

NEWSLETTER

4RD SUNDAY
OF LENT

MOSES LIFTED UP THE SERPENT

When I gaze upon the Blessed Sacrament. I feel that part of my sins and evil is carried into the purity of our Lord where it receives destruction.

I have to learn to gaze upon our Lord the perfect purity, my limited human life prevents me from attaining purity, the perfection here on earth, unless of course, I sell out. You and I are finite beings and the evil in us is also finite. Yet, the purity offered to my eyes and yours is infinite. regardless, of how little evil we destroy with each gaze if only you and I could repeat our gaze often enough, then someday all evil could be destroyed.

One of the truths of Christianity, which we tend to forget, is that the look that saves. When bronze serpent was lifted up so that the people lying in the depths of degradation had only to look at it and they were saved.

When you and I experience those moments of bad temper, hate and at times disparaging of others, and we find its most difficult to elevate our soul to sacred things, it's at such moments when we gaze upon our Lord the perfect purity is at its most effective. It's at such moments, that evil, the indifference comes to the surface of the soul-its the best place to be to be burned by contact with fire.

There are those who try to elevate their souls like those that jump from a standing position in the vain hope that by forcing themselves to jump-higher each day-they would no longer fall back down but instead rise to heaven. Those preoccupied with such thoughts no longer look to heaven.

But I cannot take one step to heaven either nor could you. Because the vertical direction is prohibited to us. In this our pilgrim journey we look to heaven long-term, God the Father, descends and lifts us up.

Fr. Christopher

THE LOVE WHICH SUFFERS AND LIVES

St Francis was nauseated by lepers but was uplifted by our Lord's mercy when he embraced one. I have encountered a couple who were in such agony because they could not conceive but found themselves ever thankful for the agony they went through that led them to adopt a child who brought them such joy and the child who was in need of love that was present in the marriage; out of their suffering, came the healing and love that was deepened.

It's a strange symbol this bronze serpent in the desert. Poisonous serpents were killing the Israelites, and I ask the question how could this image that evoked suffering and death bring about healing?

Our Lord identifies himself with this image, 'as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up.' The cross symbolises the victory of evil, but in our Lord, it's victory of love. The love of our Lord is present at the very depths of his suffering and shows itself to be inextinguishable and eternally healing in the Resurrection.

So, why was our Lord lifted on the cross? Because 'everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.' May the cross of our Lord help me and you not to lose hope in love and in life, even in the midst of adversity and death.

Fr. Christopher

MASS INTENTIONS

10th March

6pm—Sick and House-bound

of the Parish

11th March

9am - People

of the Parish

11am— Maria Khong
(Anniv)

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

Holy Hour
Every
Saturday,
starts at 5pm

Stations of The Cross

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

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.

Readings for this and next Sunday

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

1st Reading - Ezekiel 37: 12-14,
Psalm - 129: response v 7
2nd Reading - Romans 8: 8-11
Gospel - John 11: 1-45

PLANNED GIVING DRIVE

This weekend 10th & 11th March. The members of our Parish Finance Committee will be speaking to you all to renew your financial and volunteering commitments to the parish. This pledge will not bind you, but it allows the parish to plan ahead for the future in confidence.

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 by me. May God bless you all.

Fr. Christopher

Gift Aid to add 25p to every £1 that you donate at no extra cost to yourself!

Firstly I want to thank you for your generous offertory contributions to our parish of St Edmund of Abingdon, Millwall. I am grateful for your continued support as we grow in serving this Catholic community.

We have been reviewing our parish records and noticed that whilst you are a planned giver, you are not signed up to Gift Aid. **Currently, only about 50% of our offertory donations are Gift Aided, and as a result our parish is missing out on up to £9,900 a year!** This money would make a significant difference to our parish finances, and wouldn't cost you, or the parish, anything extra!

*As you may already know, Gift Aid was set up by the government to support charitable organizations, such as our own parish. **If you are a UK tax payer, we can add 25p to every £1 that you donate, reclaimed from the tax you have already paid.** It does not matter which tax bracket you belong to, as long as the tax you pay is **more than the amount we claim back.** In fact, Gift Aid benefits higher bracket tax payers who can claim the difference between the rate they pay and the basic rate on their donation.*

Donation			Total Inc. Gift Aid
Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	
£2.50	£10.80	£130.00	£162.50
£5.00	£21.70	£260.00	£325.00
£10.00	£43.30	£520.00	£650.00
£20.00	£86.70	£1,040.00	£1,300.00

In order to claim Gift Aid, donors simply have to sign a Gift Aid declaration form (find enclosed) and donate via envelope or by standing order. If you can help the parish by Gift Aiding your donations, I would be very grateful. Just complete the Gift Aid declaration enclosed and return it to the parish. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the parish on the contact details below.

Once again, thank you for everything you do for our parish.

Fr. Christopher Silva

WRCDT – Charity Number 233699

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

BAPTISMS

Baptisms that take place here in the parish of St Edmunds will be during Parish Masses, at Saturday 6pm, Sunday 9am, 11am.

We recognize, that families need to plan ahead, when they have friends and family attending the baptism, we are through Catherine at the office book the time and date of the baptism. We do emphasize it's conditional to the completion of the baptism course, provision of godparent references being completed before the actual baptism.

The date and which Mass can be booked with Catherine (Parish Office) but must be confirmed in writing.

Cannon Law (Church Law) requires that each child must have godparent; should there be a second godparent, one has to be male and the other female.

A godparent is defined as a confirmed, practicing Catholic. Should the godparent not be a member of this parish (St Edmund) we require a reference from his / her parish that they meet the requirement- that he/she is attending Mass regularly.

Although the maximum number of godparents is set at two, families could have additional people whose standing is that of 'witness to the baptism.' During the baptism, we don't distinguish between godparents and witnesses, but only the names of the godparents will be inserted in the baptismal register and in the baptism certificate.

Equally, baptised Christians from other denominations may participate as witnesses to the baptism, but they cannot participate as godparents. Members of other faiths (or none) cannot serve as either godparents or as witnesses to the baptism.

Both parents and godparents, as part of the baptism, must make a declaration of faith. Prior to the baptism could we ask that you go through beforehand and ascertain you both can honestly make it? In all probability, if anyone one has a problem with any part of it, the problem lies in understanding what is meant rather than with the article of faith itself- do please, contact me to discuss it well before the baptism. The unpleasant thing you could do is start your child's relationships with God by affirming in His presence to something you don't believe.

Since all baptisms are during Mass, the choice you are faced with is whether to clothe your child with a white garment: whatever your child is wearing at the time of the actual baptism, this is something additional (and white) that is added a minute or so later. Traditionally, the garment would be a white shawl, but it could be as simple as a length of white ribbon going around the neck. It recalls the practice in the early Church of baptism by total immersion; as the newly baptised person came out of the water he/she would be dried and clothed in new white garments. You need to let Catherine know well in advance of your decision prior to your child's baptism.

We don't charge for baptism but we ask for families to make a contribution to defray the cost by given a donation in the range of £50-100, with others giving more. It doesn't mean you have to subject yourselves to unnecessary financial stress, but give what you think you can afford.

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

HOLY LAND PARISH PILGRIMAGE MARCH 2019

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

Q U O T A T I O N

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)

We have received some bookings already and are waiting for you to join us. If you are thinking about it , please, email your contact detail to the office. 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. Please, note 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 note 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 be 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.

REDISCOVER JESUS

On the table in the lobby of the church. You will find a collection of books titled Rediscover Jesus, by Matthew Kelly. You are invited to take a copy for yourself. Thank you.

Fr Christopher

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS: loose: 434.60 envelopes: £811.23, **total: 1245.83**

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