

NEWSLETTER

4th SUNDAY
LENT

Healing Our Blindness

The Fathers see in this [healing] the direct continuation of the creation of Adam. In the beginning, they say, God formed a body from the earth and breathed the breath of life into it. Now, in the fullness of time, the Logos made man, the right hand of the Father and the creator, comes to heal the man whom Satan's darkness has made blind. And, that there may be no doubt that here is nothing except the continuation of that initial work...Jesus takes a bit of 'the earth's slime', makes clay of it, and puts it on the eye of the blind man. The incarnate God moistens the earth with his spittle. The things of heaven and things of earth, earth's matter and God's life, just come together to make man and to make him anew. But the third element, the real new creation, the purification from what is old, from the corruption of sin, the healing from the blindness of sin as it is given to us, is water, the image of baptism...

The water takes his sickness from man, his leprosy and blindness. The name of the pool points to the mystical character of this water. It is called *Missus*, the one sent. Christ himself, the Messiah whom the Father has sent, is the pool, as the living water which fills the well of his Church; his blood poured out on the cross is the healing water for man, made sick and blind through sin. The death of Christ is his baptism for the forgiveness of sin and the illumination of his mind. It gives health and light, purity from sin, and faith. 'I went and washed and saw, and I found faith in God' is the joyful speech of the man born blind in the sin of Adam and now healed...

The Church could not express more immediately or spontaneously her deep belief in the presence of the saving action of the new creation when she celebrates the Mass...Christ is present, he holds the earth which heals in his hand: it is his sacred flesh, his human, earthly body. The mysterious pool of Siloe is represented by the chalice, with its precious water and blood from the wound in the side of the crucified. Everything is ready for healing and for illumination. And we who were born blind are there. Baptism has indeed given us sight.

Sister Aemiliana Lohr

MASS INTENTIONS

March 21, 2020

6pm - Ints of Sick of our Parish

March 22, 2020

11am— 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

HOLY HOUR

Every Saturday from 5pm

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)

The Advice from the Bishop's of England and Wales On Covid- 19

Here at St Edmund's from next week. Mass will be celebrated without the faithful present. But if you decide to come, please, keep yourself in a distance from others. If you decide to stay at home— you will be able to join in spiritual communion. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: As often as the sacrifice of the Cross by which 'Christ our Pasch has been sacrificed' is celebrated on the altar, the work of our redemption is carried out (1364). Daily liturgical resources for those at home, including those who wish to make a 'Spiritual Communion' with the priest, will be available on the CBCEW website. Wherever possible, during these uncertain times, St Edmund's the Church will remain open, on Sundays, for individual prayer between 10.30 am and 1pm, and for offering prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. The Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament here will be at 5 pm on Saturdays.

Baptisms will be deferred until such time that the public health advice is that congregations can gather safely.

First Holy Communion: As our young people have already done their First Reconciliation. The celebration of First Holy Communion will be deferred until a time that allows families and friends to gather safely within the Church.

The Celebration of **Confirmation** will be deferred until such time that the public health advice, that congregations can resume public worship.

We are in uncharted territory with this Virus. I appeal to your understanding and cooperation. I have just recovered from an infection that sent me for a six. Thankfully, I shall be celebrating Mass at 6 pm and 11 am. Once again I thank you for your support and cooperation God bless

Fr Christopher

Readings for this & next Sunday

1st Reading; Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

Psalm 22: response v 1

2nd Reading - Ephesians; 5; 8-14

Gospel – John 8; 12

1st Reading; Ezekiel 37:12-14

Psalm 129: response v 7

2nd Reading - Ephesians; 5; 8-14

Gospel – John 11; 1-45

Pastoral Letter for the Fourth Sunday in Lent (Laetare Sunday) 22 March 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

You need no words from me to state the grave seriousness of the crisis of the spread of the coronavirus around the world and throughout this country. We know the steps and the sacrifices we must take in order to play our part in slowing its spread, saving lives and enabling the NHS to continue its vital work. These things are our duty before God.

There are other vitally important aspects of this moment in our history that are less prominent in our media and conversations.

At this moment we stand before God. That is never to be forgotten. Together we turn to God in prayer, at this moment as never before.

Our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is the bedrock on which we live. Prayer is the first and loving expression of this relationship. Prayer is an acknowledgement that we are not in ultimate control of our lives or of our world. That is so clear at this time. Prayer is the recognition that our lives, individually and communally, are marked by failure and sin. Prayer is an expression of our turning to God for that grace which alone can heal us, strengthen us and give us the resolve and generosity to do all that is rightly expected of us today. Please make this a time of prayer, personally, in the family and wherever you happen to be.

The highest form of prayer is the celebration of the Holy Mass. This is at the heart of the rhythm of the life of the Church, the rhythm of prayer which sustains us all. The present crisis will not disturb that rhythm. Mass will continue to be celebrated, day by day. The prayer of the Church will continue day by day.

What will change is the manner of our participation in those celebrations of the Mass. In response to the pandemic and the official guidance, which we must follow, public participation in the celebration of the Mass is not, for now, possible. This is a sacrifice we have to make. It is not easy, for any Catholic, but it is what we must do.

I want to make it exceptionally clear that the teaching of the Church is that, in these circumstances, the obligation of attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days no longer applies. Please have no doubt about this.

This does not mean that we lose our love of the Mass or our desire to take part in the celebration of the Mass. Mass will be celebrated, day by day, in your church. There are many ways of taking part in this prayer. Associate yourself with the celebration of the Mass spiritually. Read the Scriptures of the day. Use some of the materials that are available to be close in your heart. Learn again the practice of spiritual communion. If you are helped by a visual participation in the Mass, then go to one of the websites on which that celebration is being streamed. The list of those websites is available to you.

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There are many ways in which we can deepen our participation in the Mass and our life of prayer in these strange and stressful days. Indeed, they are an opportunity for us to do so.

Two other points.

Being unable to attend Mass is the experience of many, many Catholics around the world. They are deprived of the Mass through distance, or through violence, or through persecution. We can unite our experience with them and, like them, return to the Mass with fresh love and enthusiasm when, again, it is possible for us to do so, in bigger numbers than ever.

Secondly, you understand well that from our prayer, and from the prayer of the Mass, flows the love and compassion which we want to show to those around us who are in need. Jesus gives Himself entirely for us in His sacrifice, the sacrifice made present again for us in every Holy Mass. What we receive from Him we offer to others. So please do look out for every way in which you can help those in need around you. Thank you.

We know that this time of crisis is not going to be brief. We are involved in a lengthy battle. We encourage each other. We pray for each other. Together we turn to Mary for her special protection, especially on 29 March when again, in keeping with our ancient tradition, we offer ourselves and our country to her, as our gift, and seeking her protection.

Mary, Mother of Jesus, pray for us , Mary, Mother of Sorrows, pray for us , Mary, Mother of Joys, pray for us. Amen.

Yours devotedly, Cardinal Vincent Nichols , Archbishop of Westminster

PS, I was given this prayer a few days ago. It touched me deeply. It is a prayer for our times.

Dear Guardian Angel, go for me to the church, there kneel down at Mass for me. At the Offertory, take me to God, and offer Him my service: What I am, what I have, offer as my gift. At the Consecration, with your seraphic strength, adore my Saviour truly present, praying for those who have loved me, for those who have offended me, and for those now deceased, that the blood of Jesus may purify them all. During Holy Communion, bring to me the Body and Blood of Jesus uniting Him with me in spirit, so that my heart may become His dwelling place. Plead with Him, that through His sacrifice all people throughout the world may be saved. When the Mass ends, bring home to me and to every home, the Lord's blessing. Amen.

We are still surrounded by the angels and by the saints who are glorifying God and protecting and assisting mankind. Why should we not make them our particular friends and allies in situations where we are touching limits that we cannot overcome?

MASS ONLINE

The following churches in the diocese are live streamed and can be visited online at any time using the relevant web-site address. Mass will be celebrated for online participation at the times listed below:

Sunday Mass

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|---------------|--|---|
| 6.00pm (Sat.) | St Teresa of the Child Jesus, Borehamwood | www.churchservices.tv/borehamwood |
| 6.30pm (Sat.) | Our Lady of Lourdes, New Southgate | www.churchservices.tv/newsouthgate |
| 7.45am | St Monica, Palmers Green | www.churchservices.tv/palmersgreen |
| 9.00am | St Joseph and English Martyrs, Bishops Stortford | www.churchservices.tv/bishopsstortford |
| 10.00am | St Teresa of the Child Jesus, Borehamwood | www.churchservices.tv/borehamwood |
| 10.00am | Our Lady of Lourdes, New Southgate | www.churchservices.tv/newsouthgate |
| 10.30am | Holy Apostles, Pimlico | www.churchservices.tv/pimlico |
| 10.30am | St James, Spanish Place | https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_QES_fHotyQ0tA0pH8dTsg |
| 11.00am | Our Lady and St Vincent, Potters Bar | www.churchservices.tv/pottersbar |
| 11.30am | St Mary, Hampstead | www.churchservices.tv/hampstead |
| 12 noon | St Anselm and St Cecilia, Lincoln's Inn Fields | www.churchservices.tv/lincolnsinnfields |
| 12.30pm | Holy Apostles, Pimlico (Spanish Mass) | www.churchservices.tv/pimlico |
| 3.30pm | St Monica, Palmers Green (Polish Mass) | www.churchservices.tv/palmersgreen |
| 6.30pm | St Thomas More, Swiss Cottage | www.churchservices.tv/swisscottage |

Weekday Mass

Monday to Friday:

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|----------|--|--|
| 7.00am | St Thomas More, Swiss Cottage | www.churchservices.tv/swisscottage |
| 9.15am | St Teresa of the Child Jesus, Borehamwood | www.churchservices.tv/borehamwood |
| 9.30am | St Monica, Palmers Green | www.churchservices.tv/palmersgreen |
| 10.00am | Our Lady and St Vincent, Potters Bar | www.churchservices.tv/pottersbar |
| 10.00am | Our Lady of Lourdes, New Southgate | www.churchservices.tv/newsouthgate |
| 12.30pm* | St Anselm and St Cecilia, Lincoln's Inn Fields | www.churchservices.tv/lincolnsinnfields |
| 6.00pm | St Anselm and St Cecilia, Lincoln's Inn Fields | www.churchservices.tv/lincolnsinnfields |

* *Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays only*

Saturday:

| | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|--|
| 10.00am | St Thomas More, Swiss Cottage | www.churchservices.tv/swisscottage |
| 10.00am | Our Lady of Lourdes, New Southgate | www.churchservices.tv/newsouthgate |

OTHER WEBSITES

There are many websites offering information and support at this time. Among them are:

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| The Diocese of Westminster | rcdow.org.uk |
| The Bishops' Conference | cbcew.org.uk |
| The National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham | walsingham.org.uk |
| Lent in Isolation | lentinisolation.com |

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.

At St Edmund's, we got people who need help and who are willing to help in different ways. If you are in any of these groups, please, call the office or send an email with your details and we will do our best to deliver help to anyone who is in need. *Fr Christopher*

NEW BOXES OF ENVELOPES FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR

They are now available in the office so that you can come to pick it up during my office hours. They can also be picked up after any mass. A parish representative will be there to assist you. Katherine

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) – The date of the **Next baptismal course will be published in due time** . 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 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.

LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS: loose: £173.20 envelopes: £347.50 total: **£520.70**
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