

NEWSLETTER

3rd SUNDAY
LENT**'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did'.**

The dialogue with Samaritan woman, our Lord, tells her all about herself. We find it difficult to share the faith story of our relationship with Jesus since it hits the heart. We might share the truths about Jesus or share what the gospel may demand but in itself may not lead to a change of heart in ourselves or those who hear us. The witness is what moves people. What we do reflect our faith life. Sharing about our prayer life, our love of God, our fears, doubts, and difficulties, moves the listener.

In my own life, before coming back to the faith. One might say, I led a colourful life. In a conversation with Late Fr. Derek McClughen I shared my story of what I did and how I lived my life. Having listened attentively, he replied, 'You have a lot in common with the prodigal son' and then, qualified by saying, 'so do we all'.

As for the Samaritan woman, she didn't have to relate her story, Jesus related it for her that so moved her, she could tell the people in the town, 'Come and see a man who has told me everything I ever did'

Our young people are influenced by what they see of their elders in faith and even by what we say. They are willing to put up with weaknesses and faults if we are sincere. The dialogue with the Samaritan woman and Jesus was not an expectation of perfection but an open heart. We bring to prayer an open heart to get to know Jesus. We might read the gospel to get a glimpse of who he really is.

The woman in Samaria was changed by her encounter with Jesus; her account of her conversation would bring change to others. Oftentimes, it's the people we least expect that gives us a new perspective on our faith.

Fr. Christopher

John 4: 5-42

Certain areas of our lives are hidden from others and even from ourselves. It requires finding someone we could trust, who would accept us for who we are and then those hidden areas of ourselves are freely disclosed as I did with Late Fr. Derek McClughen all those years ago. Such an experience could be referred to as prayer. The time and place where we find a spiritual director or a friend who knows us and loves us without ever being judgemental.

The Samaritan woman in our gospel was someone the people avoided and she didn't speak to many. Could we try this coming week to have a conversation with someone who is in such a situation be it at work, the parish or in our neighbourhood?

Fr. Christopher

MASS INTENTIONS**March 14, 2020**

6pm - Ints of Sick of our Parish

March 15, 2020

9am - People of the Parish
11am— Deceased Clergy of the Diocese

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)

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2020

As mentioned the Lenten Alms will go to Cardinal's Lenten Appeal, which like last year includes focusing on food poverty in the Diocese of Westminster. The one new initiative is the opening of school holiday clubs where children can come to prepare and have a healthy meal. If you haven't done so already, please pick up a Cardinal's Lenten Appeal donation leaflet from the table in the lobby for more information. Please read and pray for its aims, if you can give generously to Cardinal's initiative. Thank you and God bless

Fr. Christopher

Readings for this & next Sunday

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

1st Reading; Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13
Psalm 22: response v 1
2nd Reading - Ephesians; 5; 8-14
Gospel – John 8; 12

'The Gift God Gave'

'After reading Holy Father's letter on "I Thirst", I was struck so much-I cannot tell you what I felt. His letter made me realise more than ever how beautiful is our vocation...[W]e are reminding [the] world of His thirst, something that was being forgotten...Holy Father's letter is a sign....to go more into what is this great thirst of Jesus for each one. It is also a sign for Mother, that the time has come for me speak openly of [the] gift God gave Sept 10th-to explain [as] fully as I can what it means for me the thirst of Jesus....

Jesus wants me to tell you again...how much love He has for each one of you....beyond all you can imagine. I worry some of you still have not really met Jesus-one-to-one-you and Jesus alone. We may spend time in the chapel-but have you seen with the eyes of your soul how He looks at you with love? Do you really know the living Jesus-not from books but from being with Him in your heart? Have you heard the loving words He speaks to you? Ask for the grace, He is longing to give it. Until you can hear Jesus in the silence of your own heart, you will not be able to hear Him saying 'I thirst' in the hearts of the poor. Never give up this daily intimate contact with Jesus as the real living person-not just the idea. How can we last even one day without hearing Jesus say, 'I love you'-impossible. Our soul needs that as much as the body needs to breathe the air. If not prayer is dead-meditation only thinking. Jesus wants you each to hear him-speaking in the silence of your heart.

Be careful of all that can block that personal contact with the living Jesus. The Devil may try to use the hurts of life, and sometimes our own mistakes to make you feel it is impossible that Jesus really loves you, is really cleaving to you. This is a danger for all of us. And so sad, because it is completely opposite of what Jesus is really wanting, waiting to tell you. Not only that He loves you, but even more-He longs for you. He misses you when you don't come close. He thirsts for you. he loves you always, even when you don't feel worthy. When not accepted by others, even by yourself sometimes-He is the one who always accepts you. My children, you don't have to be different for Jesus to love you. Only believe-you are precious to Him. Bring all your suffering to His feet-only open your heart to be loved by Him as you are. He will do the rest.

You all know in your mind that Jesus loves you but in this letter, Mother wants to touch your, heart, instead. That is why I ask you to read this letter before the Blessed Sacrament, the same place it was written, so Jesus Himself can speak to you each one.

His words on the wall of every MC chapel ['I thirst'], they are not from the past only, but alive here and now, spoken to you. Do you believe it? If so, you will hear, you will feel His presence. Let it become as intimate for each of you, just as for Mother will try to help you understand-but Jesus Himself must be the one to say to you 'I Thirst'. Hear your own name. Not just once. Every day. If you listen with your heart, you will hear, you will understand.

Why does Jesus say 'I Thirst'? What does it mean? Something so hard to explain in words-If you remember anything from Mother's letter remember this- 'I thirst' is something much deeper than Jesus just saying 'I love you'. Until you know deep inside that Jesus thirsts for you-you can't begin to know who He wants to be for you. Or who He wants you to be for Him.

[Our Lady] was the first person to hear Jesus' cry 'I Thirst' with St John, and I am sure Mary Magdalen. Because Our Lady was there on Calvary, she knows how real, how deep is His longing for you and for the poor. Do we know? Do we feel as she? Ask her to teach....Her role is to bring you face to face, as John and Magdalen, with the love in the Heart of Jesus crucified. Before it was Our Lady pleading with Mother, now it is Mother in her name pleading with you-'Listen to Jesus' thirst' Let it be for each....a Word of life.

How do you approach the thirst of Jesus? Only one secret-the closer you come to Jesus, the better you will know His thirst. 'Repent and believe', Jesus tells you. What are we to repent? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor-He knows your weakness, He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you. He is not bound by time. Whenever we come close to Him-we become partners of Our Lady, St John, Magdalen. Hear Him. Hear your own name. Make my joy and yours complete'

St Mother Teresa of Kolkata.

(Four years before her death, on March 25, 1993, after reading Pope John Paul II Lenten message. Mother Teresa, was compelled to write this letter to her Missionaries of Charity, her secret).

' I who am speaking to you....am he'

At noon I was talking with the Samaritan woman. The hour of grace rang for her and she said to me at the well of Jacob: *I know that [the] Messiah is coming, and I said: I who am speaking to you...am he. her heart was enlightened with grace and through my humanity, she recognised my divinity and adored it filled with love and hope.*

I am also the one who speaks to you today. I have looked for you to the point of exhaustion in the high-ways and byways of the world. It is your Jesus who comes close to you in this consecrated Host. I am he who comes to ask, as I asked the Samaritan woman, *to give me a drink* of water of your contrition and your tears to quench my thirst. Your Jesus asks for these small alms. Will you deny it?

If you would only recognise the gift of God! if you could understand my predilection for you. If you were only able to comprehend the infinite love with which I follow you everywhere. If you could see my fervent desire to do you good. If you could see with your eyes the mountain of graces that I have bought with my blood and that hangover you, longing for you to open your heart to receive them., If you would only appreciate my cross, the secrets that it hides and the delights that God has reserved for the moment that you embrace them with love. If you could understand who it is who says to you: *Give me a drink.* Listen! Hear! This is the hour of your salvation.

I am the one who speaks, who wants to pardon you, who comes to you with all the tenderness of your Saviour. Come! I am here.

Blessed Concepcion Cabrera De Armida

Novel Coronavirus (Covid 19)

Some guidelines to be adopted here at St Edmund's

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

Further guidelines on Coronavirus to be followed here at St Edmund's.

- 1) Offertory procession with gifts: Those who take up the gifts should wash their hands thoroughly just before the gifts are taken up. If this is impossible then the gifts should be placed on the credence table.
- 2) Offertory Collection: The offertory basket should not be handed around from one parishioner to another. The person who is collecting should hold on to it at all times.
- 3) Newsletters: The printed copies of the Newsletter are available on the tray in the lobby. If you take a copy of the News-Letter, Please, Do Not return the Newsletter back to the tray. You should take it home with you.
- 4) Coffee & Tea after 11 am Mass: Here at St Edmund's, we have Tea & Coffee. Teas & Coffees will be served using disposable cups and deposable spoons.
- 5) RCIA & First Holy Communion, Catechist's: You are advised to encourage all attending to wash their hands and use hand sanitiser. Please do not serve food or drinks.

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

Coronavirus – let's not forget the vulnerable

In light of the uncertainty over the Coronavirus, it is understandable that we want to ensure our kitchen cupboards are well stocked. However, we must not forget that this can leave foodbanks struggling. Hundreds of people rely on generous donations from our parishioners. This includes the need for hygiene items, toilet paper, sanitary products etc, as well as sealed packages of dry food, tins, and long-life milk etc. Foodbanks also welcome donations of money - please give what you can.

Please also consider if you could spare some time to volunteer – perhaps by driving to collect food for a foodbank – or simply by looking out for your neighbours. Contact cfc@rcdow.org.uk or call 020 7931 6077 to add your name to a list of people who would be willing to help respond.

Many thanks for your support,

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).

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

