

NEWSLETTER

4TH FEBRUARY
2018

5TH SUNDAY OF
ORDINARY
TIME

The Lord Heals

In our Gospel account, we see our Lord healing the sick: first, it's Peter's mother-in-law who was in bed with a fever, taking her by the hand, heals her and helps her up to her feet; then all the sick in Capernaum are brought to him and he cures them and cast out many devils. The four Evangelists agree that this liberation from illness and infirmity of one form or another-together with his preaching was our Lord's main activity in his ministry.

Illness is seen as the action of evil in the world and in people, whereas healing shows us that the Kingdom of God, God himself, is at work. Our Lord came to defeat evil at its root, and healing is an anticipation of his triumph, through his Death and Resurrection.

Recall how our Lord said, 'It's not the healthy who needs the doctor but the sick.' On this occasion, he was referring to sinners, whom he came to call and save. It's true that illness is a human condition in which we feel we are not self-sufficient that we are in need of others!

Many times illness can be a trial that can be long and difficult. When healing does not happen and suffering is prolonged, we find ourselves isolated, and we find our life is depressed and even at times dehumanised. How then should we tackle this attack of evil? Certainly, with treatment, medication and in this decade medicine has made tremendous advances and aren't we all grateful-But our Lord teaches us that there is an attitude with which we ought to face illness and it's faith in God, in his goodness and our Lord constantly repeats this to the people he heals: 'My daughter,' he said 'your faith has restored you to health; go in peace and be free from your complaint' (Mk 5: 34-36).

Even at death's door, faith can make possible what is humanly impossible. One may ask faith in what? In the love of God. Here in lies the answer which will defeat evil. Just as our Lord confronted the Devil (Evil One) with the power of love that came to him from the Father, we too can confront and live through the pain of illness, keeping our hearts fully immersed in God's love.

We have all met with people who were able to bear excruciating suffering because God has given them such serenity, nevertheless, in illness we, yes all of us need human warmth: to comfort those who are sick, what counts far more than words is serene and sincere closeness.

Fr. Christopher

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL THIS WEEKEND

The Society for the Protection of Unborn children (SPUC) is holding its annual appeal this weekend. SPUC is currently campaigning to stop the decriminalisation of abortion, which means taking abortion outside the law. This is the most dangerous threat to unborn children and their mothers in decades.

Please, be generous as you can to help us defeat this latest attack on unborn babies and their mothers, and to stop abortion getting ever worse in this country by decriminalisation.

MASS

INTENTIONS

3th February

6pm—Ints of Bijoy & Amrita

4th February

9am - People of the Parish

11am— Maria Adora Benjamin (Anniv)

For a weekday mass intentions, please, see the notice board on the left hand side of the main door of the church.

ASH WEDNESDAY

14th February

Mass at 9.15 am & 8pm

Confessions on

Saturday at 5.15-5.45pm or by appointment

Holy Hour

Every

Saturday,

starts at 5pm



Readings for this and next Sunday

1st Reading - Job 7: 1-4, 6-7
Psalm - 146: 1-6 response v 3
2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23
Gospel - Mark 1; 29-39

1st Reading - Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46
Psalm - 31: 1-2, 5, 11 response v 7
2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 10: 31-11: 1
Gospel - Mark 1; 40-45

St Edmunds Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Since the 4th Century, Christians have been making pilgrimages to the Holy Land as a special way to come to know the sites connected to the life, birth and crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

St Edmunds Parish is organising an 6 day pilgrimage from 27th May 2018, and the information and itinerary from the company we shall be travelling with, The Pilgrimage People, is attached. For those parishioners who would to join me on this pilgrimage please contact Katherine in the church office by **25th February** as Pilgrimage People need to book flights etc; Thank you. *Fr Christopher*

A Statement of Fr. Firas Aridah

In a Middle East region that continues to suffer the consequences of violence, the people, of Palestine, Christians, and Moslems, continue to live under occupation and exile, and Israelis as a normal consequence of their own violence imposed on Palestinians, continue to live in insecurity.

Palestinian Christians, the descendants of the first Christians, are an integral part of the Palestinian people, continue to suffer, just like all Palestinians, Christians, Muslims, and Samaritans. We have been denied our national and human rights for a century. From Jerusalem, our occupied capital, we send our urgent message to the whole world and particularly to all the nations of the world: We are yearning for justice and peace. Recognising Palestine is the first step towards that goal.

We have endured dispossession and forced exile since 1948 when the majority of Palestine's Christians were forcibly expelled from their homes in the Holy Land. We have persevered through 69 years of exile and 50 years of occupation, holding on to the message of peace of our Lord. But now, we are tired of calls for 'useless and a-priori sterile' negotiations, while we cant reach our churches due to a foreign power and our people continue to be humiliated by an undesirable occupation. We need UN decisions to be applied. We need the recognition of the simple human principle: no people has the right to impose his occupation on another people. We are waiting for the day when our churches will ring their bells celebrating freedom and justice for all Palestinians and Israelis.

Christians have a duty to resist oppression. Israeli military Occupation is oppression. We believe the international community and particularly all the nations of the world has not done enough in order to achieve a just and lasting peace. You cannot continue holding our right to freedom and self-determination as an Israeli prerogative. We have a natural right to be free and all nations of the world has a moral, legal and political duty to hold Israel accountable towards the nonapplication of the decisions of the UN and support Palestinians in their violent resistance to end the Israeli occupation, including the recognition of the State of Palestine on the 1967 border with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Until when will you continue accepting Isreal's violations of your own resolutions? Until when will you allow that the prospects of peace will continue to be destroyed by Israeli colonisation and settlements? Until when should Israelis be allowed to treat us as foreigners in our own homeland? Ending Israeli occupation is the only way for Israelis and Palestinians, Christians, and Muslims, and all the people of the Holy Land, to enjoy a life of prosperity and progress. It is also the surest way to secure continued Christian presence in this, our Holy Land, and to grant Israel the security that it continues to demand. Without Justice, there can be no peace nor security for anyone, living here.

It's time for all the nations of the world to understand that the only way to defeat extremism and terrorism in our region is to bring justice for all, starting by ending the historic injustice inflicted against the Palestinian people, an open wound that continues to bleed, as the hopes for an Independent Palestinian state becomes elusive due to the expansion of Israeli settlements and the many restrictions imposed on our people, including forced displacement.

In our Kairos document, we Palestinian Christians, declare that the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land is a sin against God and humanity because it deprives human beings of their basic human rights, bestowed by God.

We believe that recognising the State of Palestine on the 1967 border is the first step towards changing the current status quo. Banning settlement products and divesting from companies and organisations linked directly or indirectly to the Israeli occupation is a must. 69 years after the beginning of the Palestinian Nakba in 1948 and 50 years after the occupation in 1967, it's time for the State of Palestine to be free and become a full member of the United Nations. It's time for Israel to see where it could find its own security, present, and future. It's time for Israel to see that for its military power and violence against Palestinians, are futile. The only security for the Palestinians would become security for Israelis.

This why we call upon all nations of the world and governments to endorse the just Palestinian quest for freedom and independence.

The international community and all nations have a historic responsibility towards this conflict and the rights of the Palestinian people. All the nations of the world have long championed the values of peace and human rights. May the nations of the world apply these values to this conflict, which it created years ago, and help reconcile Israelis and Palestinians, security to the Israelis, and independent state, freedom and human dignity to the Palestinians.

from the Holy Land, we call on you to take this principled position to recognise the State of Palestine and to abide by your legal responsibilities towards a nation under occupation, in order to be able to celebrate justice and peace in the land of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.

This statement is printed by kind permission of Fr. Firas Aridah, Fr. Christopher

Pilgrimage Itinerary, 27th May – 1st June 2018

Day one – Sunday, 27th May

We will depart from Luton airport on our flight to Tel Aviv, arriving early evening. After clearing immigration and customs we will meet our guide and bus and will be taken to our hotel in Galilee for our evening meal and overnight.

Day two – Monday, 28th May

We will begin our first day of pilgrimage on the shore of the lake of Galilee where Jesus shared breakfast with his disciples after his resurrection. After spending some time here we then visit the site of the feeding of the five thousand and the Mount of Beatitudes. We will then visit the town of Capernaum, central to the ministry of Jesus in this area; after which we will enjoy a boat ride across the lake and then stop for lunch at a local Arab restaurant (included in cost). After lunch we will drive to Cana where Jesus performed his first miracle. We then return to our hotel for our evening meal and our overnight accommodation

Day three – Tuesday, 29th May

After breakfast we travel to Nazareth where we visit the Basilica of the Annunciation, built over the traditional site of the house of Mary. We will then tour Nazareth, visiting the site of Joseph's workshop and the synagogue where Jesus preached. We will call at Mary's well, now in a beautiful orthodox church, and then break for lunch. After lunch we will travel to Mount Tabor, the traditional site of the transfiguration; after a taxi ride to the top of the mountain we will visit the church and enjoy the spectacular views. We return to our hotel for our evening meal and overnight accommodation.

Day four – Wednesday, 30th May

After breakfast we will drive along the Jordan Valley towards Jericho, on route we will call at the Baptismal Site where tradition has it that Jesus was baptised by John. Here we can reach the water's edge and renew our own baptismal vows. We continue to the city of Jericho where we visit the church of the Good Shepherd and then have a tour of the city along with the opportunity to see the mountain where Jesus spent his fast of 40 days and nights. After our tour we will stop for lunch and shopping. After lunch we will leave for the Dead Sea where the brave can enjoy a swim and the faint-hearted can enjoy an ice cream! Then we will travel to our hotel in Bethlehem for our evening meal and overnight accommodation.

Day five – Thursday, 31st May

After breakfast the coach will take us for a full day walking tour of Jerusalem. We will visit the Mount of Olives, starting at the church of the Our Father and then re-tracing the steps of Jesus on the first Palm Sunday we will walk down to the church of Dominus Fleuit (the Lord wept) where we can enjoy the panoramic view over the Old City. Then we will walk to the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations. After lunch we will visit the church of St Peter built over the site of Caiaphas' House, continue to Mount Zion, seeing the Upper Room, the tomb of King David and the site of the Dormition of Our Lady. We conclude our day by walking the way of the Cross to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We will tour the church and then walk through the souk to Jaffa gate. The coach will take us back to Bethlehem for packing and in the evening we will have a farewell meal in a local Bedouin restaurant.

Day six – Friday, 1st June

After breakfast we visit the Church of the Nativity where we will have a guided tour of this, the oldest church in the world. We then visit the Shepherd's fields and here there will be the opportunity to visit a local co-operative souvenir shop; nearly 70 families make and sell their work here. We break for lunch after which we set off for the airport and our return flight to the UK.

Price: £1,470 per person sharing a twin/double room on a half-board basis. Single rooms are available at a supplement of £180. Price includes return airfare including hold baggage, accommodation in 3* hotels on a half-board basis, all transport whilst in the Holy Land, services of a professional guide all entrance fees and gratuities. Please note that this itinerary is not suitable for the less able traveller. Price does not include lunches, drinks or items of a personal nature.

Deposit of £400 and completed booking form required by 07.02.2018 with balance and any single supplement due by 18.03.2018. Booking Ref: MILL01

Please write this in the box at the top right hand corner of the booking form You must enclose a copy of the picture page of your passport. Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after the return date of the pilgrimage.

If you wish to be a part of this pilgrimage and fill out the form—please, come to the office or email millwall@rcdow.org.uk and I will post the registration form to you.

Katherine

Diocese of Westminster
Roman Catholic Parish of St Edmund of Abingdon, Millwall
297 Westferry Road, Millwall. E14 3RS
Telephone: 020-7987-4114; Email: millwall@rcdow.org.uk



Fr Christopher Silva
Parish Priest,

Mrs Katherine Woznicka
Parish Secretary

The office may be contacted by phone:
Monday to Friday 9am-2pm
Closed on Bank Holidays

NEW PARISHIONERS — Please fill in a “Registration Form” from the Church porch and hand it in to the Office or to the Parish Priest.

BLESSING OF HOMES — Contact the Parish Secretary to book a date and time.

COMMUNION FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND — Contact the Parish Secretary to arrange for a visit from the Caring & Sharing Group.

BAPTISMS — Parents must attend a 2-session Baptism Formation Program (during pregnancy or after birth) – dates and times will be announced in the Newsletter during the year.

WEDDINGS — Contact the Parish Priest by email or letter, **even if you wish to be married elsewhere**. Please give full names, contact details, religion of each party and whether or not either of you has been married before. The Church normally requires six months notice of weddings.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I GO INTO HOSPITAL? — If you are admitted as a patient, please ensure the Chaplains’ Office is informed you would like to be visited by a Catholic Minister. This has to be done by you or a relative.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS — The Parish is completely committed to the protection from abuse of all children and vulnerable adults in its care. The Parish Protection Officer is Mrs Diane Winship and she should be contacted directly on 07799-414-806 if you have cause for concern. The Diocesan Protection Officer may be contacted on 020-7798-9350/07803-634-236, by email to peterturner@rcdow.org.uk or at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN.

AN EMAIL NEWSLETTER — The newsletter is available electronically, enabling you to remain in touch even when you are away on holiday or on business—as well as reducing our ecological footprint. Email the Parish Secretary to arrange to added to the distribution list.

LOOP SYSTEM —The Church is fitted with “Loop” sound systems – please switch to ‘T’.

TEXT GIVING — Simply type: Parish (then space) then MILLW. Send it to 70800. Click send. £5 will be added to your mobile phone bill, as a donation to the parish.

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS: loose: 414.24 envelopes: £695.79, **total: 1110.,03**
Thank you for your Generosity WRC DT Charity No: 233699

ST EDMUND’S
PRIMARY SCHOOL
Westferry Road, Millwall E14 3RS
020 7987 2546

BISHOP CHALLONER
COLLEGIATE SCHOOLS
Commercial Road, London E1 0AB
020 7791 9500