

## NEWSLETTER

FIFTH SUNDAY OF  
EASTERMASS  
INTENTIONS21st April6pm—Tom Madden  
(sick)15th April9am - People  
of the Parish  
11am— Ints of Anselmo  
Pagunsan JrFor a weekday mass in-  
tentions, 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

## THE TRUE VINE

When I read the Gospel account for today (John 15: 1-8) I was reminded of the Psalm, which says, 'You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. Before it, you cleared the ground; it took root and filled the land' (Psalm 80: 9-10). Many prophets too have referred to the people as a vine such as Ezekiel, Jeremiah, and Isaiah. They have expressed the joy of God's deliberation of the vine and on other occasions his anger, frustration, and disappointment; nevertheless he never forgets the vine. How often have I moved away and despite it God suffers in his heart and goes in search of me? In such times I had moved away, I was so dried up (like the dry bones) God refused to abandon me.

How we would like a world with perfect families, excellent relationships with our extended families but we are part of a changing age, and it seems to me we are in a cultural crisis, and God continues to call us. Just recently a parishioner came to see me and in the course of our conversation, he said, "father, there is a real shortage of vocations as a result of the crisis we are living? I replied, yes, but it's not the point, one has only to look at Church history to see there has been crisis's of one form or another and it has not stopped God from calling. I have seen quite a few families with lots of love, generosity, fidelity, patience and such families at some point would have heard God's call but not all and we pray fervently there would be more such families. We need to keep our feet firmly on the ground to recognize our vocational experience and awaken to God's call which would bring us closer to his Word and to him.

How often have I tried to think of ideal situations and concluding this is it, 'the real situation' and how wrong have I been, for God manifests himself wherever and whenever he wills no matter what the inconsistencies are! Because God continues to change the course of events to call us in our frailty of our own personal and shared history.

Our Lord's vine is true. In John's Gospel, our Lord has used such expressions, as true light, true bread from heaven. It's pretty clear, it's not something we receive as bread or light but that which comes from within us. By virtue of our baptism, we have been chosen for the truth, and our call has to be in truth, which means there is no place in us for deceit, hypocrisy, petty-mindedness since we are the true branches of the vine, and our vocation yours and mine is grafted unto our Lord. We have to ensure that every branch fulfills its purpose; to bear much fruit. Do I (Fr. Christopher) and we willing to bear much fruit?

*Fr. Christopher*

**Holy Hour**  
**Every Saturday,**  
**At 5pm.**

## Priest Training Fund Collection (WEEF)

Last weekend was Good Shepherd Sunday, we prayed for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. Our Second Collection went towards supporting the Priest Training Fund, which benefits the parishes and the Diocese by providing new priests.

**Since last weekend was also the London Marathon and many were not able to come here to St Edmund's the Second Collection is held again this weekend, 28th & 29th of April.**

Those information is our priority-it's our future, and last year (2017) the Diocese celebrated the ordination of eight men to the priesthood, and we look forward to this June when additional priests are been ordained. On average it costs about £25,000 per man, per year of formation which works out to about £150,000 to train and educate a new priest, who will make a lifetime commitment to Christ and the Church.

The Priest Training Fund also pays for the ongoing formation and education of our priests post-ordination. Could I ask you to be generous in your support and please continue to pray for our priests and me? Pray too for vocations.

I take this opportunity to thank you all for your generosity and your continued support for the fund. Thanks and may God bless you all.

*Fr. Christopher*

## ADOREMUS

O God, who in this wonderful  
Sacrament,  
have left us a memorial of your Passion,  
grant us, we pray,  
so to adore the sacred mysteries of your  
Body and Blood,

that we may always  
experience in ourselves  
the fruits of your redemption.  
Who live and reign with  
God the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.

Please could I ask you to  
remember my friend and  
brother priest **Fr. Bonnie  
Ferandopulle RIP** who  
sadly died last weekend  
(and whose funeral was on  
Monday) and his family at  
this time in your prayers.

## DURING EASTER &amp;

...

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

**THIS WEEKEND WE WELCOME ...**

We welcome a speaker from Caritas, who is be speaking at all Masses during this weekend. The speaker from the Bishops Conference is unable to attend due to a family bereavement, we remember the family in our prayers.

*Fr Christopher*

**ADOREMUS**

Cherishing the Eucharist. A booklet is been given out to everyone this weekend. Please take a copy as it's very useful resource, that you should keep with you to dip in when ever you need to. It is a lasting resource for you and the family.

*Fr. Chris-*

**NEW SETS OF DONATION ENVELOPES**

are now ready for collection in our Sacristy. 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 you 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 form the office.

Katherine

**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: **18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> 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 Englishspeaking 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)

**Mount Street Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, W1K 3AH [pathwaystogod.org](http://pathwaystogod.org) 0207-495-1673 invites**

**YOU HEARD HOW IT WAS SAID... REFLECTING ON THE BIBLE IN CONTEXT (FOR YOUNG ADULTS 18-35)**

**Wednesdays, May 16th-30th, 7-8.30pm Brian Purfield and Sr Anouska Robinson-Biggin fcJ**

The Bible is not always easy reading! Sometimes we find "difficult" passages that seem to present an unloving, frightening or narrow image of God. Is there a way of reading these passages in a life-giving way? This short course aims to offer young adults keys to unlocking the Bible that can open the way to a closer relationship to God, oneself, others and the world around us.

Invitation for

**WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES IN IRELAND, 21-26 AUGUST 2018**

For information and registration for the World Meeting of Families and for details how to join our diocesan group, please email [family@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:family@rcdow.org.uk) or call 0207 931 6064.

[Www.worldmeeting2018.ie](http://Www.worldmeeting2018.ie)

**BAPTISMAL COURSE FOR PARENTS**

The next baptismal course for parents will be on 9th and 16th May 2018 at 7.30 pm. The course consists of two sessions and both parents have to attend. Please, call the office to register. Katherine

**'GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE'**

I encourage you to read the Holy Father's Exhortation. I am currently reading it and my reaction to it is similar to that of Cardinal Vincent.

If you want to know more about living a Christian life, read, 'Gaudete et Exsultate'

If you want to know more about finding peace and joy in your life, read, 'Gaudete et Exsultate'

If you want to understand Pope Francis, then read 'Gaudete et Exsultate'

**If you need a copy of 'Gaudete et Exsultate' could I ask you to give Catherine your contact details and I shall order the copies for you to collect from the office? Thank you**

*Fr. Christopher*

**The bishops of England and Wales are holding****a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in Liverpool in 7-9 September 2018**

The Echo Arena in Liverpool - which can accommodate 10,00 pilgrims—will be the home to a six-hour programme on the 8th September and will include a Congress Mass, keynote speakers **Bishops Robert Barron and Cardinal Vincent Nicholas**, and a drama highlighting the beauty of reverence and devotion. The day will conclude with **Adoration**. For more information and to enquire about tickets to events, please contact [adoremus@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:adoremus@rcdow.org.uk) or call 0773 818 3829

**Rosary Group's  
May Prayer Meeting**

**After 11am Mass, Sunday 06th May  
Meet by the statue of Mary**

The theme of our prayers this month is:

**Poverty in our Parish**

**Beginners Welcome**

Please bring your Rosary. Booklets Available

**Pray With Us † Pray The Rosary**

**A message from our Parishioner**

As a Lenten project I decided to rescue more of Fr. J's work and prepared a vol 2 of our wee booklet.

The draft attached for your information—it has more works and a better index and different pictures.

We can share an electronic copy with anyone who wants one—but we may do another small run of printed books and

they will be at cost which would be about £20.

They make a lovely gift.

*Victoria*

Anyone who is interested in having an electronic copy or a hard copy, please, drop an email to the parish office and we will reply to your request.

*Kathrine*

**WANT TO HELP OTHERS?  
Become a Foodbank Volunteer**

Are you a friendly conversationalist who can work with fellow Christians from other denominations?

**Every Tuesday, 10am to 1.30pm**

Help open/close the foodbank, work hard, make tea and coffee, serve guests, and stock-take.

*Training Given. Good Work Experience.*

*Text contact details to 07968-971-874.*

**JOHN HIGGINS**

The people of our parish were kind enough to donate 14 pairs of socks, 9 tops, 4 trousers, 3 jogging bottoms, 3 pairs of boxers, 1 jumper, 1 knitted blanket, and some home-made soup. You have been very generous to John and he is very grateful. It is all being put to good use.

John has returned to visiting the Doctors. He is a bit under the weather and has been given some simple medication to take. He has been given some good news about his health, but we are waiting for it to be confirmed. Social services have met with him several times. They are trying to arrange someone to help him and ensure he takes his medicine.

John has been very stressed about the whole experience. Although he likes the Seaman's Rest (he briefly stayed there when his ship docked in the fifties), he wants to be back in his own place and doesn't like being locked out. The strain is making him feel upset and leaving him feeling very tired. However, his flat is not yet safe for him to return.

John is being supported by a lot of people, but most particularly by three of his neighbours. They have been a big help making sure he takes care of himself. They have also gone out of their way to make sure social services and his housing association take proper care of him. John would have been in terrible trouble without their continuous help.

Please talk to John if you see him in the street and take a few minutes to listen to him. Let him know you are thinking of him and wish him the best. Please also spare a prayer for John and the neighbours who are helping him. It has been a very difficult time for John but hopefully he will pull through and life will get better for him.

**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](mailto: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: 270.47 envelopes: £419.44, **total: 689.91**

***Thank you for your Generosity*** WRC DT 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 - Acts 9: 26-31, Psalm - 21: 26-28, 30-32, response v 26 2nd Reading - 1 John 3: 18-24 Gospel - John 15: 1-8	1st Reading - Acts 10: 23-26, 34-35, 44-48 Psalm - 97: 1-4, response v 2 2nd Reading - 1 John 4: 7-10 Gospel - John 15: 9-17