

NEWSLETTER

16TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

PSALM 23

The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

This Psalm is one of my favourites and for many others too. It's so easy, to recite by rote and forget the hidden meaning. The words bring comfort and it's challenging.

Permit me to look at each word. When we say 'THE' it's clear there is only one Lord-no one else but Him alone. When we say 'LORD' we acknowledge that he is the creator and ruler of all.

When we say 'IS' it denotes a relationship which is in the present tense. There are no if's or but's or maybe's or even hopes but he is; The Lord is my Shepherd.

When we say 'MY' it's personal- it doesn't say Lord is the Shepherd or Lord is our Shepherd but most clearly, The Lord is my Shepherd.

When we say 'SHEPHERD' it denotes the relationship, which goes beyond feeding and guiding the sheep. It tells us of a ruler, providing with authority to receive and to obey. With such authority, the shepherd is the sheep's true friend and companion. When we say 'I' it emphasises the personal nature of the relationship. When we say 'NOT' I will never be in need that is not taken care of as long as I accept the promise of the Lord. When we say 'WANT' it's easy to think that the Lord would grant all that we ask and he would grant all our wishes but it means that our needs would be met.

When we can say, 'The Lord is my Shepherd can we say 'I shall not want' and this second part is dependent on the first?

Now could we really say the Lord is my Shepherd, you and I are His sheep? we might be happy just to say Lord is my Shepherd but are we happy to be known as His sheep.

Sheep are not the brightest of animals-they can be stupid and stubborn-we would like to be seen as an eagle soaring upwards or like a gazel? the point here is that no one cares for the sheep as the shepherd does because he shows continual care for the sheep. All that the sheep needs are, a good shepherd, for he would provide and protect his sheep and give each his individual care and attention. The good shepherd knows and understands his sheep but we the sheep need to know the shepherd and be attentive to his voice. It's a relationship.

If we acknowledge that we are his sheep, will we then allow the Lord to be our Shepherd?

Sadly we live in a consumer society where we want everything and we can be trapped in the 'prison of want'- we seek for something better, a new car, new job, new house, a new relationship and we assume in getting just that we would get satisfaction and we do get it, we end up wanting more!

We can be so easily seduced into thinking that true happiness comes from getting all we want and not recognising what we already have. We are more aware of what we don't have, instead of being thankful for what we already have and for the many blessing received and celebrate all that we have.

An abundance of wealth does not bring true contentment but it's knowing we already have a wealth of abundance. Our relationship with God brings real contentment-He is our satisfaction, indeed he exceeds whatever we may think we need or desire. 'The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall not want.'

When we truly know the Lord as our Shepherd, we have God who hears us, and the power of his love behind us. The Holy Spirit is within us, all of heaven ahead of us, and the grace to combat every sin, a candle for every corner, and an anchor for every storm-we have everything we need.

May you and I with confidence come to know the true relationship with God and like the Psalmist boldly declare from the very depths of our hearts, 'The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.'

Fr. Christopher

MASS
INTENTIONS21st July

6pm—Ints of The Mad-den Family

22nd July

9am - People of the Parish

11am— Sandra Lashmar (B'day anniv)

For 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,
At 5pm.

ALTAR SERVERS

Those of our young people who have made their First Holy Communion, and would be interested in becoming an Altar Server. Could you please submit your details to Catherine at the office and we shall provide the necessary training.

Thank you.

Fr Christopher

Readings for this and next Sunday

Jeremiah 23: 1-6,
Psalm - 22, response v 1
2nd Reading - Ephesian 1: 13-18
Gospel - John 10: 27

2 King 4: 42-44,
Psalm - 144, 10-11, 15-18, response v 16
2nd Reading - Ephesian 4: 1-6
Gospel - John 6: 1-15

LOVE IN ACTION AN INTRODUCTION

Pope Francis addressing the Jesuit Refugee Service said,

'It's important for the whole Church that welcoming the poor and promoting justice not be entrusted solely to 'experts', but be a focus of all pastoral care, of the formation of future priests and religious, and of the ordinary work of all parishes, movements and ecclesial groups.'

As a Church, we are constantly, called to seriously take our call as Christians to respect the Dignity of all, reach out to our brothers and sisters who are marginalized and living poverty, to care for the creation which has been entrusted to us, and to take an active action to bring about a just and peaceful world. This is an opportunity in these next few weeks here at St Edmund's for us both collectively and individually, to look at the rich tapestry of work known as Catholic Social Teaching.

This is nothing new these guiding principles are found in the Old Testament, renewed in the New Testament, and developed by the Church fathers over the centuries, and embodied in what has become, the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church. Pope Francis, never fails to say, 'welcoming the poor and promoting justice' isn't for somebody else, it's our duty. It's at the very heart of Caritas, the Latin for love, justice, charity: It is Love in Action.

In inserting, this introduction in the Newsletter in these coming weeks, It's my fervent hope that we all focus our minds on Love in Action commencing on the weekend of 15th/16th of September 2018. I pray that by the end we will be people of Caritas. May God bless you all.

Fr. Christopher

LOVE IN ACTION

We here in the parish will begin a programme called Love in Action, designed to introduce us to the principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST). We as members of the Catholic Church are called upon to preserve the dignity of all human beings, to care for creation to reach out to our brothers and sisters in need. Such principles form the bedrock of the CST, a body of work developed by the Church leaders over the centuries. Pope Francis has said, that it is our duty to work together to bring about a more just and peaceful world; to put love into action. Over a period of six weeks, we shall cover a theme of the CST during Mass each Sunday, and at the end of the six weeks, we will hold a workshop in the Parish where we think about how best we could respond to the needs of our local community. This is an exciting opportunity for us here at St. Edmunds' to come together and think about how we can put our faith into action and support those who are vulnerable. With this in mind could I ask you to put the following dates and programme in your diary and invite other parishioners to participate.

16th September: Dignity

23rd September: Solidarity and Peace

30th September: Preferential Option for the poor

7th October: Care for Creation

14th October: Dignity of Workers

4th November: Community and Participation

11th November: Parish Action Plan workshop after 11 am Mass (It will be run by Caritas Westminster).

Apart from myself, all Catechists will be participating and will be taking in turns to speak at All Masses, during the six weeks. Thank you

Fr. Christopher

HOLY LAND PARISH PILGRIMAGE MARCH 2019

Pilgrimage People have contacted us only five have signed up. The required number for the Pilgrimage is 12 and if don't get that number, they would have to cancel the trip as it won't be viable. Could we ask those who have taken the booking forms to submit their deposits to Pilgrimage People. They are waiting until 15th August. Thank you for your co-operation.

Fr Christopher

John Higgins RIP

As you know John Passed away on 27th May 2018. His body has been in the Mutuary since. This has been due to finding out who is the next of Kin and contacting any known relatives. Sadly, since his illness, his meager funds have been misappropriated and is under investigation. As a result, it has necessitated in planning a public health funeral with cremation. I am grateful to Paul Marlow, who has devoted much valuable time on John's affairs and keeping myself and Rev Tom Pyke abreast of what's happening. The public health funeral would take place within the next couple of weeks once the relevant parties are notified. It's hoped that we here at St Edmund's would have a Memorial Mass for John Higgins when everyone has come back from there Summer Break. Thank you, and may John Rest In Peace.

Fr Christopher

Exploring the Faith (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

If you or anyone you may know who wishes to learn more about the Catholic Faith we shall be commencing our Course, The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) on the 25th September 2018 at 7 pm. Enrolment Forms will be available on the table soon, could we ask you to fill in the details and hand the forms back to the parish office. The final date for the submission of the forms is Sunday 16th September 2018. Any forms submitted after this date will not be accepted. Thank you, for your co-operation.

CONFIRMATION

Those of our Young people who wish to make their Confirmation. The course will commence here at St. Edmund's on Saturday 3rd November 2018 (4-6 pm). Booking forms will be available from September and the final date for the forms to be submitted will be 7th October 2018. Thank you

First Holy Communion

The First Reconciliation and First Communion Course will be begin here at St Edmund's on Wednesday 5th December with the Parents Meeting (7 pm). Booking Forms will be available from 9th September 2018 and the final date for the submission of the forms is 7th October 2018 to the parish office. Thank you

Vacancy | Home-based project role with young adults

The SVP is seeking to recruit an 1833 Research and Project Development Officer to review, re-model, project plan and potentially produce resources for our programme for 18-30 year olds in preparation for a service re-launch in Sept 2019. £27k pa pro rata; 3 days a week; one year contract. Home-based with national travel. Closing date: 10:00 on Wednesday 25th July 2018. Interviews: Thursday 26th July 2018. Start date: Wednesday 29th August 2018. For more details & application pack, please visit the vacancies section of the SVP website: <https://www.svp.org.uk/>.

Could you Help

Neighbours In Poplar Breakfast Club.

August can be a difficult time for families who rely on Free school meals. Neighbours in Poplar will be providing primary school children with breakfast and entertainment through August. If you have any new or second-hand books, games or toys that you would like to donate to the Breakfast Club. Could you box it up and bring it to the parish office and we shall arrange for Caritas to collect. Thank you, for your generosity.

" Two catholic young professional women interning/training in Canary Wharf seek to rent temporary accommodation ideally with a catholic family for the period from Saturday, July 22 to Saturday, September 1, 2018. Please contact Mrs. Bates @01926-812584. Thank you. "

There will be no Newsletter from 5th August until 16th September.
While Fr Christopher is on his holidays, we will host Fr Stanislas Thiaw.

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) – Next baptismal course will be on Mon 30 July & Mon 6 August 2018 - 7.30pm. Please, call the office to reserve your space. 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’.

SETS OF DONATION ENVELOPES for present financial year

are now ready for collection in our 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

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS: loose: 373.55 envelopes: £445.34, **total: 818.89**

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