

## NEWSLETTER

7th SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**'Be Perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect'**

The words of our Lord in our Gospel challenges us to holiness, how often have I failed, and it seems it's an unattainable goal. We need the guidance of the Holy Spirit to help us, for we couldn't do it on our own! The call to holiness for the Christian is not our own work, it's cultivated by the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

In our Gospel, our Lord Jesus speaks of holiness which is a new law. He says, you have heard 'You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you'. We are called to love, in this new law, we are called to avoid repaying others for the evil they have done to us, but instead to do good to them. We are called if we say we follow him, we have to love those who don't deserve it, without expecting anything in return, in so doing we fill the emptiness present in human hearts, in relationships, within families, in communities, and in our world.

Our Lord didn't come to teach you and me good manners and how to behave at the table! To teach us this he needn't have come down from heaven and died on the cross. Instead, he came to save us, from the quicksand of sin through his mercy which he continues to show us, This is the way for the salvation of the world and ours.

*Fr. Chris***MASS INTENTIONS****February 22, 2020**6pm - Ints of Clergy of  
Westminster Diocese**February 23, 2020**9am - People of the Parish  
11am— Wesley Seaton 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

**A reading.**

Was it necessary for the Son of God to suffer for us? It was very necessary, and on two counts: First as a remedy for our sins, and secondly as a model for us in our behaviour. In the passion of Christ, we find a remedy for all the evils which come upon on account of our sins.

But the passion is not less useful to us as an example. Indeed the passion of Christ is sufficient in itself to instruct us completely in our whole life. For if anyone wants to live a perfect life, he has only to despise the things that Christ despised on the cross, and to desire what Christ desired. The cross provides an example of every virtue.

If you are looking for an example of charity, 'Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends'. This is what Christ did on the cross. If he gave up his life for us, it ought not to be a burden for us to put up with every evil, whatever it be, for his sake.

If you are looking for patience, you will find it in its highest form on the cross. The greatness of patience is measured by two things, either when someone puts up patiently with grievous things, or when he suffers things which he could have evaded but did not. Christ suffered greatly and with patience on the cross: 'when he suffered, he did not threaten; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, he opened not his mouth'. That is how great was the patience of Christ on the cross; 'Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer, and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame'.

If you are looking for an example of humility, look at the cross. There, God willed to be judged by Pontius Pilate and to die. If you are looking for an example of obedience, follow him who was obedient to the Father, even unto death. 'For as by one man's disobedience', (this refers to Adam), 'many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous'.

If you are looking for a model of contempt for earthly things, follow him who is the 'King of kings, and Lord of lords', in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge'. He was naked on the cross, derided and spat upon, struck and crowned with thorns, and finally given vinegar to drink. Do not, then, be attached to fine clothes and riches, for 'they divided my garments among them'. Do not seek honourable rank, because 'they plaited a crown of thorns and placed it on my head'. Do not seek after fine foods, because 'for my thirst, they gave me vinegar to drink' *From the Confernces of St Thomas Aquinas*

**HOLY HOUR**

Every Saturday from 5pm

**Stations of the Cross**

Commencing on **Friday 28th February 20** and during **Lent**, we will have here at **St Edmund's the Stations of the Cross at 7.30 pm**. I shall lead the first and in subsequent Friday's we would like volunteers to lead. If you are willing, please give your name and details to the parish office.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY****ASH WEDNESDAY****26th February 2020****Masses: 9.15 am  
& 8pm****PENITENTIAL SERVICE****10th March at 8pm****Readings for this & next Sunday**

1st Reading; Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18  
Psalm 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13 response v 8  
2nd Reading - Corinthians 3:16-23  
Gospel – Mathew 5; 38-48

1st Reading; Isaiah 49:14-15,  
Psalm 61: 2-3, 6-6 response v 6  
2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 4:1-5  
Gospel – Mathew 6; 24-34

During and Easter tide at the end of the Bidding Prayers, we shall be saying the Hail Holy Queen

(it can be found on the front cover of your mass book)

During Lent, our Profession of Faith is the Apostles Creed (on page 12)

## From Bishops' Conference of England and Wales

Dear All,

Following the UK's exit from the European Union, I am writing with an update about the Settlement Scheme for European citizens who have made their homes here and wish to remain. Given the very large proportion of European citizens who are Catholic, this affects many of our parishioners across England and Wales.

The Settlement Scheme's main points:

- Any EU, EEA or Swiss citizen living here is required by the government to apply online by **30 June 2021** in order to protect their existing rights
- To be eligible people must be living here by **31 December 2020**
- Some non-European family members of EU, EEA or Swiss citizens are also eligible
- Irish citizens do not need to apply

**All details and links to the application process can be found at [gov.uk/eusettledstatus](http://gov.uk/eusettledstatus)**

The European Commission has launched a dedicated website at [eurights.uk](http://eurights.uk) including details of local information sessions across the country and an option for parishes, groups or organisations to book an immigration solicitor free of charge. I know that several dioceses are already making use of this valuable resource and encourage you to circulate it widely.

With my prayers and best wishes,

**Rt Rev Paul McAleenan, Lead Bishop for Migration and Asylum Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales**

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 6TH MARCH 2020

*This year we pray for  
ZIMBABWE*

**THE JOHN BRADBURNE MEMORIAL  
SOCIETY**

**RAISES MONEY TO SUPPORT THE MUTEMWA  
LEPROSY CARE CENTRE IN ZIMBABWE.**

**PLEASE HELP US TO RAISE AWARENESS &  
MUCH NEEDED FUNDS SO WE CAN CONTINUE  
TO SUPPORT OUR PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM  
LEPROSY IN ZIMBABWE**

**ALL DONATIONS ARE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED**

**[WWW.JOHNBRADBURNE.COM](http://WWW.JOHNBRADBURNE.COM)**

**JBMS, PO BOX 32, LEOMINSTER, HEREFORDSHIRE, HR6 0YB**

## 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](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. We are planning to organise a meeting shortly to show you how we spend our time there last year. We look forward to hearing from you.

Fr Christopher, Katherine, Stella & Julia

Dear Friends,

I have attached a letter of thanks to you and Gail O' Flaherty from Fr. Lawrence Ramanayake. I myself extend my thanks for your generosity as the monies raised will go along way to help those who were affected by the Easter Sunday carnage. Thank you and may God bless you all. Fr Christopher

### Beginning Experience Weekend

A healing weekend for men and women who are separated, divorced or widowed will be held from 3rd to 5th April 2020 at the Domus Mariae Centre, Chigwell, Essex.

For details please contact Freda 01322-838415 or Maura 01322-551503 or email [johnbrother-ton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnbrother-ton@hotmail.co.uk).

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter

For the past 50 years Worldwide Marriage Encounter has been offering marriage enrichment retreats all around the world. Focused on couples who want to enrich their relationship and gain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage, the retreat offers a unique experience. It's a chance to explore your relationship at a deeper, more intimate level, regardless of how long you have been together. Thousands of couples in the UK have benefited from a Marriage Encounter weekend retreat, the next retreat is **6th - 8th March in Swindon, why not find out more at [wwme.org.uk](http://wwme.org.uk)**



## SETH SARANA - CARITAS COLOMBO

CHAIRMAN : ARCHBISHOP OF COLOMBO

Affiliated to the National Secretariat for Justice, Peace & Human Development of the Catholic Bishops' Conference in Sri Lanka, incorporated by Act of Parliament, No. 17 of 1983



February 20, 2020

OUR REF : SS/ADM/20/62

Ms. Gail O' Flaherty  
Head Teacher - St. Edmund Primary School  
St. Edmund of Abingdon RC  
297, Westferry Road  
Millwall, London E14 3RS  
United Kingdom

Dear Parishioners & Ms. Gail O' Flaherty

**DONATION FOR EASTER SUNDAY TRAGEDY VICTIMS - 2019  
PSYCHO-SOCIAL AND PASTORAL SUPPORTIVE PROGRAMME**

I thank you most sincerely for the generous contribution you have made towards the Easter Sunday Tragedy Victims. Your donation of Rs. 757,995.48 has been credited to our account and the funds will be used for the above programme.

Our Official Receipt No. 21328 dated January 31, 2020 is attached hereto.

Thanking you once again for your kind concern and generosity and wishing you a Peaceful and Blessed Year 2020.

May God Bless You Always.

Yours sincerely

Rev. Fr. D. N. Lawrence Ramanayake  
Director - Seth Sarana Caritas Colombo

REV. FR. D.N. LAWRENCE RAMANAYAKE  
DIRECTOR  
SETH SARANA - CARITAS COLOMBO  
Jubilee Hall, Archbishop's House,  
No.20, Gnanartha pradeepaya Mawatha  
Colombo 8.

cc: His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith  
Most. Rev. Dr. Maxwell Silva - Auxiliary Bishop  
Most. Rev. Dr. J. D. Anthony Jayakody - Auxiliary Bishop

### ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL,  
SATURDAY, 30th MAY 2020 at 3pm

The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60th) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2020. If you are celebrating an anniversary, and you wish to attend this mass, please, give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number if no email).



**The Rosary Group's  
Monthly Prayer Meeting**  
**Sunday 01st March**  
Meet by the statue of Mary  
after 11am Mass

The theme of our prayers will be:  
**Easter Preparation:  
The Need For Confession**

**Beginners Welcome**  
Meetings held 1st Sunday of every month  
Please bring your Rosary. Booklets Provided  
**Pray With Us † Pray The Rosary**

**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 on 18th March 2020 & 25th March 2020 at 7.30pm**. Please, drop an email to 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.

**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.

**LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS:** loose: £407.24 envelopes: £371.67 total: £778.91  
Standing orders in January: **£2335.28**

*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