

NEWSLETTER

5TH SUNDAY
OF LENT

'Anyone who hates his life in this world'

I think it's important that I fix my eyes of my mind on the study of my nothingness.

Of myself I hold nothing at all other than sin; everything else comes from God. Everything that is around me, nature and grace are all our Lord's; and to him belongs the grace of predestination (It is the source of all other graces), to our Lord the grace of vocation, to him concomitant grace { that assists us when we perform a good action}, to him the grace of perseverance, and eternal life.

What have I then which is to glory other than my nothingness-it's all I have, the rest is all God's - that I see plainly and clearly that I am and what our Lord is, my abject poverty and his abundant riches and what little consequence, that I should trust in myself and acclaim myself and how much I should trust in our Lord and love him and glorify myself in him. *Fr. Christopher*

Like Cataracts from My Eyes

The Greeks in our Gospel asks, 'Sir, we would like to see Jesus.'

Our Lord responds by comparing himself to a grain of wheat dying to produce a rich fruit and losing oneself in order to preserve it and to follow his lead.

Ever so often when I see the Lord, it's not the real Lord I want to encounter, but my image of who our Lord should be. I seem to have a definite idea of what Our Lord should be doing in my life, inevitably I cling to that notion and find myself of closing my eyes off to our Lord.

As a priest, after my ordination, I had a distinct idea of what my ministry should entail and that our Lord got my vocation just about right, and I approved. I look forward to all that our Lord would do through my ministry (note 'my'). However, the real Lord assigned me to a parish and all my preconceived ideas, images, left me a bit downcast. One might say, it was a kind of death followed by flourishing and freedom.

Our Lord continues to crash through, while my yes is pretty slow and cataracts falling from my eyes, our Lord's invitation promises new and unexpected life. You see he draws us to the cross and lifts you and me to the resurrection. *Fr. Christopher*

The Lord's Journey to the Cross

Sometime back, in December an anonymous person left a crucifix and very small donkey in the Christmas Nativity scene. I remember asking myself what a strange thing to do! Now that I am approaching Holy Week with you. I look back at the strange scene that I was confronted with all those years back. Even though I am a priest I need to be reminded of our Lord's journey from Bethlehem to Calvary.

Blessed Mother made the journey to Bethlehem on a donkey carrying the unborn child and then her flight with Joseph to Egypt and our Lord's triumphant entrance to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on a donkey being pressed into service as our Lord neared the place of his agony and crucifixion.

On that night of our Lord's birth in a stable, could Mary have saved a clean linen cloth with which to swaddle her newborn child before placing him in the manger. Later on that cross, it was Joseph of Arimathea who takes down the Lord's body, wrapped him in the linen cloth, and laid him in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. And all was perfectly still.

As you and I begin our journey through the Holy Week, let us watch and listen for our Lord in the stillness of our hearts, and experience the effects of his mercy.

Fr. Christopher

MASS
INTENTIONS

17th March

6pm—Garry McGarry
RIP

18th March

9am - People
of the Parish
11am— Zbigniew
Jakubowski (sick)

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
On page 4

HAPPY ST PATRICK'S DAY – Lá Fhéile Pádraig!

Saint John Paul II once said that "Love is never defeated, and the history of Ireland proves it."

One of the most heartening things about St. Patrick's Day is the sense of family and community that prevails around this feast day. Seeing families spend time together in celebratory mode is heartening. The excitement and anticipation that runs in communities and families on this day as they prepare to either participate in or host a parade in honour of Ireland's patron saint is palpable. It is the ultimate celebration of our heritage and our faith.

St. Patrick spent much of his life away from his family. During his captivity and subsequent slavery, he turned to his faith to console him in the midst of loneliness and fear. He chose to surround himself with God.

When he finally managed to escape slavery and to return home to his birth family in Britain, he felt the urge to return to Ireland as a missionary. His prayer had led him to accept Ireland as his home and his relationship with God had formed a new vision of family around him.

Through our celebrations this day, we don't just remember the historical figure of Patrick, but the man who was central to creating the Christian family here on the Island of Ireland, whose love for God and love for our country was not defeated despite his many trials and imprisonments.

With a world that is forever presenting challenges to us as Christians, we draw from the story of St. Patrick as a source of strength, wisdom, perseverance and love. **Happy St Patrick's Day from World Meeting of Families 2018!**

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

The Passage, working with homeless people

The Passage, working with homeless people, is raising funds through the Big Give from 12pm (midday) Thurs 22 March - 12pm Thurs 29 March to support its work with homeless people this winter. **Double your Donation, Double your impact.** This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. If someone (can be company, individual or trust) gave £10 online matched giving of £10 would bring the Gift up to £20 (and for individuals to £22.50 with Gift Aid with higher rate tax relief it may cost the donor less than £10). For more information ring Andrew Hollingsworth 020 75921856 andrew.h@passage.org.uk www.thebiggive.org.uk/thepassage

The maximum is £10,000 from any one person/body. ***It is not a limit per household but per person.***

Andrew Hollingsworth, **Business Director, The Passage**

Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 19th May 2018 at 3pm.

The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their **5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2018. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

Catholic History Walks

The King's Good Servant

Sunday 18th March, 3pm. The heroic story of brave St Thomas More, who died defending the faith during the turbulence of Henry VIII's reign - as we walk around his Chelsea Estate. Meet at the Church of Our Most Holy Redeemer and St Thomas More, Cheyne Row. SW3 5HS. Nearest Tube: South Kensington.

The West End

Friday 23rd March, 2pm. As we walk around the West End, we'll see the history of London as it expanded - becoming ever more crowded, varied, fascinating, but also poor and difficult. Yet it was here that the Church did some of its most impressive work with the poor and needy. Meet at St Patrick's Soho Square. W1D 4NR. Nearest Tube: Tottenham Court Road.

PLANNED GIVING DRIVE

I wish to thank all the members of our Finance Committee for coordinating and planning with the Finance Department of the Diocese the Planned Giving Drive held during the last three weeks. Thanks to all of you for cooperating in the Drive and supporting them. Thank you and may God bless you.

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, baptized 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 baptized 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

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)

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
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, 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 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

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS: loose: 410.75 envelopes: £673.04, **total: 1083.79**

Thank you for your Generosity WRCDT 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

Readings for this and next Sunday

1st Reading - Jeremiah 31: 31-34,
Psalm - 50: 3-4, 12-15 response v 12
2nd Reading - Hebrews 5: 7-9
Gospel - John 12: 20-30

1st Reading - Isaiah 50: 4-7,
Psalm - 21: 8-9, 17-20, 23-24 response v 2
2nd Reading - Philippians 2: 6-11
Gospel - Mark 14: 1-15: 47