

NEWSLETTER

3RD SUNDAY
OF LENT

CLEANSING OF MY SOUL

As I look back at my life the graces our Lord has giving me is I now relies is a bond of love, that unites me to him. It's something of himself that I receive which makes me present to him in all gifts. In communicating his purity to me, in a certain sense, he imparts to me his own purity like that of an object reflected in a mirror. In sharing in our Lord's very purity is realised perfectly in the transforming union. Through the mysterious union, my soul can claim with St Paul: 'With Christ, I hang upon the cross, and yet I am alive; or rather, not I; it is Christ that lives in me.' It's another way of saying: 'I don't have my own purity, but I am clothed with Christ my Lord. Heavenly Father sees me in his Son's virtue, and so does souls.' So it was right for St Paul to say, 'The one bread makes us one body, in this purity of our Lord that clothed souls unite them among themselves and makes them all one in Christ Jesus in the one mystical body. This is then the Communion of Saints, the ebb and flow of our Lord's holiness in all the members of his mystical body.

Thus there are waves which descend from heaven to earth, from earth to purgatory and back to heaven. The Church, 'all spotless and fair', is adorned with the purity of our Lord, it's so beautiful; at its centre, the divine heart sends purity through the entire mystical body. Just as the heart as the living organ pumps blood through the system.

Heavenly Father, placed on our Lord the guilt of my sins and all of us and he also placed upon him all of my graces and yours; so, our graces are more his than mine and your iniquities. O, so, wonderful exchange! We place all our faults in our Lord's heart; he responds with his graces, that erases mine and your iniquities. *Fr. Christopher*

Was I Fickle or Faithful?

In my previous incarnation before going into the Seminary. I was quick to join in criticising the music and on some occasions praising the use of Latin.

In those days I have complained about the outreach to the community and joined in when parents and other members complained about the homeless sleeping in the parish hall or eating the same food as us.

Sometimes griping at the priest for not delivering a sermon with fire and brimstone or not to judge the priest from the pulpit. For these actions and thoughts of my past, I have to say, mea culpa.

Is it any wonder that our Lord didn't trust himself to them for he knew them all, as our Gospel reading suggests. Indeed he did not need anyone to testify to human nature. He understood it perfectly. *Fr. Christopher*

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

3rd March

6pm—J. Brunet (Anniv)

F. Boulegue RIP

4th March

9am - People

of the Parish

11am— Ints of Kret Family

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

FUNERAL OF LATE

STELLA CARRIAW,

THURSDAY,

8TH MARCH, 12 NOON

AT ST PATRICK'S CHAPEL,

LAYTONSTONE

MAY SHE REST IN PEACE

Readings for this and next Sunday

1st Reading - Exodus 20: 1-17,
Psalm - 18: 8-11, response Psalm 6:68
2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 1: 22-25
Gospel - John 2, 13-25

1st Reading - 1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13
Psalm - 22: response v 1
2nd Reading - Ephesians 5: 8-14
Gospel - John 8: 12

PLANNED GIVING DRIVE

You will be giving a newsletter titled 'Our Parish our Responsibility. Please take a copy and read it carefully.

This weekend members of our Parish Finance Committee will speak to you in more detail about our parish finances in the context of our parish vision and if you wish to be involved, to tell you how best to do this.

Finally, next week, we will ask you all to renew your financial and volunteering commitment to the parish. This pledge will not bind you, but it allows the parish to plan ahead for the future in confidence.

Volunteers and members of the Parish Finance Committee are available at the back of the Church, after Mass to answer any questions you might have.

Once again I take this opportunity to thank all of you for all that you do here in the parish. it's very much appreciated. May God bless you all.

God is many things in the Old Testament He is referred to as all-powerful, all-loving and merciful. We get this image more clearly in our Lord. Everything we see around us he has given to us and St Gregory Nazianzen says, 'Acknowledge whence you have existence, breath, and understanding. Acknowledge whence you have what is most important of all, your knowledge of God, your hope of the kingdom of heaven, your contemplation of glory which in this life is of course through a glass darkly but hereafter will be perfect and clear.' If we are then made in His image, as the Bible and Catechism remind us, then we are inherently generous.

Do we get a tremendous joy in giving? yes, we do, it may be the smallest thing, to a loved one, a charity or a stranger. We find ourselves more alive and want to do more! it's in our spiritual DNA to give.

If I was asked who is the greatest giver I have to say that God is the greatest giver of all and we draw closer to Him in our giving and in that giving no matter how small, God is in motion, and in action. It's not easy, nor should it be! we are called to *think* about our giving, and not sprinkle a few coins around.

In Deuteronomy, we read, 'you must set aside the first-fruits of all the produce of the soil raised by you in the land the Lord is giving you.' (Deu 26:2-3). St Paul, writing to the Corinthians says, 'Each one should give what he has decided in his own mind, not grudgingly or because he is made to, *for God loves a cheerful giver*. And there is no limit to the blessings which God can send you- he will make sure that you will always have all you need for yourselves in every possible circumstance, and still, have something to spare for all sorts of good works.' (2 Cor 9: 7-8).

Our Christian understanding of giving is distinctive: It's giving to God what he has given to us in the first place- which is everything! God is the owner and you and I are his Stewards. Our time, talents and treasure have been entrusted to us to use in a unique way to serve and grow closer to God. Stewardship means receiving God's gifts gratefully, tending to them in a responsible and accountable manner, sharing them in love for others, and returning a meaningful portion to the Lord. Hence, it's good to reflect on our blessings and renewing our commitment periodically to our Catholic faith is an important part of our spiritual growth and Christian discipleship.

Many parishes throughout the diocese run a planned giving drive at least every three years. It's an opportunity for parishes to learn about the parish finances, and to learn more about the most effective methods of offertory giving (such as Gift Aid and donating by Standing Order) in the context of the parish mission and vision. The Members of the Parish Finance Committee will be speaking to you over this weekend. More importantly, a planned giving drive is an invitation to all parishioners to reflect and renew the commitment of our time, talents and treasure to the parish. Having heard about stewardship, and the biblical message of generosity, I would encourage you to consider prayerfully the following questions:

How is God calling me to use the blessings and gifts He has entrusted to me?

Am I using my gifts of time, talent, and my financial blessings responsibly, and how can I use them to support my parish?

Does my current contribution reflect the importance of the parish in my life?

Should you be considering renewing your giving, I would encourage you to:

Give Thanks: The more we give thanks, the more we realise how much we've been given.

Give regularly: It would make a huge difference if you commit to giving on a regular basis- our giving is not a subscription for the services we attend: the work of the Parish goes on whether or not we have been to our Parish on a particular Sunday. By giving regularly we continue to journey in our relationship with **God** and our parish community.

Give generously: Traditionally a tithe was the first fruits of our labour; The current definition is to give 5&5. That is 5% of your income to charity and 5 hours a month of your time to your parish community. Indeed the amount you give is your personal decision, and you are the only one who knows your circumstances and what you feel God is inviting you to give. The point here is to give a considered amount that is meaningful to you and noticeable, not just from your surplus. Remember Cardinal Hume he of happy memory used to say, 'Give to God your first hour's pay each week.'

Give yourself: spend time in prayer for the mission and ministry here at St Edmund's. Perhaps you could get involved in giving your time in new ways? Consider those areas you find it easiest to give, and which you need to work at so that you notice your giving.

Thank you for all that you do here and it's very much appreciated by me. God bless you all.

Fr. Christopher

LENTEN ALMS

In light of Cardinal's Lenten Appeal to help prisoners and to help them with training opportunities and employment and to support those who are marginalised. To help expand the Catholic marriage counselling programmes, therefore, the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal will be our Lenten project. You would have noticed a box in front of the altar where you could place your generous contribution or alternatively collect an envelope on your way out and place your contribution and return it back into the box, and the monies raised will go directly to the Appeal. Once again I cannot thank you enough for your generosity and all that you do here. May God bless you all and may you have a prayerful Lent.

Fr Christopher

MOTHERS DAY.

On this Mothers day, we ask you, Heavenly Mother, to intercede for all Mothers, watch over their children and bless all Grand Mothers. On this day, we remember all those Mothers who have lost their sons and daughters, we ask dear Mother to comfort them in this time of their grief. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Fr. Christopher

Family Fun Day.

A big thank you to our Social Committee for organising the Family Fun Day at St Edmund School. It was enjoyed by all who attended especially our young people. I wish also to thank all the volunteers who helped the Social Committee on the day. I do appreciate all the effort that goes into preparing for such events and planning, it's very much appreciated by me.

God bless you all. *Fr. Christopher*

Stations of The Cross

During Lent, we shall be having the Stations of the Cross **every Friday at 7pm.** *Fr Christopher*

HOLY LAND PARISH PILGRIMAGE MARCH 2019

Please, look at a new quotation from Pilgrimage People. We would love you to join us .

QUOTATION

Group name: St Edmund's Parish, Millwall ,	Destination: Holy Land
Dates of Travel: 18th – 25th March 2019,	Price per person: £1,380
Single supplement: £190,	Deposit amount: £400
Required by: 18.5.18	Balance due date: 18.11.18

This quote includes return airfare from Luton Airport; accommodation for the duration of the pilgrimage in 3* or equivalent; meals on a half-board basis (breakfast and dinner); transportation at your destination by luxury coach, services of a professional English speaking guide, all entrance fees, taxes, gratuities and surcharges.

This quotation does not include transportation to and from your UK departure airport, lunches whilst on the pilgrimage, drinks, items of a personal nature during your stay (laundry etc).

Unless specified otherwise, a booking can only be accepted by payment of the deposit accompanied by a completed and signed booking form along with a copy of the picture page of the passport. Passports should be valid for six months from date of return. Insurance details must be supplied before or with the balance payment.

Specific elements of the pilgrimage included in this price: (particular hotels, meals, visits etc)

If you wish to be a part of this pilgrimage , please, email your contact detail to the office. Katherine



Rosary Group's March Prayers

After 11am Mass, Sunday 04th March
Meet by the statue of Mary

The theme of our prayers this month is:
Being Forgiven

Men and Beginners Welcome
Please bring your Rosary. Booklets Available
Pray With Us † Pray The Rosary

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

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. Please, not that all baptism will be during Mass.

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: 564.69 envelopes: £817.43, **total: 1382.12**

Thank you for your Generosity WRCDT Charity No: 233699

ST EDMUND’S
PRIMARY SCHOOL
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