

## NEWSLETTER

1ST SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

## A Season of Prayer

This year 2020, has been a difficult year, a year to forget. So, many have suffered from the COVID pandemic. A mad rush to find a vaccine and we hope we will somehow have a Christmas. Despite it all, we are reminded that life is only the beginning, that all our pain and suffering will one day be washed away; all around we see a hunger for support so as to go through this pilgrimage with some kind of peace; there is a hunger for spiritual life that's reflected by prayer, praying the Rosary, praying the Psalms. This then is what Advent is about, the spirit of prayer.

Advent reminds us of that longing of the human heart for the potential of salvation after original sin. Advent reminds us of the longing of the Israelites when they were on pilgrimage in the desert having escaped from slavery in Egypt—wandering, lost, weary, confused just as we are, praying that they would get to the Promised Land, which is heaven. Advent reminds us of the nine months Mary praying to the Father, praying to the Son within her, awaiting his advent, and his birth at Christmas.

With the lifting of lockdowns and rush to prepare for Christmas—let's try, and enter a time of recollection, a reminder to reflect on today's Gospel; the second coming of Jesus Christ. Glorious was his coming on Christmas Day, the first Advent, the second advent will be more glorious. It's at this coming when all of us will be judged each one of us judged personally and individually. This would be the advent we hope would guarantee us eternal joy.

Fr. Christopher

Mark 13: 33-37

God's interventions always happen under cover of darkness: creation happens in the darkness, the exit from Egypt in the middle of the night as the liberation of Peter and Paul from the dungeon. Night is God's favourite time because when we are at our weakest, he shows his might. Stay awake to see him acting!

God of all times who come to visit us when we least expect you, open our eyes to your arrival so that we may experience the liberating power of your presence.

Fr. F Javier Ruiz-Ortiz

**Sunday 29th November** lets pray together—*“As we ponder the hope found in the second coming of our saviour, we pray for all those in need of hope. We pray especially for those contemplating having an abortion, that they would be reminded of the hope God brings and His fundamental desire for our good. We pray also that as a society we would become channels of God's hope, providing support to all pregnant women. Lord hear us.”*

## MASS INTENTIONS

## November 28th, 2020

6pm - Pro Populo

## November 29th, 2020

9am—No Mass

11am— Holy Souls

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, 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; Isaiah 63; 16-17, 64; 1, 3-8,  
Psalm 79; 2-3, 15-16, 18-19 responsive v 4  
2nd Reading - Corinthians 1: 3-9  
Gospel – Mathew 84;8

1st Reading; Isaiah 40; 1-5, 9-11,  
Psalm 84; 9-14, responsive v 8  
2nd Reading - Peter 3: 8-14  
Gospel – Mark 1;1-8

***“Without Jesus, our prayer risks being reduced to human effort, destined most of the time to failure. But He has taken on himself every cry, every groan, every jubilation, every supplication ... every human prayer. And let us not forget the Holy Spirit who prays in us; it is he who leads us to pray, he leads us to Jesus. He is the gift that the Father and the Son gave us to foster an encounter with God. And the Holy Spirit, when we pray, is the Holy Spirit who prays in our hearts.”***

*Pope Francis*

***“Faith is not a momentary leap, but a courageous disposition to call on God, even to “argue” with him, without resigning oneself to evil and injustice.”***

*Pope Francis*

***“Without Jesus, our prayer risks being reduced to human effort, destined most of the time to failure. But He has taken on himself every cry, every groan, every jubilation, every supplication ... every human prayer. And let us not forget the Holy Spirit who prays in us; it is he who leads us to pray, he leads us to Jesus. He is the gift that the Father and the Son gave us to foster an encounter with God. And the Holy Spirit, when we pray, is the Holy Spirit who prays in our hearts.”***

*Pope Francis*

***“Those who pray are never alone. Indeed, Jesus is not only a witness and teacher of prayer; He is more. He welcomes us in His prayer so that we might pray in Him and through Him. And this is the work of the Holy Spirit.”***

*Pope Francis*

### **St. Augustine's reflection on Psalm 109 for our Advent prayer and reflection:**

**God's promises are given to us through the Son;** God decreed a time for making promises and a time for the promises to be fulfilled. The time for making promises was the time of the prophets, ending with John the Baptist, the last prophet. From then until the end is the time for the fulfillment of promises.

God is faithful. He has made himself our debtor, not by receiving anything from us but by promising us so much. The promise alone was not enough for him: he wanted it in writing so that he could be held to it, practically entering into a contract with us that listed the promises he was making. In that way, when he began to fulfil his promises, we could see the order of their fulfillment by looking in Scripture. Therefore, the time of the prophets was (as I have said so often) the time of making promises.

He promised us eternal salvation and an unending life of blessedness with the angels, and an imperishable inheritance, the joy of seeing his face, a dwelling-place with him in heaven, and the fear of death removed from us through the resurrection. This is, if you like, his ultimate promise. We look forward to it, and when we reach it, we will want nothing more. But as to how this final end is to be reached, he has also told us in promises and prophecies.

He has promised to men that they will be like God; to mortals, he has promised immortality; to sinners, righteousness; to the lowly, glory. Indeed, brethren, because what God promised seemed incredible to men - that from mortality, decay, weakness, lowliness, dust, and ashes they should become equals of the angels of God - he did not only sign a contract with them to convince them. He sent, not just any prince, not just any angel or archangel, but his only Son. The road by which he was to lead us to the end he had promised us - through his Son he would show us that road. Even so, it was not enough for God to send his Son to point out the way - he made his Son the way itself so that we can go on our journey guided by him as he walks along his own way.

## 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 Course 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 in the next Academic Year which commences in September.

**First Holy Communion: The Parents Meeting will be this Thursday, on 3rd December 20 at 7 pm. in the Church. There will be possibility to buy books on the day. Please, bring cash with you. There are two books that cover the whole course and each one costs £20.**

**Confirmation:** Those who have applied will be contacted shortly.

**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.

**ADORATION;** Now that lockdown comes to an end, and we are able to worship again here in the church at a safe distance. As of Saturday, 5th, December **Adoration** of the Most Blessed Sacrament will be at 5 pm.

**Children's Liturgy;** It is hoped, we could re-introduce Children's Liturgy at our 9 am & 11 am Masses. With this in mind, the Catechists are discussing how they wish to proceed.

**Choir;** I hope we can have singing at the Church. However, it would only be the choir that would sing without any congregational singing. Perhaps the Choir members should meet up and discuss what is best for them and how best to proceed. Thank you, Fr Christopher

### Those who might be in Need

If you are aware of anyone who might be in need at this difficult time, do let the parish office know, by giving their details after having consulted with them. We can assist with food vouchers and one of our neighbours are willing to help with groceries. Do let us know if anyone might need help. Thank you, Fr Christopher

**The Passage** is raising funds through the Big Give from 12 noon Tues 1<sup>st</sup> December - 12 noon Tues 8<sup>th</sup> December to support its work Helping Homeless People this winter. **Double your Donation, Double your impact.** This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. If someone (can be company, individual or trust) gave £10 online matched giving of £10 would bring the Gift up to £20 (and for individuals to £22.50 with Gift Aid with higher rate tax relief it may cost the donor less than £10). For more information ring Andrew Hollingsworth 020 75921886 [an-](#)

### Providing digital support for housebound elderly during COVID 19

St. Edmunds are delighted to offer isolated residents digital and telephone support. As the coronavirus continues, loneliness affects more people. Life can feel overwhelming. Reaching out to others may feel like a challenge at times, and knowing where to look for advice is sometimes hard.

Knowing where you can get help to cope with loneliness can be a lifeline such as where you can find help accessing essentials like prescriptions and food. Our signposting can offer advice about where to turn for financial help with money, rent and bills.

For more information on this service, please contact Dymphna Dale - Trained Befriender

on 07539 078 072 or email [Dymphnasdesigns@aol.com](mailto:Dymphnasdesigns@aol.com)

**Diocese of Westminster**  
**Roman Catholic Parish of St Edmund of Abingdon, Millwall**  
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**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 Baptism Formation Program (during pregnancy or after birth) – **Next baptismal course’s date will be on Wednesday, 2nd December at 7pm on Zoom.** 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: £85.00      envelopes: £151.00      total: **£236.00**  
Standing orders in October **£2468.00**      Sick & Retired Priest Fund: **£290.00**

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

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