

NEWSLETTER

2nd SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

Judging the Living and the Dead

678 Following in the steps of the prophets and John the Baptist, Jesus announced the judgment of the Last Day in his preaching...Our attitude about our neighbour will disclose acceptance or refusal of grace and divine love. On the Last Day Jesus will say; 'Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me'.

This is a time to think of others. We prepare by giving to those in need, those who rely on food banks, in poverty, the homeless and the marginalized, and those who are trafficked, forced into slavery. As we reflect this time of the year, for love of others strengthens our love of God. Have we begun to focus on the needs of others? Have you reached outside your family and circle of friends to help?

St Matthew presents the sweeping figure of John the Baptist. The prophet who preached and baptised. The figure of Elijah who prepared the people for the Messiah.

How do we prepare for the coming of the Lord? This second Sunday in Advent gives us a sign. To pause and think about our place with the Lord. And our place with others. Our celebration on this second Sunday of Advent gives us the time to get ready. For the coming of the Lord?

When do we take 'dessert' time to reflect on this hurried and harried season? How do we reform in a culture that gives us so many choices, moral and otherwise? What does it mean to wait for the coming of our Lord even when we celebrate his arrival on Christmas Day?

(Catechism of the Catholic Church) Fr. Christopher

**MASS INTENTIONS****December 7, 2019**

6pm - Richie Ryan RIP

December 8, 2019

9am - People of the Parish

11am— Holy Souls

December 9, 2019

9am - People of the Parish

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

Second Sunday of Advent

There is no Christianity without a call to change; there is no Jesus Christ without John the Baptist. What fruit are we to bear? love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (cf Gal 5: 22-23). We do well to remember that only if we are united to Christ we can bear fruit(cf Jn 15:4).

The best way of cutting the wrong fruit away and grafting ourselves to Christ is through the sacraments. Perhaps at this before Christmas consider going to the sacrament of reconciliation. Fr. Javier

Concezione Immacolata

On Monday we shall be keeping the Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (who is the Patron of the Diocese of Westminster).

The Masses here will be at 9.15 am, unfortunately, there wouldn't be an evening Mass due to another appointment. The doctrine that Mary was conceived free from original sin, is the conception of the Virgin Mary free from original sin by virtue of the merits of her son Jesus. The Holy Mother the Church teaches that God acted upon Mary in the first moment of her conception keeping her immaculate.

Under the Papal Bull Commissi Nobis Divinitus by Pope GelmentXII, it became a Holy Day of Obligation on 6th December 1708. In 1854 Pope Pius IX issued an Apostolic Constitution Ineffabilis Deus 'The most Blessed Virgin Mary in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ the saviour of the human race, was preserved free from original sin'. This marked no actual change in doctrine, but rather marked the first instance of the formal definition of the dogma.

Blessed Mother pray for us. Amen

HOLY HOUR

**Starts on
Saturday at 5pm**

Dates for your diary

Church decoration for
Christmas.

On Sunday, 22nd of December after 11 am Mass we will need your help in decorating the church for Christmas.

Please, reserve the time on that Sunday to be here with all other volunteers to prepare the church for that special season. Every help is highly appreciated.

Readings for this & next Sunday

1st Reading; Isaiah 11: 1-10
Psalm 71;1-2, 7-8, 12-13 response v 7
2nd Reading - Romans 15:4-9
Gospel – Mathew 3; 1-12

1st Reading; Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10
Psalm 145; 6-10, response cf Isaiah 35;4
2nd Reading - James 5:7-10
Gospel – Mathew 11; 2-11

General Election 2019

Message from the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales

The Lord Jesus said: 'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.' (John 10:10)

This General Election is profoundly important to the United Kingdom. Catholics cannot simply “watch from the balcony.”¹ Conscious of the common good of every person and our society as a whole, we ask everyone to engage with the election and vote.

Honest political activity depends upon integrity. We urge all in public life to recognise that telling the truth, not making vindictive and abusive comments or unattainable promises, are essential.²

The question of the United Kingdom’s place in Europe continues to dominate political discourse. In whatever way our future relationship with our closest neighbours develops, Britain must be committed to a positive engagement as a key international partner in promoting peace, security and responsible stewardship of the planet. As Pope Francis reminds us, “good politics is at the service of peace.”³

Citizens have a duty to emphasise and help shape a politics rooted in the service of human rights and peace. The test of any policy should be its impact upon human dignity, particularly for the most disadvantaged in our society. In making judgments about how to vote, please consider carefully the following and ask your candidates how they would uphold:

- The innate dignity of every human being; defending both the child in the womb, the good of the mother and an understanding of the immeasurable good of a child not yet born?
- The dignified care for those who are terminally ill and dying while resisting the false compassion of assisted suicide or euthanasia?
- The needs of those who are frequently neglected or discarded by society such as people with disabilities, Travelers, older people, those who are homeless, those in prison and those trapped in modern slavery?

The process of integration of migrants and refugees who have made their homes here⁴, challenging the global rise of xenophobia and racism that is so radically incompatible with our faiths⁵?

- The rights of those in our own communities and overseas who “can see no end to the tunnel of extreme poverty,”⁶ providing them with assistance and confronting the structural injustices that compound their suffering?
- Care for our common home and tackle the climate emergency which threatens the future of our entire human family and is already having a profound impact upon the world’s poorest people⁷?
- Freedom of religion and belief, ensuring that everyone has the right to exercise their conscience and practise their creed freely without fear?
- The cherishing of marriage, recognising the essential place of the family in the service of life and of society?
- The right of parents to educate their children in accordance with their faith and support the work of Catholic schools in their contribution to society and their promotion of the common good?

Jesus tells us “I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.” Informed by the work of our parishes, schools and charities, we should all approach this election as an opportunity to promote life, dignity and human flourishing for all.

We call on all Catholics to pray for the wellbeing of our society. May the Holy Spirit guide our choice as we seek together, and for all, “life to the full.”

1 Pope Francis: Address to the Community of Christian Life – Missionary Students’ League of Italy (30/4/15)

2 Cf: “loving the truth means not only affirming it, but rather living it, bearing witness to it in your work.” Pope Francis: Audience with National Council Order of Journalists (22/9/16)

3 Pope Francis: Message for the 52nd World Day of Peace (1/1/19)

4 Pope Francis: Message for the 104th World Day of Migrants and Refugees (14/1/18)

5 World Council of Churches and Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development: Message from the conference on Xenophobia, Racism and Populist Nationalism in the Context of Global Migration (20/9/18)

6 Pope Francis: Message for the 3rd World Day of the Poor (17/11/19)

7 Pope Francis: Address to meeting on the energy transition and care of our common home (14/6/19)

"How singing 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 ensemble 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

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 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*

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND TIMETABLE

There are Christmas CARDS available now on the table in the church's porch. Please, take one for you and another one for your neighbour!

Christmas timetable inside.

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

Young City Catholics @ St. Mary Moorfields

Welcome to Young City Catholics (YCC), a group of Catholic young professionals in their twenties and thirties working in the City of London and Canary Wharf.

We have finalized an intense and exciting programme for 2018-2019: from the well established Mass & Dinner to Christmas Carols and Art Excursions...

For more details, please visit www.ycc-london.co.uk
or send us an email at info@ycc-london.co.uk

World Gifts 2019 - 2020
THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS GIVING
New gifts inside!
FREE notebook when you spend £50 or more
"God sent redeemers to fight for my land rights. I am overfilled with joy."
Gertina, Liberia
From helping women have a chance at independence to life-saving mosquito nets. There is a Christmas CAFOD gift for everyone.

CAFOD's WORLD GIFTS

The Catalogues are now available for you in our porch. Please, take one and give as much as you can this Christmas. Your support is helping to bring light into so many lives.

Diocese of Westminster
Roman Catholic Parish of St Edmund of Abingdon, Millwall
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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 on 27th November & 2nd December 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—£2885.85!!!

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

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS: loose: £475.66 envelopes: £430.13 total: £905.79

Standing orders in October: **£2431.00**

Thank you for your Generosity WRCDT Charity No: 233699

ST EDMUND’S
PRIMARY SCHOOL
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020 7987 2546

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