

NEWSLETTER

FOURTH
SUNDAY OF
LENT

What prayer knocks for upon the door, fasting successfully begs and mercy receives.

There are three things, brethren, three, through which faith stands firm, devotion abides, and virtue endures: prayer, fasting, and mercy. What prayer knocks for upon a door, fasting, successfully begs and mercy receives. Prayer, fasting, and mercy: these three are a unit. They give life to one another. For, fasting is the soul of prayer; and mercy is the life of fasting. Let no one cut these three apart; they are inseparable.

If a man has only one of them, or if he does not have them all simultaneously, he has nothing. Therefore, he who prays should also fast; and he who fasts should also be merciful. He who wants to be heard when he petitions should hear another who petitions him. He who does not close his own ear to a suppliant opens God's ear to himself. The fasting man should realise what fasting is. If anyone wants God to perceive that he is hungry, he should himself take notice of the hungry. If he hopes for mercy, he should show mercy himself. If he desires fatherly kindness, he should display it first. He who wishes someone to make an offering to him should make an offering himself. He is an unworthy petitioner who demands himself what he refuses to another.

Have this as your norm of showing mercy. Do you yourself show mercy to others in the manner, amount, and readiness with which you desire it to be shown to yourself.

Therefore, let prayer, mercy, and fasting be one petition for us before God. Let them be one legal aid on our behalf. Let them be a threefold prayer for us.

Therefore, let us seek by fasting what we have lost by our contempt. Let us immolate our souls by fasting because we can offer nothing better to God. The prophet proves this when he says; 'A sacrifice to God is an afflicted spirit: a contrite and humble heart God does not despise'.

Offer your soul to God; offer the oblation of fasting. Do this to make your soul a pure victim, a holy sacrifice, a living victim, which remains yours while it is given to God. The man who fails to offer this gift to God will have no excuse, for he who will give himself is unable to suffer want.

But, to make those gifts acceptable, follow them up with mercy. Fasting does not germinate unless watered by mercy. When mercy dries up, fasting suffers drought, for mercy is to fasting, what rain is to the earth. The man who is fasting may prepare his heart, cleanse his flesh, weed out his vices, and sow virtues. Nevertheless, if he does not sprinkle his plants with streams of mercy, he does not gather his harvest. O you who fast, when your fasts your field fasts, too. O you who fast, what you pour out in mercy comes back as storage in your barn.

Consequently, lest you lose by saying, gather in by dispensing. Give to yourself by giving to the poor man. For you, yourself shall not possess what you would not leave to another.

St Peter Chrysologus

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2019

Our Lenten Alms this year will go to the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal, which this year has a special focus on food poverty. If you have not done so already, please pick up a Cardinals Lenten Appeal donation leaflet at the back of the church for more information. Please, read and pray for its aims, and if you choose to do so, please give generously.

MASS INTENTIONS

March 30, 2019

6pm - Ints of R. Madden
(sick)

March 31, 2019

9am - People of the Parish
11am—J. Birecka RIP

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
No Holy Hour

During LENT
we say the Apostle's
Creed p. 12

STATIONS OF THE
CROSS EVERY FRI-
DAY DURING LENT
AT 7PM

Next baptismal course
will be on Mon 01
April & Mon 8 April
2019 - 7.00pm.

Please, call/email the
office to reserve your
space.

Readings for this , next Sunday & a Sunday after

1st Reading; Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13
Psalm 22, response v 1
2nd Reading - Ephesians 5:8-14
Gospel – John 9; 1-41

1st Reading; Isaiah 43: 16-21,
Psalm 125 response v 3
2nd Reading - Philippians 3:8-14
Gospel – John 8; 1-11

SUGGESTED READING FOR LENT, read Chapter 13-17 of John's Gospel on Thursdays as a good way to prepare for Easter. These five Chapters could be read through the rest of the year as well. *Fr. Christopher*

Am I a mature child of God

The Gospel of the man born blind has been referred to as the high point of spirituality. It clearly shows us a Father's full mercy. It always moves me when I proclaim it, or when I read it silently to myself. Why? it speaks to me of the power of God because our Lord has informed us of the merciful God; he is our Father who out of his fount of mercy created us to be free and bestowed upon us a conscience, he is heartbroken when like the prodigal son, the lost sheep we are lost but rejoices when we return. I venture, to say, that my relationship and yours is built up with God through events, and one has only to look and see how the relationship develops with children and their parents; in the early years the child depends on his parents, and in the teenage years tries to assert autonomy; and when they are young adults, should they develop well, they reach a mature relationship which is based on love.

When I look at these stages, I can see and identify areas of my journey in my relationship with God. I can see the phase of my own childhood; religion precipitated by need, by dependence. As I grew up I felt liberated and be a free agent and make my own decisions, and at times thinking I could without God, and so, I went through a period of deviation and yet even in this period deep within me there was a need to discover God.

Fortunately, for me, God never once failed in his faithfulness even when I had distance myself or got lost God never abandoned me in fact kept on searching for me, forgiving my misdemeanours and continuously speaking to my conscience to bring me back.

Now when I reflect back, I was the prodigal son, the man born blind, the lost sheep, the lost coin, dare I say it the eldest son. In all of these scenarios, I represented the immature ways of relating to God: childhood rebellion, disobedience and at times obedience. All these are conquered through the experience of mercy. It's only when experiencing forgiveness, and by recognising that I am loved with a love freely given, which is far greater than my pitiable state did at last enter into a free relationship with God.

So, in these days of Lent let us look at each of these parables and through them scrutinize the Father's Heart. Let you and I cast ourselves into his loving arms and be regenerated by his infinite love of mercy.

Fr. Christopher



Parish Pilgrimage

Some members of our Parish Community, have returned from a fruitful pilgrimage to the Holy Land. It was a moving experience as it was there first time. As for me, though I have visited the Holy Land, I have on this trip blessed by Our Lord and the generosity of the people. On Sunday 7th of April after the 11 am Mass photo's of the pilgrimage will be shown in the hall. Hopefully, a member of the group will give a short presentation and answer any questions you might have. Also, we hope to organise a pilgrimage to the Holy Land same time in March 2021. Those of you who have missed this one, will have another opportunity. Thank you.

Fr Christopher

(Our group at The River Jordan, on a boat on the Sea of Galilee and on The Mount of Olives with a view of Jerusalem behind)



Sacrament of Reconciliation

This Sacrament is the most personal. After many years of lapsation, I went to confession, through the prompting of Sr. Louise (may she rest in peace). At that moment nobody could have taken my place to have absolution, only I could do it. I recall, there, in the confessional, I remembered Peter, 'Stay away from me Lord, I am a sinful man' or the tax collector in the temple, 'have mercy on me Lord a sinner'.

I found as I unburdened myself of my sins it was just me and God. But at that moment heaven -coming to my aid and proceeds to welcome me once again. Because it was my sins that wounded and offended the church. When I confessed my sins, I knew I had been reconciled to God, 'There is great rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than a virtuous man who needs no repentance'. But I had also to be reconciled with others for the damage my sins have caused. Now that I have been forgiven, I am reconciled within my inner self, and regain my true identity. I have been reconciled with the church and with creation.

Each time I avail myself of this wonderful Sacrament, I have immense gratitude to God for his tremendous mercy, for permitting his most sinful servant to come and minister at his altar. To go to confession is special for it wipes away divisions and I am born again a reconciled individual-and to the world.

Fr. Christopher

Lets pray for :

Mrs Winifred Davey, our parishioner, who passed away on 27th March. The funeral will be on 4th April at 10.00 am in our church with a burial at City of London Cemetery afterwards. May she rest in peace.

Fr Gerry Burke, a retired priest from Westminster Diocese, who passed away in March too. May he rest in peace.

MOTHER'S DAY

The dawn is greeted by several dew drops,
Many a bee in clover
plenty of butterflies in the garden
There is only one Mother in whole wide world.
*To all our Mothers a Happy Mother's Day. God
bless you all.*



Rosary Group's Monthly Prayer Meeting

**Meet by the statue of Mary
after 11am Mass**

The theme of our prayers will be: The need of confession.

Beginners Welcome

Meetings held 1st Sunday of every month
Please bring your Rosary. Booklets Available
Pray With Us Pray The Rosary

Lent Family Fast Day was on Friday 15th March,

**On Friday, 15th March, you were asked to eat a simple meal in solidarity
and give what you saved to help people like Mahinur?**

You can still collect your Fast Day envelope from church and give whatever you can. You can donate on line as well. There is also a Lent Secondary School film on Bangladesh is available here

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Secondary-and-youth-resources/Lent>

Thank you for your generosity.

Dear Parishioners

We need help with the children's liturgy at both the 9am and 11am masses. The 9am mass is currently at risk of being cancelled if we don't get any volunteers. These classes are important to help our children grow in our faith.

Please let us know if you could help once or twice a month by dropping an email to Parish Office
Diane /Lili / Sergio/ Hajni



OUR LENTEN APPEAL

We need 300 items of supermarket own-brand food every week to help feed local people and families: (No Fresh, Frozen, or Chilled)

Tinned Fish, Tinned Meat, Tinned Soup, Tinned Fruit, Tinned Vegetables, Long-Life Whole Milk, Tea, Small Coffee, 500g Sugar, Breakfast Cereals, Porridge, Pasta, Rice, Sauce, Oil, Tinned Custard, Rice Pudding, Soap, Shampoo, Toothpaste. **HELP US HELP OTHERS**

Beginning Experience

There is a healing weekend for men and woman who find themselves single again following separation, divorce or the death of a partner from 12th to 14th April 2019 at the Domus Mariae Centre, Chigwell, Essex. For details please contact Freda 01322-838415 or Sandra 01293-783965 or email johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk. **Charlotte McNerlin**, Marriage and Family Life Ministry - Administrator, 020 7931 6064 ext.2464, family@rcdow.org.uk **Marriage and Family Life Website**

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 01 April & Mon 8 April 2019 - 7.00pm.** 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.

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 will be added to your mobile phone bill, as a donation to the parish.

NEW SETS OF DONATION ENVELOPES ARE READY FOR COLLECTION FROM THE BACK OF THE CHURCH, BEFORE AND AFTER EACH MASS (during a week - from the office).

If you spot any mistake, please, let me know immediately.

If you want to donate in envelopes and to gift aid your donations, but have not arranged for it so far, you can let me know via email and I will prepare a box for you.

Katherine

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS: loose: 499.28 envelopes: 607.60, total: **1106.88**

A week before: loose: 486.216 envelopes: 432.73 total: **918.89**

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