

NEWSLETTER

SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

OUR NAME AND THE WORD OF GOD

I must confess, that, I often tend to forget names and quite a few parishioners could attest to it. When I attend functions I am introduced to many guests and I make a concerted effort to remember their names and of course I do forget. Having said, I do however remember faces clearly.

In our Gospel, we are given a list of important names; Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate, Philip, Herod, Lysanias, Annas, and Caiaphas. But the most important name given in the Gospel is that of John the Baptist; a name given by God. *'A voice of one crying out in the desert. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight'.*

Despite the other names given it's John who stands out and is remembered. We could ask why John is important? The answer, the Word of God was given to John, and he gave voice to the Word, and we know that he lived and died in union with the Word of God.

Important figures in history are not those with temporal power their influence passes through the seeds of time. Their names are forgotten more or less. However, the eternal Word of God stands forever. For it's memorable. The importance of John the Baptist is that it's a reminder to you and me that those who give voice to God's voice are never forgotten.

Loving Father, thank you for the gift of your servant St John the Baptist. Help us to follow his example and be forever united to your divine Word.

Fr. Christopher

MASS INTENTIONS

December 8, 2018

6pm - Holy Souls

December 9, 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

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

In accordance with our nature, nations and families have their times and seasons for days of special celebrations. This specialness is sacramentalised in the Church's year. She too has red-letter days, seasons marked out in a special way to commemorate God's saving, life-giving love.

Are we right in claiming that God offers himself more fully at these times? That the living water of grace is flowing even more abundantly? The wise answer is, I think, that as human beings we need to think so, and therefore it is so. The Church, in this manner, educates us in a more concentrated way, provides a more intense stimulation to faith so that, if we respond, we are better prepared for the Lord to give himself more fully to us. Advent is one those special times as a season of preparation for the feast of Christmas. But faith in his coming does not grow of itself. We have to nourish our faith, exercise it. We don't sit idly at home waiting for his arrival—we must run out to make him welcome. We must question him: 'Are you he?' We must ponder the sacred texts, try to discover their meaning, receive their message. There has to be effort in our daily living. We must climb the mountain heights where the God of Jacob makes his home, for we want him to teach us how to love him; we want to follow where he leads.

We must move into the shadowy mists of detachment. Far on the horizon, see-God appears, and *his coming spreads, a mist over all the earth.* We should want this silencing, shadowing mist, that cuts us off from unnecessary things—things that are not him for us. We cannot truly see them until he comes, so it is better to live in the mist-detachment, silence of desire-accepting the mystery. We must shroud our souls in Advent mist.

It may be, and in my experience often happens, that instead of the inner silence we so desire, our emotions are upset and our thoughts tend to run off. We can feel very discouraged about this lack of inner peace, but there is no need to be. This is merely temptation, the cross. In no way do these feelings come between God and us provided we quietly resist, and bear with ourselves sweetly and patiently. It may be, in fact, a far deeper Advent in that we realise our immense need of a Saviour—and what a blessing that is!

Sister Ruth Burrows, O.C.D

Readings for this and next Sunday

1st Reading; Baruch 5:1-9

Psalm - 125: response v 3

2nd Reading - Philippians 1: 4-6; 8-11

Gospel—Luke 3:1-6

1st Reading; Zephaniah 3:14-18

Psalm - Isaiah 12: response v 6

2nd Reading - Philippians 4; 4-7

Gospel—Luke 3:10-18

Advent Retreat for Young Adults: Join the Assumption Sisters and Fathers for the full-day Advent retreat on **Saturday 15th December 2018**. The theme: "Master, what must we do?" will help us to prepare spiritually for the arrival of Christ. The day includes time for confession, spiritual accompaniment, talks, adoration, mass, faith sharing, prayer and activities. Venue: Milleret House, via 23 Kensington Square, London W8 5HN. Registration is essential - email us to book your place: youth@assumptionreligious.org Tel: 020 7361 4755. Cost: donations only, lunch is included. Many thanks and best wishes,

Anne Marie Salgo | **Assumption Youth & Education**, Milleret House, 20 Kensington Square, London W8 5HH

T: 020 7361 4755 | www.assumptionreligious.org

4 Vincent Road, London N15 3QH Tel: 020 8888 4222 Fax: 020 8888 5554 E-mail: justiceandpeace@rcdow.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 233699 – Website: www.rcdow.org.uk/diocese/justice-and-peace

Westminster Justice and Peace Commission.

Diary of Events for December 2018

- Sat 8th Dec **Annual Christmas Carol Service**, St Joseph's Pastoral Centre - 6:00pm-8:00pm
St Joseph's Pastoral Centre, St Joseph's Grove, The Burroughs, Hendon, NW4 4TY
- Sun 9th Dec **Christmas Charity Concert** 7.45pm St Mellitus Church, Tollington Park, N4 3AG, with London Medical Orchestra playing carols for all and a selection of classical music, in aid of the Mbarara Epilepsy Project, and supported by clinicians from the East London NHS Foundation Trust. Tickets can be purchased through the LMO website www.lmo.org.uk or on the door on the night. St Mellitus is 10 minutes walk from Finsbury Park tube/rail station and there is wheelchair access.
- Tues 11th Dec **Pax Christi Advent Service**. Our popular Advent Peace Service will be held at St. Aloysius Church, Euston and followed by our alternative Christmas market. Don't miss this wonderful start to the Christmas season.
www.paxchristi.org.uk/events
- Thurs 13th Dec **An Evening with Jim Forest** 6.45 for 7-9pm. Reflecting on Thomas Merton, Dorothy Day and Daniel Berri-gan. St Pancras Church Parish Hall, Lancing Street, London NW1 (east side of Euston Station) organised by Pax Christi, the Thomas Merton Society, the Faith and Resistance Network, and the London Catholic Worker.
- Tues 18th Dec **Annual Prisons Mission Carol Service**, 7:00pm Heathrow Immigration Removal Centre, All are welcome.

Advance Notice 2019

Sun 20th Jan **Peace Sunday** Good Politics serves Peace Pope Francis's World Peace Message. Resources for parishes from Pax Christi UK www.paxchristi.org.uk

Dear Fathers, Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I write to thank you for your prayers for me over these last three weeks. I have been able to take the rest that I needed and now feel much recovered. I have been blessed to have been able to do this at such short notice.

As Advent begins I am ready to return to duties next week, although only gradually for now. I thank so many who have graciously accepted postponements of engagements and visits to parishes. I thank especially our Auxiliary Bishops who give me such support and willing service in the Diocese.

As we begin this lovely season of Advent, let us ask the Lord to come afresh into our hearts. May we offer him our welcome, in all the simplicity and spontaneity that his blessed birth so readily evokes in us.

Please do keep me in your prayers as I remember you in mine.

With my best wishes,

Cardinal Vincent Nichols

Archbishop of Westminster

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The First Reconciliation and First Communion Course will begin here at St Edmund's on **Sunday, 13th January 2019**. Books are still available in the Parish Office. Your child will need one book for First Reconciliation course and one for First Communion course. The cost of a book is £18. Before your child starts the course, be sure that the baptism certificate was submitted to the Parish Office. Parents who wish to help with the course, could you submit your details to the Parish office as soon as possible.

Thanks,

Fr Christopher

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY...

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

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*

Fun with Rosaries (Part Four and Last)

There are prayers for every occasion. The Hail Mary can be repeated over and over. We intercede on behalf of some worthy cause or give thanks for something else. What does it matter? Saying the rosary is not going to win the lottery or protect us from the misfortunes of everyday life.

God cares about our growth as a person, not our bank balance. The bad things we experience are as much a part of God's plan as the good things. We don't know what they all mean, or why they happen, but we have to trust that both the good and bad things serve some greater purpose.

The rosary is a tool that can help us talk directly to God and ask for his guidance about these matters. The rosary will become very boring and stale if we just mindlessly repeat the same list of prayers for no reason. When we pray the rosary, we must think ahead of time and always be honest with ourselves in our personal prayers.

It can be very worrying if we find we feel angry at God, for instance. Good Catholics are not meant to feel that way towards God, and we are certainly not mean to say it out loud, but then our feelings get bottled up inside us, we stop being honest, we stop listening.

The thing is that God knew anyway. Anything that created everything in the universe and beyond, all time and space, and everything that holds it all together, can certainly see straight through our hearts. If we can say we are angry, then we can talk about why and our conversation with God begins.

More importantly, when we put our rosary away, we must always make time to think about what we learned while the experience is still fresh in our minds. If our discussion with God begins to feel exciting and lively, then maybe we are (hopefully) on the right path. Only time and our developing understanding will tell.

To summarise: Get a rosary you like. Use it anywhere. Saying the rosary the right way doesn't matter as much as just starting. Start small and build from there. Be honest, but don't expect too much. Think about what you need (not want) to say ahead of time. Be prepared to make mistakes and learn hard truths. You can pray the rosary with others, if you want. The rosary is a tool. Expect how you use it to change over time. God always wants to hear what you have to say. Good luck.

My thanks, Paul Marlow.

Update on Green Token Appeal

The Green Token Appeal is going very well. Thanks to the help of so many of you, the foodbank currently has the most tokens. Unfortunately, this is not the same as having won. The appeal is continuing until the end of the month. Anything can happen in that time and there is plenty of opportunity to fall behind.

I would therefore ask you continue to lend your support until the end of the month, even though it looks like the foodbank is ahead. 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.

Your support will help us feed people for about two months. Its totally FREE and really easy to do. It will help a lot of your neighbours on the Isle of Dogs, some with families, who really need your help. My thanks, Paul Marlow.

Catholic History Walks in London

London at Christmas and the New Year Sunday 16th December 2018 & Wednesday 2nd January 2019, both at 3pm. Join us for seasonal walks through Westminster and Victoria, taking in Christmas trees and crib-scenes. Meet at Westminster Cathedral. Nearest Tube: Victoria.

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: 445.65 envelopes: 460.66, total: **906.31**
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