

NEWSLETTER

THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

JOHN'S WITNESS

We hear about the wisdom of God, it expresses His mercy and comprehension with which God fulfills his plan. Ultimately, the events would furnish justice to his wisdom. And those who know how to enter into his plan-will witness to it.

It is a truism, that to our way of thinking, God's wisdom is not that readily discernible. We could say, that the world seems to lack wisdom, and life seems to be governed by blind chance; which doesn't show forth the work of a merciful God. Perhaps this is one of the objections we encounter. It was John's objection, he too was perplexed as you and I are-or rather as we all ought to be-by way events pan out. This is only true until we have penetrated deeply into the reality and placed ourselves in the Word of our Lord as John did. It is then that we discover that betwixt by endless detours, a plan is being carried out: a plan that is guided by wisdom which is far superior to our own. We can place our confidence in God's well-thought-out-plan.

All God's children of wisdom could testify to, for they can say that they acted faithfully in placing their confidence in His plan, enduring by the delays, letting themselves be accompanied by God's wisdom, even though they might be puzzled by it.

Fr. Christopher

MASS INTENTIONS

December 15, 2018

6pm - Holy Souls

December 16, 2018

9am - People of the Parish

11am—Holy Souls

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

DATES AND TIMES OF SERVICES DURING THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

*Sunday, 23th December**Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Masses at 6pm, Saturday & 9am & 11am Sunday

Confession on Saturday - 5pm – 5.45 pm

Monday, 24th December

6.30pm

11.30pm

Christmas Eve

Children's Mass for Christmas

Christmas Night Carol Service &

Midnight Mass of Christmas

Tuesday, 25th December

11am

Christmas Day

Mass of Christmas Day

*26th/27th December – no Mass;**cember – 10 am Mass**Friday, 28th De-**Sunday, 30st December**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

Masses at 6pm, Saturday & 9am & 11am Sunday

*31st December 2018**11 am Mass;**1st January 2019 11 am Mass**2nd/3rd January 2019**No Mass**4th January 2019 10 am Mass**Sunday, 6th January 2019**The Epiphany of the Lord*

Masses at 6pm, Saturday & 9am & 11am Sunday

*From 7th January 2019**all Masses at usual times*

Please, take a Christmas card from a table in the porch. Have one for yourself and another for a friend or a neighbour.

Readings for this and next Sunday

1st Reading; Zephaniah 3:14-18

Psalm - Isaiah 12: response v 6

2nd Reading - Philippians 4; 4-7

Gospel - Luke 3:10-18

1st Reading; Micah 5:1-4

Psalm 79: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19, response v 4

2nd Reading - Hebrew 10; 5-10

Gospel - Luke 1:39-45

Marriage and Family Life Ministry Christmas reflection

Advent is a time of joy and expectation. Those two words are reminders of what should always be at the core of our marriages and family life: joy in simply being together and in realising the expectation that, as we grow together as a couple and a family, even greater joys are still to come. For this to take root in our hearts and minds we need to be practical and measured in our understanding of joy, and sensible about our expectations. Restrained joy and expectation are really the key to our maintaining a healthy marriage and a happy family. Ensuring that God is in the mix will ensure that the engine of both runs smoothly.

Advent now seems to be less a season of anticipated joy but rather an on-going celebration as we find ourselves buying gifts, negotiating meal plans, and moving from one party, meal or nativity service to the next. It can become so exhausting that by time we arrive to pay our personal homage to Jesus in the manger we are grumpy, exhausted and sadly at risk of conflict.

Advent is a time for us to grow. Our marriages and family relationships are a significant aspect of our daily lives, so we need to tend to our deeper emotional, spiritual, physical, and social needs. This is not as difficult as it sounds: we are quite familiar with seeking out healthy living schemes and indulging in exercise plans. The latter are good, but as we are made to become immortal it therefore does seem wise to spend some time feeding and exercising the spiritual aspects of marriage and family life.

Advent asks us to prepare ourselves for the Second Coming of Christ. Therefore, we need to cultivate a spirituality to guide and grow our marriage and family life. So, just as we are keen to eat healthily, we need to ensure that our inner life is fed with good things. A key element in the Ignatian Spirituality tradition is the use of the Daily Examen: a prayerful and positive way of reviewing the day. It is a useful and simple model by which we can reflect on our marriage and our relationships within the family. The following link might prove a God-given gift for you this Christmas. <https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/24746/five-ways-the-examen-can-play-role-in-marriage>

Advent is a time of movement. We are now travelling together to gather with the Holy Family in Bethlehem. In the ups and downs of marriage and family life we are very fortunate to have the model of the Holy Family to help us. Here we have a real family, not a chocolate box idea of one: a family who experienced their own very real trials and tribulations, not least in having to flee to safety as refugees in a foreign land. This is a tremendous relief when we realise that it is normal for families to experience problems. It is simply that those problems might be different for each of us, but if we allow God to be part of our lives then the outcome is transformed.

Advent is THE time to join with the Holy Family with our special Advent retreat, designed to enrich your marriage and family life It is not too late to start!? <https://www.pathwaystogod.org/imagining-nativity>

Deacon Roger Carr-Jones, Marriage and Family Ministry Coordinator, 020 7798 9363 Ext 2363,

family@rcdow.org.uk, [Marriage and Family website](#)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE

Dear Parents of first holy communion candidates,

Please take note of the following dates when the classes will be held. We ask that you pay particular attention to the final class of the first penance as this may coincide with school holiday for some children, but it is imperative that they attend.

FIRST PENANCE - book 1

1. January 13, 2. January 20; 3. January 27; 4. February 3; 5. February 10; 6. *** please note that the final class for the first penance will be held on Saturday February 16 and not Sunday. This will consist of the last lesson followed by the First Penance*** you can drop your child off for the lesson but you are required to attend your child's first confession.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION-book 2

1. March 3; 2. March 10; 3. March 17; 4. March 24; 5. March 31 6. April 28 - sorry for such a late date but most families will be on holiday for Easter.

***the First Holy Communion will be held on Saturday May 11 at 10:30am We might have a practice session a couple of weeks beforehand to go through the final preparations with the children.

Once again we can always do with some helping hands and if you can spare some time we would very much appreciate it.

Kind regards on behalf of all the catechists.,

Lili, Hajni, Monika, Elisa, Lena, Yolande and Anthony

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY... THIS SUNDAY!!!

Our Church needs to be decorated for Christmas. I want to ask you to stay and help this Sunday, 16th December after 11 am Mass. Every hand is needed to set up the Crib. Thank you, *Fr Christopher*

PARISH PROJECT,

Please, find below a message from Keely, who was our guest and now is waiting for your thoughts on our Hall Extension Project. Do not hesitate to email her as soon as possible, Thank you, *Fr Christopher*

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly at your weekend masses .

I just wanted to reiterate my request for you to share you thoughts and ideas about the development of the hall as part of a wider project which would be largely, if not wholly, grant funded.

You can contact me at keelytattersfield@rcdow.org.uk or 07920488586. Please send me any ideas, feedback or questions. God bless, Keely Tattersfield

Proclaim Spring Gathering 2019

Rt. Rev Nicholas Hudson has invited representatives to join him at this gathering on Saturday 23rd February 2019 from 9.30 am - 3.00pm at St Mary & St Michael (Commercial Road) Parish Centre, 2 Lukin Street E1 OAA. With this in Mind, I invite ALL are young people in the Confirmation Group, First Holy Communion Group, and All Catechumenate's and Candidates of RCIA with there Catechists to join Bishop Nicholas Hudson on Saturday 23rd February 2019. Kindly, would All Catechists put this date in your diary and encourage everyone in your groups to attend With You. Thank you. *Fr Christopher*

Green Token Appeal Update

At the time of writing, the number of green tokens for the foodbank has almost filled its container. As far as I am aware, no green token appeal has ever "hit the roof" before. Should this happen, the achievement will be thanks to the the help of all of you. However, the appeal is still continuing and anything can happen.

We still need you to carry on adding Green Tokens to the ever-growing pile until the end of the month, even though it looks like the foodbank is ahead. Your support will help us feed a lot of our neighbours throughout the Isle of Dogs, some with families, who really need your help.

Ask for a handful of Green Tokens every time you are at an Asda checkout. As you exit Asda, go to the community boards in between the postbox and the toilets. Put the tokens in the slot marked Island Gardens Foodbank. My thanks, *Paul Marlow.*

Christmas Foodbank Donations

Most people enjoy giving to others at Christmas, whether that is their time, money, or presents. Many people help the homeless during the winter or spend Christmas Day with pensioners. Others send donations to a favourite charity. Hopefully, everyone is kind and considerate to each other.

I would like to ask if anyone can donate milk to the foodbank. We need litre-sized cartons of long life whole milk, the ones that are usually in blue packaging. We typically use at least 12 per week, especially for the families with children.

It would be very kind of you to help. There are plastic collection boxes under the long table in the church entrance. We will try to ensure these remain visible, if the table is replaced by the Christmas tree. My thanks, *Paul Marlow.*

Free Prayer Candles Still Available

The Parish has accumulated a number of used altar and advent candles that need to find a good home. We would like to give them away to anyone who will use them as part of their daily prayers. People can give a donation if they wish, but anyone can take the candle of their choice for free. We only ask that parishioners do not leave lighted candles unattended at home and are careful not to scald themselves with hot wax. Please ask one of the sacristans after mass or contact the parish office (see back of newsletter for details), if you are interested.

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 7 January & Mon 14 January 2019 - 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 arianna.sommariva@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.

SET OF DONATION ENVELOPES , if you want to donate in envelopes and to gift aid your donations, 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

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS: loose: 344.29 envelopes: 463.78, total: **808.07**
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