requiem Mass on these lines on

SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER at noon.

We will be contacting families affected. from our records, but please book the date now.

Fr Ashley

PILGRIMAGE TO ST EDITH'S WELL, KEMSING

We were blessed with good weather last Sunday when we joined St. Thomas's parish, Sevenoaks to walk to Holy Trinity, Otford, where we stopped for rest, food and fellowship with our fellow pilgrims on our way to Kemsing. Prayers and devotions (see pic on right) were said at Edith's Well, followed by Vespers in St. Mary's church and afternoon tea in The Bell, Kemsing. An enjoyable day with old friendships rekindled and new ones formed.

St. Edith pray for us.

St. Edmund's Walking Group.

The departure of the Salesian Sisters from 27 Village Way means that after this week there will no longer be Adoration in their chapel on a Monday evening.

It also means an end to their hosting of refreshments after morning Mass on Tuesdays, so there is one more chance for you to gather there with your friends this Tuesday.

FUNDRAISING DINNER FOR THE ST EDMUND'S HEATING FUND

Saturday 29 October
7.00 pm



Solidaction UK is hosting a fundraising Feijoada (Brazilian) dinner in aid of the St Edmund's Heating Fund.

This will be a great evening of Brazilian cuisine, music and fun.

Tickets are £15 per person (£5.00 under 12s) and include the main course and entertainment.

Drinks, desserts and raffle tickets can be purchased on the night.

Go to the ChurchSuite link on the website to purchase your tickets:

https://stedmunds.churchsuite.com/modules/calendar/event_view.php?id=8389

or come to the church office

(Monday – Friday 9.00am to 1.00pm).

ALL PROFITS WILL GO TO THE CHURCH HEATING FUND.



**LIGHT OF CHRIST CATHOLIC
CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP
St Edmund's Hall**

Wednesday 28 September

7.45 pm - Praise & Worship

8.00 pm - Holy Mass

Celebrant: Fr Uduak Abara

Followed by Healing ministry before the
Blessed Sacrament.

10.00 pm - Evening concludes

Lolly Bell who is the new lead for the Youth Ministry in Bromley will be speaking at the 9.30, 11.00 and 5.30 pm Masses this Weekend.

FLAME 2023

For young people aged 14 and over, Flame 2023 tickets will be on sale at an early-bird price of £12/seat and will be available from the parish office. This is a *Deanery Youth Day Out* brought to you by the CYM Team. We will travel to and from Wembley by coach on Saturday 4 March.

Don't miss it! Register your interest here:

<https://forms.gle/ZX2UTYQ8LPWhFBRt5>



STELLA MARIS

Thank you for your recent generous support for seafarers and fishers on Sea Sunday. As a follow up, the Catholic charity Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) invites you to join a webinar on **Tuesday 27**

September from 7.30 pm to 9pm to learn more about the issue of seafarer abandonment, and how donations like yours on Sea Sunday are supporting those in crisis.

If you would like to attend, **please register in advance at: www.stellamaris.org.uk/abandonment**

**DAY OF RENEWAL
St George's Cathedral
Saturday 22 October**

Praise and Worship, Talks, Testimony,
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament,
Healing Ministry, Fellowship,
Confession and Mass.

Everyone welcome
Leaflets in the church

**Formation day for Extraordinary Ministers
of Holy Communion and Lectors.**

St Stephen's Church, Welling

Saturday 8 October

We need to register the numbers attending this day so please let the office know if you will be going.

St Edmund used to send a huge delegation to these formation days so please consider carefully whether you can attend.

The day's programme can be picked up from the reading slope

Alexia Ophelie Marie Rose (AMOR) is my grand niece. She is 18 years old and had a growing tumour on her pancreas. She had the tumour removed in New Delhi, India and is at the moment there. Though the bills of the surgery had partly been offset by health insurance and Mauritian government support funds (so far not yet received) there is still a percentage of funds that the family had to subsidise and also cater for the long term care and medical care. I have created the gofundme to help support the family with their expenses and mainly Ophelie's health care. Please if you can give generously to keep Ophelie alive. At the moment she is on feeding tube and a peg under the lungs. She is still weak and needs 24 hours medical supervision. Please see herewith the link: <https://gofund.me/cba31330>

Even a small donation could help us reach our fundraising goal. And if you can't make a donation, it would be great if you could share the fundraiser to help spread the word. Thanks for taking a look!

Diane Brelu-Brelu

October sees the anniversary of the death of my wife, Rosemary, from breast cancer, and my daughter Katherine, is running the London Marathon for a cancer charity in her memory. If anyone would like to support her, the relevant reference is:

<https://www.justgiving.com/Katherine-Holmes9>

Michael Elmer

MASSES FOR WEEK COMMENCING 25 September YR C

Sunday 25 September	Twenty sixth Sunday Day of Prayer for the Harvest
6.00 pm vigil Church	Marianne Martin RIP
8.00 am Church	Connolly Family, living & dec'd
9.30 am Church	Eternal Rest for Adam RIP (22nd anniv)
9.30 am Hall (FAMILY MASS)	For the people
11.00 am Church	Maria & Julius Jasiewicz RIP
5.30 pm Church	Paul Stephens RIP
Monday 26 September	Feria (Sts Cosmas & Damian)
10.00 am Church	Brenda Ryan RIP
6.00 pm Church	Sheridan Family living & dec'd
7.00 pm 25 VW	Adoration
Tuesday 27 September	St Vincent de Paul
10.00 am Church	Ronald Barrett RIP
6.00 pm Church	Ints of Sr Agnes
Wednesday 28 September	Feria (St Wenceslaus)
10.00 am Church	Tom Knell RIP
6.00 pm Church	Elliot Moore RIP (1st anniv)
8.00 pm Hall	Light of Christ Mass
Thursday 29 September	Sts Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels
10.00 am Church	Anna & Tom Knell RIP
6.00 pm Church	Speedy recovery of Bernie Walsh
8.00 pm Claver	Adoration
Friday 30 September	St Jerome
10.00 am Church	Jim Filgate RIP
6.00 pm Church	Ints of Sr Pat on her birthday
Saturday 1 October	St Therese of the Child Jesus
10.00 am Church	Lucas, Ubaldina & Sylvia De Souza RIP
6.00 pm vigil Church	John Henegan RIP
Sunday 2 October	Twenty seventh Sunday Rosary sunday
8.00 am Church	Ints of Theresa Rita Fernandez in celebration of her 90th birthday
9.30 am Church	In thanksgiving - Christine & Michael Parker
9.30 am Hall (FAMILY MASS)	For the people
11.00 am Church	Jim Filgate RIP
5.30 pm Church	James & Ann Logan RIP

There is Rosary every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9.30 am, and Adoration after the 10.00 am Mass Monday to Friday unless there is a funeral.

On Friday Adoration concludes with Benediction.

Confessions are every Saturday from 10.30 am - 11.00 am and from 5.00 pm - 5.55 pm and when possible after the weekday morning Mass.

DIARY

September

Tuesday 27 After morning Mass. Refreshments in No 27 Village Way for the last time.

October

Wednesday 5 at 7.00 pm in Hall. Second meeting with the clergy to discuss Parish Vision

Saturday 8 at 11.00 am. Contemplation in the Hall

Saturday 15 at noon in the church for the Salesians Farewell Mass and afterwards a reception in 25 Village Way.

Saturday 29 Our first fundraising evening for the Heating Fund is a Brazilian evening. Details in the newsletter.

November

Saturday 5 Mass at 10.00 to celebrate the life and service of the late Queen Elizabeth II

Saturday 26 Mass at noon 'Lockdown Requiem'

After the weekday morning Mass it is our hope that we can offer a short time for people to make their confession. If there is a priest available the light outside the confessional will be illuminated.

MEDITATION

In the Hall on Mondays (except Bank Holidays) from 5.30 pm - 6.20 pm.

CONTEMPLATIVE SATURDAY

In the Hall from 11.00 am - 12 noon on every second Saturday, the next one is on **8 October**.



Scan the QR code or donate online at:

cafod.org.uk/Give

We pray for those who have died recently: Alison French, Kingsley Fernando, Daniel Ndoumou Obame, Terry Maughan, Flor Frampton.

We pray for those whose anniversaries are this week: Terence Harte, Thomas Harrigan, Joan Czyrka, Patricia Deeley, Marian Hughes, Pope John Paul I, Nicholas Bassett, Tom Knell, Nick Gowing, Maria Jasiewicz, Marie-Louise Hylton, Christopher Tolhurst

We pray for all members of our parish and beyond, and in particular those suffering from ill health.

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen