

NEWSLETTER

30TH SUNDAY
OF ORDINARY
TIME

Luke 18: 9-14

Today's parable reminds me, how I could have a holier than thou attitude which can make me contemptuous of others. I see the Pharisee and the Tax Collector in me? It's easy for me to be morally superior and even be to a particular person, however hard I try not to. I suppose I tick all of the right boxes, unlike some.

It's in such moments I have to ask for the light to see and feel the deep roots of pride in my heart, ask for the grace of humility and now I repeat the prayer of the tax collector, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner'. It earned him peace with God.

Since I am a sinful man, I have to ask constantly, What would I like to boast to God about? I suppose I want to tell him what a wonderful person I am and all the good I am doing. I could look down on others on their moral and spiritual lives. Does this mean it's the end of our relationship with God? If we honestly look at ourselves we realize that all is a gift; in our talents and what we have made of them. We end up with the prayer of the tax collector-cover me Lord with your mercy, for, with all my good deeds and intentions, there is a sinful side to me which constantly needs your mercy.

If I know myself, as a child of God, who is dependent on God for everything, is a grace that I ask for in prayer. The tax collector is attractive, despite his job which was despised by many and looked down upon, than, the holier than thou Pharisee. It's certainly a grace from God to know that I and even you are in need of his merciful love. In prayer, we immerse ourselves into God's merciful love, whose compassion and understanding of all of us is greater than anything else in him.

Let our prayer be, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner'. *Fr. Christopher*

MASS INTENTIONSOctober 26, 2019

6pm - Sandra Bramston RIP

October 27, 2019

9am - People of the Parish

11am—Joe Wong 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

Starts on
Saturday at 5pm

**Barbara Robertson:
RIP**

Barbara Robertson's funeral will take place in our church on Thursday, **31st October at 11am followed by cremation.**

**First Holy
Communions 2020**

Application process is now closed. Parents meeting will be on 4th December at 7.30 in our church.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**1. ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS**

Friday **1st November**, the Solemnity of **All SAINTS**. Times of Masses here at St Edmund; **Morning 9.15 am and Evening 8pm.**

Saturday **2nd November**, THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED, Times of Masses: **Morning Mass only at 10.30am.**

Envelopes are available on the table for you put the names of your loved ones who will be remembered at ALL Masses during the month of November and even later.

2. SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND, On the 9th & 10th November

We will have the annual Second Collection for the Sick & retired Priests. I thank you in advance for your generosity

3. 17 November at 11 am Mass we will welcome Bishop Nicolas Hudson to celebrate a Mass in memory of Fr Adrian Walker, followed by a small reception afterwards. All are welcome. We will pray together for a late Fr Adrian whose hard work facilitated in the building of our new church.

Readings for this & next Sunday

1st Reading; Ecclesiasticus 35: 12-14, 16-19
Psalm 33; 2-3, 17-19, 23 response v 7
2nd Reading - 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18
Gospel - Luke 18; 9-14

1st Reading; Wisdom 11: 22-12.2
Psalm 144; 1-2, 8-11, 13-14 response v 1
2nd Reading - 2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2.2
Gospel - Luke 19; 1-10

The Parish Project

Dear Friends in Christ,

On the 16th of October, we held a meeting of the Steering Committee on the Second Phase which is Consultation. We are now in this second phase and we are appealing to you to give some thought as to what you would like to see in the extension to the small hall, and when you are ready to, place your suggestion on the paper leaf. Insert unto the tree of love. Both leaves and the tree you can find at the back of the church. I ask you to spare a moment after a mass and to write down your ideas. All of them will be collected at the end of this process. They will be handed over to the Architect, who will incorporate the suggestions as best he can into the drawings. It would then be submitted to Tower Hamlets Planning Committee for approval. Having secured the approval, Alison & Keely will apply for grants to cover the whole project. Please, could we ask you to pray for the project and thank you for your support.

Fr Christopher

SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

The bishops have ruled that a child's application for admission to a Catholic school has to be supported by a certificate of Catholic Practice. This means the child's family are required to attend Mass on every Sunday and on Holydays of Obligation. Anything less does not constitute required commitment.

Parents should take this seriously and come to meet with me to discuss any problems you might have in attending Mass and any problems you might have in proving your attendance. Please, do not to leave talking to me until it's too late. Leaving it late would lead to unnecessary disappointment.

Primary school applications are made between September and 15th January. Some schools may require the forms a week earlier. Secondary school applications are from September until the end of October (check with each school you apply to, to be sure). Therefore, parents are advised they need to prove regular attendance preferably two years ahead of that September, however, three years would be more conclusive.

Parents need to maintain evidence of attendance throughout their child's education, which includes their move to secondary school. This includes when transferring schools, perhaps because of moving home (including to a different parish), and when moving to a secondary school. A fresh Certificate of Catholic Practice is needed for each new school application.

Fr Christopher



The Rosary Group's Month of the Holy Rosary

06th, 13th, 20th, 27th October

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

A plenary indulgence may be gained this month by
praying a Rosary in church or as a family

Each week will have a different theme about:

Against Brutality

Beginners Welcome

Meetings held 1st Sunday of every month
Please bring your Rosary. Booklets Provided

Pray With Us † Pray The Rosary

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 mill-wall@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

100th Anniversary of St. John Paul II's birth - MAY 2020 POLAND, 8 DAYS

A pilgrimage that during 8 days will take you to many places related to the Saint John Paul II. The program includes the following places: Warsaw – the capital of Poland, Czestochowa – is the center for pilgrims from and outside of Poland, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Krakow – the diocese of Monsignor Karol Wojtyla, Kazimierz – the former Jewish district in Krakow, Wieliczka – the Salt Mine, Lagiewniki – the Sanctuary of the Divine Mercy, Wadowice – the hometown of Pope John Paul II, Kalwaria Zebrzydowska, Zakopane and Tatr

ERNESTO TRAVEL

Grodzka 54, 31-044 Krakow;
tel./fax: +48 12 633 65 56 tel.mob.: +48 502 53 54 58; skype: ernesto-travel
www.ernesto.travel a *Mountains – the mountain-loving Pope's paradise.*

There is needed a group of min 20 people—price per person: 1000 eur

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW1P 1QJ**Safeguarding in the Church today**

In the last twenty years or so, the evil of the sexual abuse of children in the Catholic Church has been laid bare. This abuse is both deeply damaging to all those who have been its victims and a scandal against the faith we strive to proclaim.

From 28 October to 8 November, the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, established by the Government, will turn its attention to the present situation in the Catholic Church in England and Wales. As you may know, it has already investigated and reported on the Archdiocese of Birmingham and on the English Benedictine abbeys of Downside and Ampleforth. A further report concerning Ealing Abbey will be published imminently. These reports have made clear the extent of failures in the Church and, more importantly, the lasting damage to all those who are survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

On 6 November, I will give oral evidence to the Inquiry. I will do so as President of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. I write these words now in order to provide some context within which you can follow these proceedings and whatever publicity may follow.

In the first place, appearing before the Inquiry will enable me to offer again an unreserved apology to all who have suffered in the context of the Catholic Church and to express my profound regret at all that has taken place. It will also enable me to offer assurance of our willingness to learn further lessons about how to improve and strengthen our response to those who have suffered and our work of safeguarding.

In the context of our willingness to learn from the rigour of this scrutiny, I am also able to present an account of our current work in safeguarding and the improvements which we are undertaking at this time.

Since the independent Report of Lord Nolan in 2001, we have endeavoured to build a culture of safeguarding within our parishes and religious communities. In our parishes there are Parish Safeguarding Representatives; in this diocese, as in every diocese, there is a Safeguarding Coordinator and a Diocesan Safeguarding Commission, composed of experts in the main disciplines needed for effective safeguarding. This Commission takes the lead in handling every allegation of abuse, whether from the distant past or the present day. In doing so they follow nationally agreed protocols, including the swift reporting of allegations to the statutory authorities. There are also protocols to be followed if allegations of abusive behaviour or gross negligence are made against a bishop or leader of a religious congregation. We have an established National Catholic Safeguarding Commission with a strong majority membership of experts, who are independent of the authority structures of the Catholic Church. Much has been achieved. Much is to be learned.

I will also be able to give evidence about more recent steps we have taken, including my participation in the meeting in February in Rome which brought together the President of every Bishops' Conference around the world to study closely aspects of the Protection of Minors in the Church. In written evidence to IICSA I have also offered evidence about the role of the Survivors Advisory Panel which the NCSC has established so that the voice of survivors can have a significant role in shaping our understanding and responses to abuse. I have also written about the three day meeting which the

Bishops of England and Wales held with survivors of childhood sexual abuse in the spring. During that meeting we listened, learned and developed together an understanding of the deep and lasting damage that has been done. I have given, below, a link to a statement I made shortly after that meeting. I have also been able to put before the Inquiry the steps we have taken to establish a system of audit of the work of every Diocesan Safeguarding Office and the fact that our National Catholic Safeguarding Commission has itself initiated an independent review of all our work and structures.

The Independent Inquiry will scrutinise all these matters. It will, in due course, make recommendations covering many, if not all, aspects of safeguarding in the Catholic Church. I am sure that this scrutiny will be wide-ranging, and will include comment on the consistency with which our procedures are followed, the effectiveness of our record keeping, the quality of training we offer, the relationship between religious orders and dioceses and many other matters besides. All of this will take place in the context of our record of failures as well as our achievements. All of this will, quite properly, give importance to the voice and experience of survivors.

I hope these few comments help you to understand what will happen in these coming weeks.

All this makes perfectly clear that, as a Church, we share in the sinfulness of humanity. This we know. Yet we also know that Christ came to bear the weight of that sinfulness on the cross. He alone can redeem us from it. He does so by his suffering, death and resurrection. Only by being close to him can his healing become a reality. With prayer and penance, this time can become, even if only slowly and painfully, a deep purification for our community. Then we may be more faithful to the great gift of faith we have received and more credible witnesses to the mercy and healing it can bring.

Please keep in your prayers all who are involved in this period of the Inquiry.

More importantly, remember in prayer those who carry the heavy burden of childhood abuse every day of their lives.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols Archbishop of Westminster

Useful links:

Westminster Safeguarding Office - <https://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/safeguarding/>

Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS) - <https://www.csas.uk.net/>

National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (NCSC) - <http://www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/>

Cardinal's statement of 21 June 2019 - <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/cardinals-statement-following-iicsa-report-into-archdiocese-of-birmingham/>

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 October-30th & November 6th 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.

NEWSLETTER — 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

(EASTER SUNDAY EXPLOSIONS), OUR GOAL WAS TO RAISE £1000.00

A big thank you for St Edmund School’s support— children have raised £548.85.

WE HAVE ALREADY RAISED IN TOTAL—£2570.85!!!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY. The collection will be continued until Christmas.

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS: loose: £299.31 envelopes: £470.37 total: £769.72

Standing orders in September: **£2869.30**

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