

## NEWSLETTER

33rd SUNDAY  
OF ORDINARY  
TIME

## 'Your endurance will win your lives'

Our Lord ends the Gospel with those wonderful words 'Your endurance will win your lives' How about me? Do I have endurance in the face of difficulties, trails, confronted with stressful situations do I have the endurance or would I just give up and say, you know what to hell with it!

Let's look at it closely, he doesn't say, your prayers, fasting, silence or the reciting of psalms. they are good in themselves in saving my soul. But instead, he says, Your endurance in every trail, here I am reminded of Asia Bibi, who refused to renounce her Christian faith, even when she was accused of Blasphemy, she underwent trauma she held fast to her faith. She showed endurance or take the example of those who pray the Rosary near abortion clinics who endure ridicule from passers-by. Some affliction, any kind of disgrace, small or great; whether it might be a bodily weakness or the attacks of Satan, or any trail caused by others or evil spirits.

Faced with our trails, we are called to give thanks, prayer and show humility. Now you may ask, Why? we have to be ready to praise, bless our benefactor, God our Father and Saviour of the world, who inclines his benefits good or otherwise, for our benefit. The Apostle says, With patient endurance, we ran the race of faith that was set before us and now we await the price promised us. What has more power than virtue? What more strength than patient endurance? For God's sake endurance. The queen of virtues, the foundation of virtue, a tranquillity. It's peace in troubled waters and rough seas and safety amidst treachery and danger, or even in times of war. It makes those that practice it stronger than iron. No weapons, advancing tanks, drones or any other weapon one may think of could shake it. Not even the evil spirits or hostile powers to injure the man or woman who has obtained this virtue through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

*Fr. Christopher*

This Sunday, **17 November at 11 am Mass** we welcome

**Bishop Nicolas Hudson**

to celebrate a Mass in memory of **Fr Adrian Walker**, followed by a small reception afterwards ( mulled wine and mince pies have already been bought:)) All are welcome to join the celebration.

**MASS INTENTIONS****November 16, 2019**

6pm - People of the Parish

**November 17, 2019**

9am - Doris Jansz RIP

11am— Fr Adrian Walker 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**

**First Reconciliation  
and First Holy  
Communion Course**

Application process is now closed. Parents meeting will be on 4th December at 7.30 pm in our church. Parents have to buy two books for the whole course. The cost of each book is £20. The first book that covers first reconciliation must be bought during the meeting on 4th December 2019.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Next Sunday, 24th November, Fr Chris will celebrate his 70th Birthday. We invite you to wish him all the best ( Birthday card will be provided after every mass during next weekend), and share a birthday cake with him after 11 am Mass .

*Parish Social Committee.*

## Readings for this &amp; next Sunday

1st Reading; Malachi 3: 19-20

Psalm 97;3-9, response v 9

2nd Reading - 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Gospel – Luke 21; 5-19

1st Reading; 2 Samuel 5: 1-3

Psalm 121;1-5, response v 2

2nd Reading - Colossians 1:12-20

Gospel – Luke 23; 35-43

## ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE WESTMINSTER

### Fr Adrian John Walker R.I.P.

Fr Adrian Walker will be fondly remembered by many who knew him over his fifty-eight years of priestly life and ministry as an intelligent, gifted and self-effacing man. He was generous with his time and energy. Enduring, and endearing, characteristics of humility and generosity remain in evidence following his death. He made it known that the homily to be given at his funeral should have 'few biographical references but concentrate on the manner in which I have lived my priesthood and on the influence the programme and spirituality of Alcoholics Anonymous has had in my life since November 1968'. He also wrote about his desire for his mortal remains to be given for the benefit of scientific research. Not everything that is requested can be granted.

In May 1992 the diocesan newspaper, the 'Westminster Record', published a profile of Fr Adrian under the heading 'Enthusiasm at it's best'. The article described some of Fr Adrian's qualities and achievements, thirty-two years into his ministry. He was 'a doer... something of a whirlwind...'

Adrian Walker was born on 6 August 1931. Both parents were converts to Catholicism, and they sent their son to be educated by Jesuits at Stonyhurst College in Lancashire. Adrian's father's embrace of the Catholic faith was inspired by the example of a Catholic Chaplain in the Great War, and Adrian, in his turn, was inspired by his father. Adrian served in the Navy. Despite his obvious intelligence he eschewed any thought of a commission – he was never ambitious for status or preferment throughout his life. He was accepted as a student for the priesthood by Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, and he was sent to Allen Hall at St Edmund's College, Ware. He was ordained to the Priesthood on 11 June 1960 by Cardinal Godfrey. He was then sent to Rome for further studies, in philosophy at the Angelicum University, and lived at the Pontifical Beda College. On his return to the Diocese Fr Adrian's first appointment was to Edmonton, as Assistant Priest where he served from 1964-1971 when he was appointed to work as a Chaplain to London University, living at Newman House, Gower Street. After two years he was given a new appointment, as Assistant Priest at Bayswater. In 1976 Fr Adrian was appointed Parish Priest at Stevenage, Pin Green. In 1981 he was appointed to have oversight of the four Stevenage parishes. His next appointment was to Staines, serving as Parish Priest from 1987 until his appointment to Millwall, in 1994, a parish without a church (the old church was closed in December 1994 having been declared structurally unsafe and then demolished in the summer of 1995), hall or presbytery but in need of a Priest with experience, vision and energy. The parish, in the developing Docklands area, was changing and Fr Adrian's vision and energy were well-suited to the emerging needs of the parish and neighbourhood. Cardinal Hume gave Fr Adrian much encouragement, including a large donation to the building fund. The Cardinal went to Millwall to bless the foundation stone for the new church and wrote a message of support for the ambitious fundraising efforts in 1999. Parishioners from Staines also gave Fr Adrian great support. The newly-built church and complex was open for use in 2000 with Cardinal Cormac celebrating Mass there in September. In 2004 Fr Adrian retired from full time parish ministry, having requested this some two years before the usual age of 75. He knew it was time to stand down and embrace a new rhythm of priestly living.

Fr Adrian's commitment to ecumenism was vitally expressed during his eleven years at Stevenage. The church at Stevenage was shared by Anglicans, Catholics and Methodists. After five years at Stevenage the team ministry was established. The new arrangements preserved the geographical identities of the four parishes but with a shared church for all. Fr Adrian put all his energy into this project, supported by other Priests and Religious Sisters on the Parish Team, and by local Christian ministers. The local Catholic and wider community were broadly supportive of this innovative ecumenical plan. As anticipated, there were some detractors. The years at Stevenage allowed Fr Adrian's liturgical and theological creativity to flourish. This was coupled with zeal for the pastoral care of his parishioners and their formation in liturgy and theology. He knew that, after eleven years, it was time to ask for another appointment.

The parish of Staines was to benefit from Fr Adrian's intelligence, experience and commitment and his unconventional way of facing and progressing challenging situations. He re-ordered the church, positioning the altar away from the sanctuary and into the north aisle, complete with the wooden baldacchino. The result made for more intimacy in the church, spreading into the parish. The parish hall expanded, occupying space in the adjacent presbytery which provided modest accommodation for the Parish Priest. In 1990 the parish celebrated its centenary, and Fr Adrian invited Cardinal Hume to lead the celebrations. With his care for detail, Fr Adrian sent to the Cardinal, well in advance, briefing notes on the history of the parish, the list of invited guests, and matters deserving of the Cardinal's notice in preparing his homily.

Fr Adrian will be remembered for his informality, and for being somewhat unconventional in his approach and practice. He will also be remembered, and admired, for fifty years of sobriety supported by, and giving support to, the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. He was devoted to his priesthood, and gave little time for his hobbies of cooking, reading and classical music. He made time to prepare and give retreats at Aylesford at the annual gatherings of A.A.

On 24 January 2019 Fr Adrian died peacefully in hospital, having been admitted the previous evening. He had been retired from fulltime parish ministry for fifteen years, but kept himself busy with supply ministry in parishes close to his home in Maidenhead. He remained faithful to an hour of prayer every morning and the daily celebration of Mass. The onset of Alzheimers in his eighties did not alter his disposition of kindness and respect for others, especially those who treated him and cared for him. A friend commented 'doesn't Adrian realise that everyone feels better when he comes into the room?' And now we pray that Fr Adrian will be welcomed by the God he knew, loved and served, to take his place in Heaven. May this humble man and faithful Priest rest in peace.

### Prayers to Saint Michael The Arcangel

St Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.

Be our defence against the wickedness and snares of the devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,  
and do thou,

O Prince of the heavenly hosts,  
by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan,  
and all evil spirits,

who prowl about the world  
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

Glorious Prince

O glorious St Michael,

chief and commander of the heavenly hosts,  
guardian of souls, vanquisher of rebel spirits,

servant in the house of the Divine King

and our admirable conductor,

you who shine with excellence

and superhuman virtue deliver us from all evil,

who turn to you with confidence

and enable us by your gracious protection

to serve God more and more faithfully every day. Amen

### "How sing enhances your life"

**A workshop to discover how singing can help to develop yourself, physically and mentally, no matter if you are a child, an adult, or a teenager.**

**Chiara Zurlo, experience singer, vocal coach and music teacher, will guide you through the fascinating world involved in singing.**

**You will find out, with simplicity and clarity, how singing can improve your daily-life and your well-being.**

**After the workshop, Chiara will be performing a Christmas concert for the community, with the participation of the "Heidi's Club", the vocal assemblé founded by Chiara and her colleague Angela Tursi.**

**Don't miss it!**

**Bring yourself and your kids to enjoy an amazing afternoon together!**

**December 15th**

**St Edmund Millwall**

**Workshop: 15:30 -16:15**

**Tea and refreshment: 16:30 -17:00**

**Christmas concert... and more: 17:00 -18:00**

### Be a #RedWednesday Champion of Faith – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Will you, your parish, school or groups join with Aid to the Church in Need and Stand Up for Faith and Freedom this #RedWednesday? The world is largely silent when it comes to religious persecution, so it is up to us to defend religious freedom and shine a light on the suffering of persecuted Christians and others – especially in Syria, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan and China. Your prayers and ACTION are vital. BE VISIBLE. Wear something red. Light your parish or local landmark red. For information, prayer resources, lighting instructions, to add your event/action to ACN's #RedWednesday Map, and for a FREE fundraising pack to help displaced Christian families in Syria, Nigeria and over 100 countries across the world: [www.acnuk.org/redwednesday](http://www.acnuk.org/redwednesday).

*For further information, please contact Catharine Crowson at [catharine.crowson@acnuk.org](mailto:catharine.crowson@acnuk.org) or on 020 8642 8668.*

*Marie Saba, Communications, Diocese of Westminster*

### PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND—MARCH 2021

We are planning a second parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2021 (15<sup>th</sup> –22<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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

### The Parish Project

Dear Friends in Christ,

On the 16<sup>th</sup> 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. You can also email your ideas if is more convenient.** 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*

**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 December-11th & 18th 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—£2850.85!!!**  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUSITY. The collection will be continued until Christmas.

**LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS:**      loose: £447.06    envelopes: £537.68      total: **£984.74**  
Standing orders in September: **£2869.30**

The Sick & retired Priest’s Collection last Weekend; **£512.74**

***Thank you for your Generosity***      WRCDT Charity No: 233699

I take this opportunity to thank you all for generously donating to the Sick & Retired Priest’s Fund last weekend. It means that our Sick & Retired Priests will continue to receive the care and support they need.

If by any chance, you weren’t able to make a donation, you will find envelopes on the table or alternatively donate online through the Diocesan website. It has been a priority of the Diocese and the Church to care for the priests in their advancing years, and in times of illness. It’s your way of saving a ‘Thank you’ to the priests who have served you and the Diocese. May God bless you for your generosity. *Fr Christopher*