

NEWSLETTER

25TH SUNDAY
OF ORDINARY
TIME**God or Mammon?**

Faith, which is the adherence to Christ as the only Lord and our only Love, requires turning to him as the one who is of greatest value. Total adherence to Christ requires a free heart, therefore, a turning away from being enslaved to mammon. The Gospel says, *No one can serve two masters. He will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.* There are two masters-God and mammon; there is no third. The highest authority, Jesus Christ, has said this. The relationship of one master to the other is a relationship of radical contradiction.

This is a very strong statement. We cannot, therefore, attach ourselves to Christ and serve him while at the same time serving mammon, even though we are always exposed to the temptation to compromise and combine that which cannot be combined. The Gospel says that we belong entirely to the Lord, regardless of whether we acknowledge this or not. We are and will always remain the property of the Lord, who is Jesus.

Originally, the Hebrew term mammon meant some kind of treasure-money or expensive things put into a deposit. At the time, it did not have a negative meaning. In the course of time, however, an evolution in the understanding of this term came about. It started to mean that when expensive things were placed with a banker or someone of trust, one could then count on the treasure and place hope in it. This was the first step of evolution. Mammon was becoming an object of trust. Next the word mammon started to be written with a capital letter since it already had become a false lord and master. Then an unusual alienation occurred; a thing took possession of the person. Everything in which he had placed his hope started to become a god for him.

And you, in whom or in what do you place your hope? What do you count on? Who is your God? If you place your hope in a false god, then you will know bitterness and disappointment, because it is a master that sooner or later will disappoint you. This will be a great grace for you because then your trust in mammon will begin to crumble. What can this mammon that enslaves your heart be? It can be material as well as spiritual goods. For example, it can be an attachment to money, to your work, or to something you are presently creating or working on. It may be attachment, even to one's own perfection. As a human being, you can choose to attach yourself to the one and only reality-the will of God.

Fr. Tadeusz Dajczer

MASS INTENTIONS**Sept 21, 2019**

6pm - Bernabe Cordero
(Anniv)

Sept 22, 2019

9am - People of the Parish
11am—Fr John Elliott
(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

**Starts on
Saturday at 5pm**

Luke 16:1-13

Once again our Lord gives us a parable this time about a man looking after himself and his family when he was to lose his job. He reduces the interest owed on the debt by the debtors. In doing so he hopes the debtors would treat him kindly. The Lord emphasizes that we ought to be concerned with integrity as the double-dealing steward.

We have to deal with life as is and it would be even great if we could be passionate about the cause of right as the steward was in looking after himself. In the parable, our Lord uses the situation to teach us about money and God. Our Lord uses many an example to teach and to widen our view of God who is love, full of mercy and forgiveness like the father in the parable of the prodigal son. The point that is made here is, to leave judgment to God and to widen the compassion in our hearts.

The parable reminds me of those times I have got into messy situations, and the steward was trying to do his best by allowing the debtors of a large interest and on what was owed and probably which was obtained corruptly! God is bigger than our puny laws and meaningless rituals.

The message is clear to use money in the service of God. We are aware that our wealth and prosperity could lead to corruption or greed, or improving the lives of others. All we have is a gift which has to be used for the common good. *Fr. Christopher*

Readings for this & next Sunday

1st Reading; Amos 8:4-7,
Psalm 112; 1-2, 4-8, 17 response v 1, 7
2nd Reading - 1 Timothy 2:1-8
Gospel – Luke 16; 1-3

1st Reading; Amos 6:1, 4-7,
Psalm 145; 7-10 response v 1
2nd Reading - 1 Timothy 6:11-16
Gospel – Luke 16; 19-31

Easter Sunday Explosions in Sri Lanka

Dear Friends,

Further to my appeal for funds for the Cardinal Fund, to help the victims who suffered on 21st April, Easter Sunday. It has been proposed that we have an open Collection until Christmas with a target to raise a Thousand pounds. This amount will be sent to the Cardinal in the New Year. Am grateful to the parishioner whose daughter gave £10 to kick start the collection, and you would be updated each week as to the progress in the Newsletter. May I suggest that you place your donation in an envelope, Cardinal Fund, that can be taken from a table in the church's porch. Those of you who haven't as yet read the Cardinal's letter to me, copies are available on the table as you leave the Church. I take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity. Many thanks and God bless

Fr. Christopher

Counting the Collection

Under the new guidelines, we have to have a team of volunteers to count the money. I am appealing for volunteers to come forward who would be willing to count the collection. You would go on a rota, its hoped you would be counting once a month. To make it work we would require two in a team making up four teams. If you think you could help and training will be provided by John, kindly drop a line to me at millwall@rcdow.org.uk

Thanks and God bless

Fr. Christopher

Dates for your diary:

The One World Day

Our Parishes One World Day will be held on **13th October 2019** after the 11 am Mass. We bring a dish from the country of origin to share with one another. It's an opportunity to meet and greet new parishioners and meet up with old friends.

17th November 2019 at 11 am

We will be having a Mass said, for Late Fr. Adrian Walker RIP who the Parish priest here and was instrumental in building this new Church. The principal celebrant will be Rt. Rev. Nicholas Hudson. Following the Mass, there will be a reception organised by the parish social committee.

Sacramental Programs here at St Edmund

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) on 24th September 19 at 7.30 pm (registration forms and programme are available from a table in the churches' porch or from the office during a week. (You are still welcome to join).

First Holy Communion: The registration forms are now on the table in the porch. Those parents who wish their son/daughter to make their First Reconciliation and First Communion, please collect the form and submit it to the parish office. The last date for submitting the forms is 20th October 2019.

Confirmation: Applications for this program will be put on the table in the porch later in September. The course will commence on 11th January 2020 (from 4 to 6pm).

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND—MARCH 2021

We are planning a second parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2021 (15th –22nd March) with Pilgrimage People again. To make it happen we need to gather a group of around 20 people. We want to encourage you to take part in this event. If you think you can make it—please, drop an email to millwall@rcdow.org.uk or give your details to Fr Chris or our Sacristans. We already got an itinerary that is available from the office. The cost will be £1680. If you are interested we are ready to open a saving club to those who want to save money over the next year. We look forward to hearing from you.

Fr Christopher, Katherine, Stella & Julia

TOWER HAMLETS

ST MARY & ST MICHAEL, 2 LUKIN STREET, COMMERCIAL ROAD, E1 0AA

FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER, 7-9pm

*14-18 years



THE SUMMIT

A chance for young people to socialise, share a meal together, learn more about their faith and be introduced to a deeper level of prayer and adoration, with contemporary worship music



DIocese of
WESTMINSTER
YOUTH MINISTRY

dowym.com 

APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA / STELLA MARIS MASS

Please come and join in the celebration of Holy Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption and St Gregory, Warwick Street, London W1B 5LZ at 7pm on Thursday 26 September, or at St George's Cathedral, Southwark, Westminster Bridge Rd, London SE1 7HY on Tuesday 1 October at 1230pm. It is an opportunity to pray for all those who work at sea and hear more about the work of the Apostleship of the Sea / Stella Maris. For more information please contact roland@apostleshipofthesea.org.uk telephone 07887 893763

<https://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk/stella-maris-masses-2019>

Roland Hayes, London Officer, Apostleship of the Sea

Altar Servers

Those of our young people, who have made their First Holy Communion. Would you like to become Altar Servers, please, give your details to Catherine at the office. Alternatively, you could speak with Joseph, Lauren or Kevin who would be more than willing to answer your questions and training will be provided. 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, you can through Katherine 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 Katherine (Parish Office) but must be confirmed in writing. Canon 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, baptized 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 baptized 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

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; <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/millwall/>



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 in September-9th & 16th at 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 not 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 — from June 2019 our Newsletter will no longer be distributed by an email. You can always download it from our website. <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/millwall/>

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.

GLUTEN FREE HOSTS Those parishioners who for medical reasons can only take Gluten Free as per their diet. We here at St Edmund’s have Gluten Free Hosts. Should you require, see Fr. Christopher before Mass, so he could consecrate the hosts for you.

CARDINAL RANJITH APPEAL—SRI LANKA
OUR GOAL IS TO RAISE £1000.00
WE HAVE ALREADY RAISED—£10.00
£980.00 TO GO!

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS: loose: £513.33 envelopes: £469.97 total: **£983.30**
Standing orders in July: **£2399.14**

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