

NEWSLETTER

1ST SUNDAY
OF LENT

United in His Temptations

Our Lord promises *the crown to those who endure temptations and are proved by it*. It's good for us to consider and desire the reward so that we might not be lukewarm in working either weak in suffering. In Hebrews, we read, 'He considered that the insults offered to the Anointed were something more precious than all the treasures of Egypt because he had his eyes fixed on the reward(He 11:26). The same was said of David 'I set myself to carry out your statutes in fullness, forever' (Ps 118: 112). Both David and Moses fixed their eyes on the Lord, that their sufferings for God were deemed as a great reward. St Augustine tells us, 'Blessed in the injury of which God is the cause.' No one fails to protect those who are suffering because of having entered into his service. How much more then is the divine goodness, that would take our cause as his own, in accordance with David's prayer: 'Arise, O God and defend your cause! Remember how the senseless revile you all the day' (Ps 73: 22). It's to God the business that his servant undertakes. God, therefore, watches over it with great faithfulness. So let place our hope in him rather than in ourselves, and endeavour to undertake the service of God.

We succour ourselves with the stones of temptations that Satan brings to test us as he did with our Lord, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves' (Mt 4: 3). As St John of Avila said, ' Thus we draw forth honey from poison and health from our wounds, and we emerge from temptations having been tried and with millions of other blessings'.

With such blessings, we don't need to thank the devil for he doesn't make us crowns but only chains. It's God whom we have to thank, the supreme good, who will never permit any evil only to bring good from it by higher means. Neither does he permit the enemy and those who belong to him to afflict us, unless it's for the confusion of the enemy and for the good of the one afflicted.

When Satan believes he is doing the most harm to the virtuous, he benefits them most. Because he ends up dumbfounded and ashamed that, in his pride and envy, he would have preferred he had not begun in the first place that has turned out so well for those he wanted to harm from the outset.

Fr. Christopher

On Shaky Ground

There is a refrain in the film Wizard of Oz, *Lions and tigers and bears, oh my! Lions and tigers and bears, oh my!*

this refrain might be familiar to you. Dorothy and her friends chant as they approach a dark and eerie forest on their way to Oz. Whatever is lurking there is all that stands between them and the wizard who would grant them their wishes.

Maybe this Lent you've already been approached by the wild beats of doubt menacing your attempts at mortification, spiritual progress, and prayerful resolve. 'What am I thinking, trying to include daily Mass into my daily routine with all that I have to do!' I don't have time for a weekly Holy Hour during this Lent? How can I, when I don't find ten minutes to myself! 'Given my busy schedule, how could I begin to Read the Bible and if I could where do I start?'

Sometime back at Lent I made a resolution to refrain from drinking red wine and give something to charity. I had to visit a parishioner at her home, and she opened a very good bottle of red wine and my resolution for Lent went out of the window and so too my giving to charity.

Our Lord spent forty days in the desert being tempted by Satan, Me? less than thirty minutes, However, the wild beast of my disordered self-were rekindled, I could then begin the process of taming with our Lord's help.

MASS

INTENTIONS

17th February

6pm—People

of the Parish

18th February

9am - Miki Jambrich
RIP

11am— Guenet Ashfaw
Congdon RIP

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

Confessions on

Saturday at 5.15-5.45pm
or by appointment

***PENITENTIAL
SERVICE,
TUESDAY,
6TH MARCH
AT 8PM***

Holy Hour

Every

Saturday,

starts at 5pm

Pope Emeritus

Benedict

Your prayers are asked for Pope Emeritus Benedict who is ill. Thanks

Readings for this and next Sunday

1st Reading - Genesis 9: 8-15,
Psalm - 24: 4-9, response v 10
2nd Reading - 1 Peter 3: 18-22
Gospel - Mark 1; 12-15

1st Reading - Genesis 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18
Psalm - 115: 10, 15-19, response Psalm 114:9
2nd Reading - Romans 8: 31-34
Gospel - Mark 9, 2-10

PLANNED GIVING DRIVE

The Weekends of 24th & 25th February; 3rd & 4th March; 10th & 11th March. In conjunction with the Diocese, we have our Planned Giving Drive. Thanks

DURING LENT

During Lent, we will be saying the Apostles Creed and from Lent until Pentecost at the end of our Bidding Prayers we will be saying the Hail Holy Queen.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

We wish our Chinese and Vietnamese friends a Happy New Year.

Kung Hei Fat Choi

Chuc Mung Nam Moi

May God bless you

Fr. Christopher

YOUR PREYERS ASKED FOR

The Holy Father has announced that the Friday of the First Week of Lent (23 February) is to be kept as a Day of Fasting and Prayer for Peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan. It is also the day of CAFOD's regular Family Lent Fast day. As CAFOD has active projects both in South Sudan and in the Democratic Republic of Congo, both intentions sit well together.

Please, remember the people of South Sudan and Congo in your prayers this Lent.

St Edmund's Church FUN DAY

Sunday 25th February

12:30 to 3:00 pm

St Edmunds School

298 Westferry Road, Isle of Dogs, London E14 3NE



Selection of food and drinks

(includes a beer or a glass of wine, your are welcome to bring your own as well)

(Turkish Food)

Please come along to meet everyone .



Painting, Popcorn and Candy Floss

Tickets on Sale after each Mass.

£10 for Adults, Children under 16 free

Stations of The Cross

During Lent, we shall be having the Stations of the Cross.

I shall lead on Friday 23rd February 18 at 7 pm and the following Fridays, 2nd of March; 9th of March; 16th of March; would volunteers who are interested in leading on these Friday's kindly give their names to Katherine at the office. I shall lead on 23rd March as well . Thank you.
Fr Christopher

BAPTISM COURSE FOR PARENTS WHO WANT TO BAPTISE A CHILD

The next Baptism course will take place in the churches' hall on Wednesdays 7th & 14th March 2018 at 7.30pm. Both parents have to attend both sessions. There is a £10 fee. Please, call the office to reserve a place. Katherine

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*

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
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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: 528.77 envelopes: £634.60, **total: 1163.37**
Thank you for your Generosity WRCDT Charity No: 233699

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