

## NEWSLETTER

## ALL SAINTS

**All Saints Day,**

Holy Mother Church, always solicitous and anxious for our salvation, exults today with exceeding joy as she contemplates the glory of her children who, having reached their heavenly fatherland, are safe for all eternity, forever delivered from the snares of the evil one, and now numbered everlasting among the elect, the people of God. Like a mother, proud of the triumph of her children, she presents them to the whole Christian world, inviting all the faithful to share her maternal joy: 'Let us all rejoice in the Lord, celebrating a feast in honour of all the saints, at whose solemnity the angels rejoice and give praise to the Son of God', Ranks of martyrs, apostles, confessors, and virgins, luminous hosts who delight unceasingly in the vision of God, adore him continually and praise him as they repeat: *Benediction and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God forever and ever. Amen.*

Who are these glorious saints? People who have lived upon earth as we have, who have known our miseries, our difficulties, our struggles. Some of them we recognise easily, for the Church has raised them to the honours of the Altar, but the great majority are entirely unknown to us. They are humble people who lived obscurely in the accomplishments of duty, without display, without renown, whom no one here below remembers, but whom the heavenly Father looked upon, knew in secret, and, having proved their fidelity, called to his glory. The honourable positions occupied by some in this vast gathering, or the mighty deeds accomplished by others, no longer possess any value of themselves: eternal beatitude is not determined by the great things achieved here below. One thing only endures, for the humble and the great, the poor and the wealthy: the degree of love they had attained, to which corresponds the degree of glory which now renders them eternally happy.

*Fr. Gabriel of Saint Mary Magdalen*

**All Saints**

When we think of Saints, we might think of our favourite Saints, yet a Saint is someone who has met the love of God. An encounter such as this would change the life of the person radically. Our Gospel, which has been described as a Christian Manifesto describes a saint as being poor in spirit, peacemaker, and so forth. The result has been that person becomes blessed. We endeavour in our lives in an effort to be like the person the Beatitudes describe but we strive to encounter the source of the blessedness. God the Father.

Most of us are named after a saint, why not spend some time to read about the saint or even read some of his writings.

*Fr. F Javier Ruiz-Ortiz*

**Diocesan Sick & Retired Priests Fund,**

Dear Friends in Christ, Next weekend 7th & 8th November we shall be having our Second Collection for our Sick & Retired Priests of our Diocese. Currently, over 80 sick and retired priests who receive support after a lifetime of service to the parishes. It's estimated that by 2025 the number of priests in retirement is expected to double.

Most priests when they reach the age of 75 offer their resignation, but many continue to serve in our parishes, schools, hospices, and hospitals. At this time, they are dependent on the Diocese for their care-for essentials like housing, health needs, and other essentials.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued generosity to our Sick and Retired Priests Fund. Please continue to remember them in your prayers. May God bless you all.

*Fr. Christopher*

**MASS INTENTIONS****October 31st, 2020**

6pm - People of the Parish

**November 1st, 2020**

9am—All Saints

11am— All Saints

For weekday mass intentions please, see the notice board on the left hand side of the main door of the church.

Confession  
only by appointment.

**Spiritual  
Communion**

Jesus!

My God and my All  
my soul longs for thee.

My heart yearns to  
receive thee in

Holy Communion, come, O  
Lord.

Bread of heaven and food of  
angels to nourish my soul  
heal my body and to rejoice  
my heart

come most lovable friend of  
my soul,

to inflame me with such love  
that I may never again be  
ever separated from thee.

Amen

**Holy Hour** is every Saturday  
from 5pm to 5.45 pm.

**Readings for this & next Sunday**

1st Reading; Apocalypse 7-4, 9-14

Psalm 23; 1-6, responsive cf v 6

2nd Reading - John 3: 1-3,

Gospel - Mathew 11; 28

1st Reading; Wisdom 6; 12-16

Psalm 62; 2-8, responsive v 2

2nd Reading - Thessalonians 4: 13-18,

Gospel - Mathew 25; 1-13

### Praying the Psalms

*I remember when, after my ordination, my spiritual director advised me to get into the habit of praying the Psalms. Of course, I didn't take the advice seriously at the time until I went through a difficult experience and it was then that I opened the Bible and read Psalm 51. ( from the Jerusalem Bible)*

Have mercy on me, O God, in your faithful love,  
in your great tenderness wipe away my offences;  
wash me clean from my guilt,  
purify me from my sin.

*For I am well aware of my offences,  
my sin is constantly in mind.*

*Against you, you alone, I have sinned,  
I have done what you see to be wrong,  
that you may show your saving justice when you pass sentence,  
and your victory may appear when you give judgement,  
remember, I was born guilty,  
a sinner from the moment of conception.*

*But you delight in sincerity of heart,  
and in secret you teach me wisdom.*

*Purify me with hyssop till I am clean,  
wash me till I am whiter than snow.*

Let me hear the sound of joy and gladness,  
and the bones you have crushed will dance.

Turn away your face from my sins,  
and wipe away all my guilt.

*God, create in me a clean heart,  
renew within me a resolute spirit,  
do not thrust me away from your presence,  
do not take away from me your spirit of holiness.*

Give back the joy of your salvation,  
sustain in me a generous spirit.

I shall teach the wicked your paths,

Deliver me from bloodshed, God, God of my salvation,  
and my tongue will acclaim your saving justice.

Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth will speak out your praise.

*Sacrifice gives you no pleasure,  
burnt offerings you do not desire.*

*Sacrifice to God is a broken spirit,  
a broken, contrite heart you never scorn.*

In your graciousness do good to Zion,  
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Then you will delight in upright sacrifices,  
-burnt offerings and whole oblations-  
and young bulls will be offered on your altar.

When praying Psalm 51? When I am overwhelmed by my sinfulness and even when I am preparing for confession. The psalm helps me to express that which is in my heart and for others who are close to my heart, the Church, the world, and it is said with trust that God in His infinite mercy would hear my cry and answer. St Augustine said the Psalms speak to us of our Lord's passion'. I am invited (and you) to see Psalm 51 as an expression and the prayer of Jesus' heart as He faces His passion. In taking the advice of St Augustine into consideration it opens the Psalm and allows me to enter Jesus' heart, to hear His cry to the Father and His trust in the Father who will hear His prayer.

We could pray Psalm 51 as a window to Jesus' heart, that would bring us close to His heart. We might even bring into our praying the Psalm all those who are suffering in Nigeria, Christians who are been persecuted for their faith around the world as we pray the Psalm for them, as we give expression to their desperate need. As we pray, Psalm 51 we could bring into our prayer those in our parish who are going through some difficulties or those in our own families who are struggling, as a saving cry for God's help, mercy, and His intervention for them in their need.

We can pray the Psalm at a personal level as we recall all our needs and burdens to Him who is slow to anger abounding in love. Using these criteria any Psalm could be prayed as it links them to our heart's desire.

*Fr. Christopher*

### MONTH OF HOLY SOULS

November is the month of holy souls. Please take a dead list envelope from the table in the lobby of the Church. Place all your deceased relatives and friends you wish to be remembered at all Masses during November. Put the envelope back into the basket in front of the Altar. Requiescat in pace.

Thank you , Fr Christopher

### Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers, who could help clean the Church? If you can help, please give your details via email to the parish office ([millwall@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:millwall@rcdow.org.uk)) Thank you, Fr Christopher

*Let us make haste to our brothers: they await us.*

Of what profit to the saints are our prayers and the honour we pay them? Of what use is this feastday? Of what use to them are honours paid on earth when our Father in heaven, fulfilling the truth of his Son's promise, has raised them to glory? Our songs of praise do not avail them nor do they need our honours, nor anything our service can offer. Surely, we are the ones to benefit when we venerate their memory. I confess that at the thought of them I am consumed by a loving desire to be with them.

The first wish, then, which the memory of the saints inspires in us and urges us to achieve is that we should enjoy their hoped-for company, striving to deserve to be fellow-citizens with and members of the household of the spirits of the blessed; to take our place in the gathering of the patriarchs and the ranks of the prophets; to be at home in the assembly of the apostles and in the numerous hosts of the martyrs; welcome in the college of the confessors and the choirs of virgins: in a word, to be united in the communion of all the saints. The Church of the first Christians in its glory awaits us, and we turn aside; the saints lovingly call us and we make little of it; the host of the redeemed look for us, and we are not interested.

Brothers, at long last let us shake off our torpor and rise with Christ to seek the things that are above, to set our minds on things above. Let us love those who love us, hasten to those who await us, and with our prayers come into the presence of those who are looking for us. Our hope then should be not only for fellowship with the saints but also for a share to the glory of those whose presence we long for. This ambition at least is harmless; there is no peril in striving for this glory.

The second wish that inspires us when we commemorate the saints is: that Christ, who is our life, may manifest himself to us as he did to them, and that we may be made manifest with him in glory. Meanwhile, of course, Christ our head is displayed, not as he truly is, but as he became for us; not crowned with glory but with the thorns of our sins. Would it not be shameful for a member to live pampered when the head is crowned with thorns when the purple cloak is put on him not in honour but in mockery? When Christ comes again his death will no longer be proclaimed, and we shall know that we also have died and that our life is hid in him. Our head will appear in glory, and with him, his glorified members will shine out; that is when he will change our lowly body to be like the head, which is himself.

So, let us strive to attain this glory with a passionate desire and an ambition that is entirely praiseworthy. And, that we may lawfully hope for it and reach out for such blessedness, the prayers of the saints are eminently desirable, that what we cannot attain by our own unaided efforts may be granted to us through their intercession.

*St Bernard*

### REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY.

NEXT SUNDAY, 8 NOVEMBER AT 11 AM, WE SHALL HAVE 2 MIN SILENCE FOR ALL THOSE WHO DIED IN TWO WORLD WARS AND IN SUBSEQUENT CONFLICTS SINCE. MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

FR CHRISTOPHER

### **Sacramental Program inn the next Academic Year which commences in September.**

**RCIA** ( Rite Of Christian Initiation of Adults). If you or anyone you know who is keen to learn more about the Catholic Faith and would like to be received into the Church, **Please give your details to the parish office.** Due to Covid situation, the decision will be based on interest , when / how to start the course. Drop your email to Millwall@rcdow.org.uk

**First Holy Communion:** *The final date to submit your applications was 18th October 2020. The Parents Meeting will be on 3rd December 20 at 7 pm. in the Church.*

**Confirmation:** Those young people who wish to make your Confirmation, be advised that the registration forms are available on the table in the lobby of the Church now. *The final date to submit your applications is 15th November 2020.*

**Baptism:** The course will be on Wednesday, 4th November at 7pm on Zoom. Both parents have to be present.. If you are interested in doing the course, please, drop the email to give us your email (that is essential to receive an invitation to join the course). You also have to come to the office to pick up the Baptismal Pack and to pay a fee of £10 payable on receiving the pack.

**Sunday 1st November** lets pray together- *“As we celebrate all Saints, and their lived examples of loving and supporting the most vulnerable in society, we pray for the courage to follow in their footsteps, by supporting the poor, the helpless and the unborn. Lord hear us”*

*“Sometimes we too prefer a wonder-working god to one who is compassionate, a god powerful in the eyes of the world, who shows his might and scatters those who wish us ill. But this is not God, but our own creation. How often do we want a god in our own image, rather than to become conformed to his own image. We want a god like ourselves, rather than becoming ourselves like God. In this way, we prefer the worship of ourselves to the worship of God. Such worship is nurtured and grows through indifference toward others.” Pope Francis*

**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](mailto: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**

**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’s date will be on Wednesday, 4th November at 7pm on Zoom**, but all places are now taken. The one after that - two weeks later. Please, drop an email to the office to reserve your space and to give us your email as you will be invited by your email to join the session. Please, note that all baptism will be on a Saturday morning/afternoon only at present.

**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](mailto: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 con-

**LAST WEEK’S COLLECTIONS:**      loose: £126.25      envelopes: £363.55      total: **£489.80**  
Standing orders in September **£224.40**

As a charity we rely on your donations only. As you have not been allowed to come to the church, we only were receiving donations set up as standing orders. We will be grateful for your financial support when you are back.

Your new sets of gift aided envelopes are available for collection before/after any mass or from the office.

Alternatively you could send your donation by bank. Parish account is on Parish Web.

*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