

NEWSLETTER

2nd SUNDAY
LENT**Transfiguration**

The Transfiguration is about our Lord Jesus Christ and us. When we are with him we are with the divine. When he is with us, his love, grace, sacraments, peace, and compassion can transfigure us. When we look at those around us and see from the inside out, as people capable of Transfiguration. So, we need to be present in prayer to the light and brightness; allow the light to invade our body and remember the light of our Lord Jesus Christ given to us at our baptism is never extinguished.

One of the prayers I say, and which I like; 'Glory Be to the Father' when I prayed after reading the gospel account of the Transfiguration I experienced that brightness and joy. I say it several times the 'Glory Be to the Father' praising the Trinity and each day I begin my daily prayer by praising the Trinity.

Our Lord didn't want fear to cause the disciples to miss the meaning of the Father's message. The voice had a simple message, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him'

In the Transfiguration, there was a time for silence and a time to speak. Today, let us ask God the Father to help us discern when to speak and when to be silent-may we draw strength from considering how we have been able to show self-control in the past.

*Fr. Christopher***MASS INTENTIONS****March 7, 2020**

6pm - Ints of Eve Marlow
(1st Birthday)

March 8, 2020

9am - People of the Parish

11am— Ints of Hazel

Donaldson (Sick)

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

Every Saturday from 5pm

Stations of the Cross

Every **Friday during Lent, we will have here at St Edmund's the Stations of the Cross at 7.30 pm.** If you would like to volunteer to lead, please give your name and details to the parish office.

During Lent 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)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**PENITENTIAL****SERVICE**

This coming Tuesday,
10th March at 8pm

2nd Lent

Our Lord climbs the mountain with Peter, James, and John. In their midst he is Transfigured; In a few week's time, we will see him going to Calvary with his cross, totally disfigured. Our experience of the light helps us to experience the darkness in our lives.

The disciples had to remember the revelation of God's face in order to confront the cross. We need to remind ourselves and others God's blessings so as to stand firm in moments of trial. Perhaps we could consider someone we may know who might need that sort of encouragement.

*Fr. Javier***Cardinal Lenten Appeal 2020**

Last weekend I spoke to you about Cardinal's Lenten Appeal and donation leaflets available on the table for you to take and should you wish your donation could be gift aided. As mentioned the Appeal contributes to three areas of the Church here at Westminster: Marriage and family life, Youth and Evangelisation, and Service in Society.

The Cardinal is very much concerned about the levels of poverty across the Diocese. Some families having to depend on free school meals, finding that their budget does not stretch to three meals a day during school holidays, and it can be a time of hunger for the children. With your support, the Diocese would help grow school holiday clubs, which would enable these children to come into school for activities, and have a healthy meal. Your contribution to the Cardinal Appeal 2020 would support this initiative, food banks, and other projects to relieve poverty and help people back on their feet.

Please take a donation leaflet as you leave the Church. Do please consider designating your Lenten sacrifice to Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. On behalf of the Cardinal, I thank you for your generosity.

*Fr. Christopher***Readings for this & next Sunday**

1st Reading; Genesis 12:1-4
Psalm 32: 4-5, 18-20, 22 response v 22
2nd Reading - Timothy; 1:8-10
Gospel - Mathew 17; 1-19

1st Reading; Exodus 17:3-7
Psalm 94: 1-2, 6-9 response v 9
2nd Reading - Romans; 5;1-2, 5-8
Gospel - John 4; 5-42

The Hairpin Turns of Tabor

On the Second Sunday of Lent, the Church always brings us up a mountain to the wonder of the Transfiguration. It is a refreshing reminder of the purpose of Lent-not to test the strength or the weakness of our will, but rather to allow the glory of God to shine from us into the world.

Traditionally, this miracle of the Transfiguration took place on Mount Tabor, and if you go to the Holy Land today, you will be driven up to the top in a recklessly driven, tightly packed van with hairpin turns every thirty seconds-or, at least, so it seems. In that rapid movement of the ascent, however, you begin to realize that without the hairpin turns it would take a much longer time to arrive at the top of the mountain.

In the spiritual life, we can often think of 'hairpin turns' as a sign of defeat. We just seem to be going back right to where we started. We are turned around again but we do not notice the ascent we have been making along. The direction might seem the same but we are rising nonetheless and before we even realize it, we are at the top. *Lord, it is good that we are here.* How good indeed.

Fr. James M. Sullivan, O P

The Transfiguration

What do the words *he was transfigured* mean? Saint John Chrysostom the theologian said the Lord graciously willed to open up a little of his divinity and revealed God within him to the initiated disciples. *As he prayed, says Luke, the aspect of his face was changed, and, as Matthew writes, his face shone like the sun,*

Those who behold God in divine contemplation need no other light, for he alone is the light of those who live forever. What need is there for a second light when they have the greatest light of all? Thus while he was praying he became radiant and revealed this ineffable light in an indescribable way to the chosen disciples in the presence of the most excellent of the prophets, that he might show us that it is prayer which procures this blessed vision, and we might learn that this brilliance comes about and shines forth when we draw near to God through the virtues, and our minds are united with him. It is given to all who unceasingly reach up towards God by means of perfect good works and fervent prayer, and is visible to them. Everything about the blessed divine nature is truly beautiful and desirable and is visible only to those whose minds have been purified. Anyone who gazes at its brilliant rays and its graces, partakes of it to some extent, as though his own face were touched by dazzling light. That is why Moses' countenance was glorified when he spoke with God (Ex 34:29).

Our Lord Jesus Christ, however, possessed that radiance in his own right. He did not need prayer to illuminate his body with divine light, but he showed how God's splendour would come to the saints and how they would appear. For the righteous shall shine forth as the sun in the Kingdom of their Father (Mt 13: 43), and when they have all become divine light, they will behold, as children of that light, Christ's indescribable divine radiance.

St Gregory Palamas

The Mirror of Charity

The highest type of brotherly love is to love our enemies and there is no greater encouragement to do this than the remembrance of the wondrous patience exercised by him who, fairest of the sons of men, offered his gracious face to be spat upon by his enemies. All creation is ruled by a glance from his eyes and yet he allowed them to be blind-folded by wicked men. His body he exposed to scourging and, although his head strikes fear in the principalities and powers, he bowed it to the pain of the crown of thorns. He submitted himself to insults and finally gave us an example by enduring peace with gentleness, patience, and meekness, the cross, the nails, the lance, the vinegar, and gall. Then as a sheep, he was led to the slaughter and, like a lamb before his shearer he remained silent and did not open his mouth.

Hearing that wondrous voice, full of gentleness and love, saying, 'Father, forgive them', who would not immediately embrace his enemies? Father, forgive them; can any greater degree of gentleness and love be added to this prayer? However, he did add something. To pray for them was too little, he wished also to make excuses for them. He said; 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do'. They are great sinners but what little understanding; and so he said: Father forgive them. They are crucifying without knowing who it is that they are crucifying, for, if they had known, they would never have crucified the Lord of glory, and so he said: Father, forgive them.

They think of him as a law-breaker, as one who falsely claims to be God, and as a seducer of the people. I have hidden my face from them, says the Lord, and they have not recognised my majesty, and so: Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.

It follows that if a man would really love himself, he should avoid any corrupt love of the flesh. Not be overcome by fleshly concupiscence, he should turn all his love to the sweetness of the flesh of our Lord. To love his brethren even more perfectly, he should open his arms to embrace even his enemies. In case this divine fire should grow cold by injuries done to him, a man should gaze constantly in his mind on the tranquil patience of his Lord and Saviour.

St Aelred

Novel Coronavirus (Covid 19)

Some guidelines to be adopted here at St Edmund's

- 1) Eucharistic Ministers: Please ensure that you sanitise your hands before and after the distribution of communion. When purifying the sacred vessels, please do so with warm water.
- 2) Taking Communion to the Sick and Housebound: Eucharistic Ministers, ensure that you wash your hands prior to giving out communion.
- 3) Communion: Communion will be given under one species (Host-Only) precious wine will not be distributed, for the time being.
- 4) Sign of Peace: At the sign of peace don't shake-hands instead, bow or just say peace be with you.
- 5) Altar Services: Please ensure that you sanitise your hands before processing on to the Altar and when you return back to the Sacristy.
- 6) On entering the Church: Please sanitise your hands from the three containers that are available in the lobby and do so again on leaving.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding. God bless.
Fr. Chris

LENTEN WORKS OF MERCY

The Helpers of God's Precious Infants reach out in love and compassion to mothers who are in crisis pregnancies and to those who have suffered the effects of abortion. Why not come and join us and help to hold out God's Hand of Love and Mercy? The next Rosary Procession Vigil, will be held on Saturday 14th March at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Grove Crescent Road, Stratford E15 1NS. We begin with 10.00am Mass and we begin our Rosary Procession at 10.35am, following an Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, to BPAS abortion centre, 32-36 Romford Road, Stratford E15 4BZ, where we pray 15 decades of the Rosary and sing hymns, returning at approx.12.00pm to the church for refreshments. Full details on poster in church porch or contact tel. 01727 763832 or e-mail marg@helpersuk.org

Garden cleaning**Saturday 14th March from 11am onwards**

Come and help for an hour or two to tidy up our garden.

No particular skills required—just enthusiasm

Contact Dymphna on 07539078072 if you have any question, otherwise—just join us on the day.

Catholic History Walks Some Springtime walks are coming up soon...

- 13/3/20 11.00am RICHMOND walk along the Thames to St John Henry Newman's house in Ham. Meet at the Church of St Elizabeth of Portugal, TW10 6AQ – *Mass at 10.00am*
- 15/3/20 3.30pm ISLINGTON hear about the ancient shrine of Our Lady of the Oak and modern Catholic heroines. Meet at St John the Divine Church, N1 8AL
- 22/3/20 3.30pm RICHMOND walk along the Thames to St John Henry Newman's house in Ham. Meet at the Church of St Elizabeth of Portugal, TW10 6AQ
- 30/3/20 6.30pm WESTMINSTER Parliament, the Abbey and more. Meet at Victoria Cathedral steps—*Mass at 5.30pm*

Cost: £10 - Go to Eventbrite to book or simply come along. We look forward to meeting you there.

chwalkslondon@gmail.com 07495 205 568 catholichistorywalks.com

LONDON DOCLANDS SINGERS invite us all for a concert***St Matthew Passion by J S Bach***

At All Saints Church, Poplar, Newby Place, E14 0EY,

On Saturday, 28th March 2020 at 7.30. Tickets £15 londondocklandssingers.org

**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).

**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. 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

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: £352.97 envelopes: £503.36 total: **£853.36**
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

Guidance on Coronavirus

Advice regarding coronavirus has been issued by the Bishops’ Conference. For your convenience, Fr Peter Scott has summarised this information on practical steps which parishes can take to limit the spread of the virus. This, along with an NHS poster for the noticeboard, are attached. The full guidance can be found at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/> for your information.