

## NEWSLETTER

32ND SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME*Awake and Watching*

As long as we are, pilgrimaging together toward the Kingdom along all the highways and byways of life, a continual exchange of goods and mutual support were not only legitimate but absolutely essential. However, when we have reached the goal and suddenly find ourselves at the culminating instant of our lives, at the very moment of encountering the Bridegroom face to face—each of us has to show himself to him for what we have become, Invitation into the final stages of divine intimacy cannot be conceived in any but these most personal terms, which require the stripping down of my whole self to the essential core. All this for the simple reason that the Bridegroom yearns to behold the shape and gaze of my unique face.

Because God does not love us generically, he does not look for the same quality of love in each one. At the final moment, Christ will be looking for only one thing in me: the inimitable light that he has always wanted to kindle in me and bring forth from me, the unique flame that can flare up only if I have allowed my very heart and soul to catch the fire of his love. This is the light that only I can give, the light that will result from the combustion of my whole being and all its long and intricate becoming, as it offers itself up to the invasion of God's all-consuming Fire of Mercy.

Sobering as the conclusion of the parable may be, we should find much comfort in the very final verse: *So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour!* With this admonition, Jesus turns his focus away from the drama of the parable and toward his listeners in the immediate present. His concluding therefore encourages them to, begin right now to accumulate oil for the day of their own encounter with the divine Bridegroom. By penetrating words and keen, persuasive images, the patient Teacher is presently hard at work, forming virginal hearts in his hearers, showing them how to distil drop by drop the oil of fidelity and devotion into the lamps of their hearts, against the day when he, and no other, will come as ardent Lover, demanding a pure, flammable offering where his passion may eternally burn.

*Erasmio Leva-Merikakis**(now known as Fr. Simeon)***Diocesan Sick & Retired Priests Fund,**

This weekend we were meant to have a second collection for our Sick and Retired Priests of our Diocese. Under the present condition of lockdown! Could I suggest that you place your donation in an envelope and mark it Sick and Retired Priests Fund or alternatively put your donation into the Sick & Retired Priests envelope and put it through the letterbox? Thank you for your generosity. God bless.

*Fr. Christopher***REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY.**

THIS 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

**MASS INTENTIONS****November 7th, 2020**

6pm - Ints of Fr Christopher

**November 8th, 2020**

9am—Ints of Cardinal Vincent Nicols

11am— Ints of Sick &amp; Retired Priests

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

## Readings for this &amp; next Sunday

1st Reading; Wisdom 6; 12-16

Psalm 62; 2-8, responsive v 2

2nd Reading - Thessalonians 4: 13-18,

Gospel – Mathew 25; 1-13

1st Reading; Proverbs 31; 10-13, 19-20, 30-31

Psalm 127; 1-5, responsive v 1

2nd Reading - Thessalonians 5: 1-6,

Gospel – Mathew 25; 14-30

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE,  
WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW1P 1QJ

5 November 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

As we enter this second 'lockdown' and loss of communal celebration of Mass, I wish to add these few words.

This is a time for us to show our strength. And by that I do not mean strength in defiance. I mean strength in mutual support; strength in service; strength in perseverance and hope. I mean, then, the strength of our faith in action.

The first act of faith is the praise of God. It is deep and constant prayer. This must be at the root of our lives, as individuals, as families, as households. I urge you, then, to stay faithful to daily patterns of prayer. Pray privately; pray together at home; come to church to pray; pray without ceasing. I thank God that our churches remain open to be places of peace and prayer, and the live streaming of the Mass, celebrated every day in our churches, is a great help. But that too must be rooted in our own life of prayer.

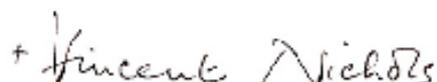
Only by receiving the living water from the Lord will we pass through this arid time. Indeed, if we stay close to the Lord, we will be changed for the better by this time of crisis.

The second act of faith is humble service. This is the road we are to follow: service of each other; outreach to the lonely; nourishment for the hungry; compassion for the sick, the isolated, the dying, especially those facing death alone, and those who mourn. Let's do it.

These are the strengths we have, the strengths we must contribute to our society's way of life. Only in this day-to-day practice can we shape a different future, a better future, one that is more compassionate, more just, more charitable. This is the future which must come out of this crisis. We cannot just wait to 'get back to normal'. This is a time to rebuild a better family, a better household, a better neighbourhood, a better world.

May God bless and sustain us all in the weeks ahead.

Yours devotedly,



✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols  
Archbishop of Westminster

### NEW RISTRCTIONS—ST EDMUND OF ABINGDON ROAMN CATHOLIC CHURCH, MILLWALL

From Thursday, 5th November Churches are closed, except for private prayer and funerals.

From next weekend, Masses for your intentions will be continued to be offered here at 9.15 am on weekdays, Saturdays at 6 pm, and 11 am on Sundays (this Sunday still 9am and 11 am Mass will be said).

The Church will be opened for private prayer on weekdays with Adoration on Fridays from 10 am- 1 pm.

Weekly Newsletter will continue to be available on the Parish website.

Thank you. Fr Christopher

In these difficult times, we are asked, to make full use of our church here at Millwall as a place of individual prayer. Equally, we are asked to sustain each other in our patterns of prayer and joining a national moment of prayer each day at 6 pm and observing the Vigil of Christ the King on 21st November as a day of prayer for the ending of the pandemic. Thank you.

Fr. Christopher

*“The words Jesus spoke to Peter are incisive and full of wisdom: “Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword” (Mt 26:52). Those who wield the sword, possibly in the belief that it will resolve difficult situations quickly, will know in their own lives, the lives of their loved ones and the lives of their countries, the death brought by the sword. “Enough!” says Jesus (Lk 22:38), when his disciples produce two swords before the Passion. “Enough!” That is his unambiguous response to any form of violence. That single word of Jesus echoes through the centuries and reaches us forcefully in our own time: enough of swords, weapons, violence and war!” Pope Francis*

### 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

### Advent from The Holy Land: Faith and Art

Pilgrimage People are offering a Course leading up to Christmas looking at faith and Art. It's an online course over four weeks looking at the following; 2nd December: The Basilica of the Annunciation; 9th December: The Church of the Visitation

16th December: The Shepherds Fields; 23rd December: Church of the Nativity.

Course time: 3 pm-4 pm (The Courser will be led by an art historian from the University of Cambridge) It's run online. Cost £60

To register your interest and for further details please contact via email [info@pilgrimagepeople.org](mailto:info@pilgrimagepeople.org) or alternatively you can call them on 0800612 3423

I recommend that you join the course and it's a good way to prepare ourselves for Christmas in these uncertainties. The monies raised through putting on the course goes directly to help the Christians in the Holy Land. *Thank you, 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](mailto: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, 2nd December 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 8th November** lets pray together- *“For all going through difficult pregnancies, we pray for an overwhelming sense of hope and joy to fill their lives, and for increased support to be given by their family, friends and local communities. Lord hear us.”*

**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, 2nd December 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: £166.25    envelopes: £454.32      total: **£620.57**  
Standing orders in September **£2224.40**

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