

NEWSLETTER

PALM SUNDAY

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I find the Passion of our Lord most beautiful. The Passion of our Lord was so esteemed it's believed the Passion Narratives in the Gospels were the first to be written down. The early Christians were keen to preserve the account of our salvation that they put into writing the Passion of our Lord. We can understand their sentiments to venerate our Lord's Passion.

When the early Christians looked back on many events of our Lord's Passion it had a new meaning. When our Lord celebrated the Passover with his apostles and changed the Jewish prayers over the bread and the cup into different prayers-the prayers we now have during the consecration at Mass- we could imagine their wonder at what was happening. When in Mark our Lord said, 'Take it,' he said 'this is my body.' Then he took a cup, and when he had returned thanks he gave it to them, and all drank from it, and he said to them, 'This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, which is to be poured out for many. I tell you solemnly, I shall not drink any more wine until the day I drink the new wine in the kingdom of God' (Mark 14:22-25). it was when they looked back to realise our Lord fulfilled this on Calvary when he gave his body for us when our Lord poured out blood to form the new covenant for the forgiveness of our sins. Each time we come to Mass we come to Calvary where our Lord gives his body for us and his blood poured out for us. It's the same sacrifice on Calvary, not a new one, extended through time to us.

When I look at the Passion events they take on a new meaning for me and for you also. I see a whole host of characters who each played a part that led to our Lord's crucifixion. Once I realise (perhaps you too) that it was my sins and yours that crucified our Lord we can see that these characters in the Passion representing my sins and yours that caused our Lord to die. When I think of Judas, who met our Lord in Gethsemane he kissed him(Mark 14: 43-45) that kiss was a treacherous kiss. it was a kiss of betrayal, not love. When you and I come to Mass we kiss the Lord, when we receive him in Holy Communion and at the end of Mass the celebrant invites us to 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord' how often we sin. I can see and perhaps you could too see ourselves in Judas. We can see this in our politicians who say they are Catholic but support abortion. On the one hand, they kiss our Lord and on the other allow plots or support plots against our Lord's innocent ones.

Now let's look at Peter who said, 'Even if all lose faith, I will not,' (Mark 14: 26-31). And yet when he was in the courtyard of the high priest's house he denied our Lord three times when he was put under pressure (Mark 14: 66-72). When you and I sin it's not because of a lapse of faith, but because our faith is weak? Look at what Peter said, 'I do not know, I do not understand, what you are talking about' (Mark 14: 66-68). There are those who say they didn't know it's a serious sin to miss Mass on Sundays and Holidays, and they are those who say, they didn't know it's a serious sin to have intimate relations before marriage. Just as much Peter was forgiven and restored by the Lord so too we are forgiven and restored when we repent.

The bystanders around him heaped insults at him which reminds us of the insults heaped on the Church in our day.

'Some of them started spitting at him and, blindfolding him, began hitting him with their fists and shouting, 'Play the prophet!' And the attendants rained blows on him'(Mark14:66).

Our Lord founded the Church: when he said to Peter, 'So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock, I will build my Church'(Matt 16: 18). If we love our Lord, it stands to reason we would also love the Church. St, Paul reminds us the Church is the Body of Christ, 'Just as each of our bodies has several parts and each part has a separate function, so all of us, in union with Christ, form one Body, and as parts of it, we belong to each other'(Rom 12 4-5). St Paul learned this in a dramatic way when he encountered the Lord on the road to Damascus 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' (Acts 9: 4-5).

You and I see weaknesses and failures of individuals in the Church, (Perhaps I too could be classified as weak and a failure). Nevertheless, it's an opportunity for all of us to pray for them,

MASS INTENTIONS

24th March

6pm—Ints of Agba Family

25th March

9am - People

of the Parish

11am— Holy Souls (sick)

**No morning mass on
Monday, 26th and
Tuesday, 27th March.**

Confessions on
Saturday at 5.15-5.45pm
or by appointment

No Holy Hour Next Saturday,

DURING EASTER

During Easter, until Pentecost, at the end of our Bidding Prayers we will be saying the Hail Holy Queen.

ADOREMUS

National Eucharistic Pilgrimage & Congress

Prayer cards will be given out as you leave the church. Use this prayer to pray before the Blessed Sacrament or after communion. Here at St Edmund's we will all say this prayer after communion.

A date for your diary

**22nd April will be
Marathon Sunday.**

Due to the road closure, there will be no mass at St Edmund's on 22nd April at 11 am.

to forgive them, and pray for the Church that it would become what its called to be since the Church is a gift from our Lord to us. In Luke, our Lord said, 'Anyone who listens to you listens to me; anyone who rejects you rejects me, and those who reject me reject the one who sent me'(Luke 10: 16).

Some stood up and made false evidence against him, saying, " We heard him say, 'I am going to destroy this Temple made by human hands, and in three days build another, not made by human hand'(Mark 14: 58). Our Lord predicted that the temple would be destroyed, 'You see these great buildings? Not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed'(Mark13:3). He never said he would destroy the temple. Indeed the temple was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD They misunderstood by bringing false accusations against him. Today many misunderstand the Church's teaching and misrepresent it as a result wrongfully accuse the Church. The Holy Mother the Church, just like a caring mother her teachings are given out of love, asking you and me to look beyond our selfishness to the real meaning of who we really are children of God and encouraging us to live in a way that reflects we are truly children of God.

As the early Christians looked back on so many events of our Lord's Passion that meant so much to them. We too look at the Passion and its many events take on a new meaning for you and me. We see a whole host of characters who had a role to play that led to our Lord's crucifixion. Once you and I realise that it was our sins which led to our Lord's death and each of the characters in the Passion representing our sins. Yet it was the immense love of our Lord for us that caused him to suffer for our sins. Let's turn to the Lord in love and may our meditation this Holy Week encourage us to renew our lives with our Lord and leave sin behind to rise with him to the new life at Easter.

Fr Christopher

The Priesthood, the Eucharist, and God's Crazy Love

The Eucharist, looked at in deep faith, gives birth to the best priestly vocations. Because they come from Eucharistic love, they are the best. Vocations arise from deep love of the Blessed Sacrament. Apply Mother Teresa's words. It could be that you will be called from Mass to touch dying souls with God's love. God wants nothing more from the priest than to communicate to dying souls the truth that God does love you!

When you see it, you will forget worldly pursuits to sacrifice yourself in this way. Is there anything more magnificent than following Christ who wants priestly witness in you coming from your Eucharistic love?

If you strongly believe in this greatest miracle which by God's power takes place in the Mass, you will believe that faith works miracles and gathers crowds alive with his mysterious love. They will only want to live for this life of Eucharistic love. This is because they will have found that life only makes sense in clinging to the one who wants to save our dying world and is sending you to help him. Still, there are so few, these sent ones, but you will come from the altar alive with God's glory in your heart. Your conversation will be different. It will be God himself pouring graces through you.

If you have received the glory of discovery of the Eucharist, so you may desire to sacrifice your life for the Eucharist. Nothing could be better. The priest has blessed hands through distributing God's presence in the Blessed Sacrament. There is nothing more sacred than this. Seeing this through your hesitations, you will see its indescribable value.

In place of Christ, the priest holds the host. It is incredible that the priest is so close to God himself. This just shows God's crazy love because it is he who rules the entire world. You will raise God. You will be giving God to others. You will be repeating the words of Jesus himself. By the power of the Holy Spirit, you will be a channel for the biggest miracle in the world.

Can you hold back from racing after this God who lets you hold him in your palms for so long, letting you be close to him rather like his Blessed Mother? Only by faith can you discover the invisible. Perhaps, like that angel's Eucharistic vision, you will undergo a crisis in which God shows you the truth, scales will fall from your eyes, and you will see. Only in deep faith is it possible to see God on the altar. Before the glory of eternity, here and now there is power and infinite majesty.

Fr. Tadeusz Dajczer

The Lord's Journey to the Cross

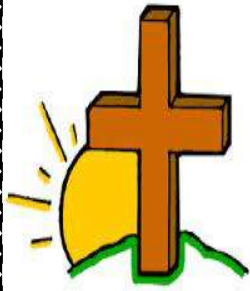
Sometime back, in December an anonymous person left a crucifix and very small donkey in the Christmas Nativity scene. I remember asking myself what a strange thing to do! Now that I am approaching Holy Week with you. I look back at the strange scene that I was confronted with all those years back. Even 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



Easter services AT ST EDMUND'S

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 29th March at 8pm

GOOD FRIDAY - 30th March at 3pm

HOLY SATURDAY - 31st March at 8.30 pm

EASTER SUNDAY—1st April - 9am & 11am

No morning Mass on Monday, 2nd April;
Tuesday, 3rd April & Wednesday, 4th April.

*BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD
ON SATURDAY, 31st March at 11am*



NEW SETS OF DONATION ENVELOPES

are now ready for collection in the churches porch. Please note, that the boxes are organised in the alphabetical order. Your number is different from last year's. If you notice any misspelling in your name/surname or the address, please, let me know by email on millwall@rcdow.org.uk. Also, if you want to donate by envelopes, you can let me know via email and I will prepare a box for you.

During the week the boxes are available from the office.

Katherine

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/theassage

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

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)

Dvd on a pilgrimage to Holy Land organised by Pilgrimage people will be shown in our hall on Saturday, 7th April after 6pm mass and on Sunday, 15th April after 11 am mass. All are welcome.

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: 421.04 envelopes: £683.04, **total: 1104.12**

Thank you for your Generosity WRCDDT Charity No: 233699

**ST EDMUND’S
PRIMARY SCHOOL**
Westferry Road, Millwall E14 3RS

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

Readings for this and next Sunday

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

1st Reading - Act 10: 34, 37-43,
Psalm - 117: 1-2, 16-17, 23-23 response v 24
2nd Reading - Colossians 3: 1-4
Gospel - John 20: 1-9