

## NEWSLETTER

## Welcome the Little Children

In our Gospel account from Mark (Mk 9: 30-37) our Lord emphasizes the importance of, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me;' I have reflected about this so often and it's now I am beginning to realize that one has to become like a little child by emptying oneself of all the unnecessary incumbrances that we have accumulated throughout our lives and the desires which we have to renounce which is so rooted in us, according to our foibles. On the other hand, Spiritual childhood consists of the fundamental answer to Adam's sin. Man separated himself from God in order to grow, Man wanted to become someone or somebody, unaided, and as a consequence became a prisoner.

It costs nothing to become a child, in the spiritual sense as emphasized by our Lord, our struggle with existence draws us in the opposite direction, to assert and strengthen our personality. We suffer much to become adult and trace out a way for us in a world that is no longer human.

In the providence of Redemption, the accomplishment of the full status of our Lord is assured-paradoxically-only through a continuous abandonment, that the 'little way' sets forth. You and I have to constantly rise above our human life, to communicate here on earth with the eternal presence of the Father who constantly working in us.

In my life, perhaps in yours, our existence proceeds to its completion by the addition of ever richer acts. In the higher viewpoint of the kingdom, all the overly abundant glory which has been promised us is developing the seed of baptism. You and I need to allow God to act, and in full assurance of his love at each moment. God doesn't ask us to hoard treasures that will rust, but each day in silence to enrich our souls to the treasures that are imperishable.

There is no contradiction between the growth in maturity which God asks of you and me and childhood which he wishes us to remain. Spiritual childhood is idle in its appearance; it's the value of humility and the faith that affects each moment of our life. To dwell in God is to grow which is the miracle of Christian newness drawn from the wellspring of God.

*Fr. Christopher*

**John Higgins RIP**

The memorial Mass for Late John Higgins will be held here at

**St Edmund on 12th October at 8 pm.**

Fr Tom Pyke and the Parishioners of St Luke will be joining us. Thank you,

*Fr. Christopher*

**MASS  
INTENTIONS****22nd September**

6pm—Ints of Desmond  
Madden & Family

**23rd September**

9am - People of the  
Parish

11am— Charles Belli  
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****HOLY FAMILIES**

Agency for Evangelisation has sent booklets entitled Holy Families The Joy of Love, An Exploration of Amoris Laetitia. Please take a copy from the table as you leave the Church. You can use them within the family. Thank you

*Fr. Christopher*

**Readings for this and next Sunday**

1st Reading Wisdom 2: 12, 17-20  
Psalm - 53, 3-6, 8, response v 6  
2nd Reading - James 3: 16-4: 3  
Gospel - Mark 9: 30-37

1st Reading Numbers 11: 25-29,  
Psalm - 18:8, 10, 12-14 response v 9  
2nd Reading - James 5: 1-6  
Gospel - Mark 9: 38-43, 45, 47-48

## 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

### 23rd September: Solidarity and Peace

*"Solidarity is a word which can be overused and little understood. However, it is fundamental to the way in which we treat one another. If we truly believe that we are all sisters and brothers of one another, made in God's image and likeness as seen in the guideline of human dignity, then seeking the good of one another cannot be ignored."*

*The quotation from St John Paul II is an ongoing challenge. Solidarity is not just feeling sorry for those who suffer. It is a commitment to action.*

*"We are all really responsible for all" – all of us.*

*Wherever we are. Whatever our age. Whatever our circumstances. We are all responsible for one another, those close by, and those far away. All of our actions have consequences locally and globally. From how we treat people we meet in the street, to the coffee we buy in the supermarket. It is how we live out Caritas, love in action"*

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

## Support your Local Foodbank



## Food Collection at Asda Supermarket

**Sunday, 23rd September, 12.30pm to 5pm**

*Please visit and donate some food into our trolley*

### **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 are now available on the table in the church's porch, could we ask you to fill in the details and hand the forms back to the parish office. 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 are now available on a table in the porch. The final date for the forms to be submitted will be 21st 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 11th November 2018 to the parish office. Thank 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, 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*

A date for your diary

### **ONE WORLD DAY 2018**

Will take place in our parish on **21st October 2018 after 11 am mass.**

Reserve your time to prepare a dish from your country  
and to stay for lunch to share it with other parishioners.

**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](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’.

**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](mailto: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: 310.71 envelopes: £477.38, **total: 788.09**

**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