

## NEWSLETTER

4RD SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT**Dear Friends in Christ,**

We have all been through a difficult few months. We have either, known or have come to know of others who have succumb to COVID. I have come to know of loved ones who were unable to say goodbye to their loved ones or weren't able to attend the funeral, since they had to isolate themselves. The grieving process would take much longer and we offer our prayers for them.

Yet despite it been difficult for us all at this time we should recall how difficult it was at that first Christmas when our Lord was born. Israel was experiencing difficult conditions and in the midst of it, the Son of God was born. All that has taken place and the uncertainties would help us to focus on the message of Christmas. It is God who comes to us and we are never alone, Emmanuel: God with us. All of the other things will disappear: Investments, the gifts, our money, the achievements-will all disappear. It is Christ Jesus who comes as one of us, God with us, will remain with us forever.

As you may know, I succumbed to this virus, I equally know of the internal turmoil, the anguish, the fear. We could be surprised by it, we don't expect it. The Gospel reminds us: You don't know the time or the hour when it will come when the Lord would come, be prepared. Let us all live every moment of every day, at peace with God, and at peace with our neighbours. Let's not postpone the good things we could do, the acts of kindness, a phone call, a smile, because we may not get another chance.

In the midst of this pandemic, we celebrate Christmas which calls for unity. I hope we could find ways to remind our brothers and sisters that we are friends whom they can rely on. For example; we could stop saving money for ourselves, but instead, save for my neighbour who is without? Instead of having a veritable feast by ourselves, why not invite some else who might be alone? So, they might know they have a brother or sister who is a friend.

My wish for you all is that you will have the hope, the faith, and the joy to make the New Year 2021 much brighter. We might not be able to change the outside factors, maybe they might not change. But we can change our outlook which in turn would make the new year brighter; our unity, hope, and joy.

***I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year. God bless, Fr. Christopher***

**Sunday 20th December** lets pray together- *"We pray for all expectant mothers. 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, as the journey through this life changing experience. Lord hear us".*

**Volunteers**

we would like some volunteers to help decorate the Church and set up the Crib after the 11 am Mass on Sunday 20th December. If you could, then join us .

**MASS INTENTIONS****December 19th, 2020**

6pm - Pro Populo

**December 20th, 2020**

9am—Jo Collins RIP

11am— John Higgins RIP

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 & next Sunday**

1st Reading; 2 Samuels 7; 1-5, 8-12, 14-16  
Psalm 88; 2-5, 27, 29, responsive v 2  
2nd Reading - Romans 16: 25-27  
Gospel – Luke 1;26-38;

1st Reading; Isaiah 62; 1-5,  
Psalm 88; 4-5, 16-17, 27, responsive v 2  
2nd Reading - Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25  
Gospel – Mathew 1;1-25;

**Ave!**

Ave!-Hello! This is a simple salutation, but from the moment the Archangel Gabriel used it, this greeting was sanctified inasmuch as it is associated with the sublime mystery of salvation, inasmuch as it awakened adoration, thanksgiving, and tenderness within Mary! Ave This should be my salutation, addressed to everyone with Mary's joy. Ave! This is an announcement of grace, reconciliation, renewal, and resurrection. Ave! This is a wish of divine benediction.

I was deeply impressed with the story of a holy priest who, for love of Mary, responded Ave every time someone knocked on the door. At the last moment of his life, at his request, everyone who had gathered around his bed began to sing the Magnificat: 'My soul magnifies the Lord.' How many times a day during his life had he said, Ave? How many times, in the seventy years he lived, had his lips formed that word?

From the depths of my love, I want to offer you a crown, Lord, woven of the most beautiful Aves of my life, to make reparation for the Ave of Judas that served as a sign of his betrayal (Ave, Rabbi), and for the Ave of the Roman soldiers spoken in mockery (Ave, King of the Jews).

*Venerable Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan*

**Luke 1: 26-38**

Mary, the young girl of no status, from the village of Nazareth, an utterly insignificant place is signaled out, called, chosen, and overshadowed with God's Spirit. Her response moves from one of fear to total trust in God's inscrutable designs.

'Mary has always been proposed to the faithful by which the church as an example to be imitated, not precisely in the type of life that she led and much less for the socio-cultural background in which she lived and which scarcely today exists anywhere today. Rather she is held up as an example to the faithful for the way in which in her own particular life she fully and responsibly accepted the word of God and acted on it, and because charity and the spirit of service were the driving force of her actions. She is worthy of imitation because she was the first and most perfect of Christ's disciples'. *St. Pope Paul VI*

**Luke 1: 26-38**

The Annunciation to Mary by Angel Gabriel begins our preparation for Jesus's coming at Christmas. Mary was surprised by Angel's greeting, which led her to ask, 'How can this be since I am a virgin'. "The power of the Most High will come over you with its shadow, And the child will be holy and will be called Son of God". Then the angel tells her that her cousin Elizabeth, has in her old age, herself conceived a son,' Mary on hearing, this doesn't say, Ok, it's fine by me, but says, 'I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me'. Mary's yes to the Word of God, leaving the initiative with God.

Surprising calls can recall in us fears, which leads to questioning asking for a sign before giving our consent. We have been through such an experience. in the light of Mary's answer, I have to ask for that grace of Mary's freedom and openness to God's ways? Could my fears get in the way of a generous response to God? My answer is yes, so often my fears have got in the way of God's Word. *Fr. Christopher*

***"Indeed, at the last judgement, the Lord will judge us on the choices we have made. He seems almost not to judge, but merely to separate the sheep from the goats, whereas being good or evil depends on us. He only draws out the consequences of our choices, brings them to light and respects them. Life, we come to see, is a time for making robust, decisive, eternal choices. Trivial choices lead to a trivial life; great choices to a life of greatness. Indeed, we become what we choose, for better or for worse. If we choose to steal, we become thieves. If we choose to think of ourselves, we become self-centred. If we choose to hate, we become angry. If we choose to spend hours on a cell phone, we become addicted. Yet if we choose God, daily we grow in his love, and if we choose to love others, we find true happiness."*** *Pope Francis*

## CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

**Sunday, 20<sup>nd</sup> December 2020**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Masses at 6pm, Saturday & 9am & 11am Sunday  
Confession on Saturday - 5pm – 5.45 pm

**Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**Christmas Eve**

4.00pm  
6.00pm  
12.00 midnight

Senior Citizens' Mass for Christmas  
Children's Mass for Christmas  
Midnight Mass of Christmas



**Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**Christmas Day**

11am

Mass of Christmas Day

**Saturday, 26<sup>st</sup> December**

**St Stephen's Day**

6pm Mass

**Sunday, 27<sup>st</sup> December**

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Masses at 6pm, Saturday & 9am & 11am Sunday

**28<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

No Mass

**29<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

10.30 am Mass

**30<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

No Mass

**31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**

10.30am Mass

**1<sup>st</sup> January 2021**

10.30 am Mass

**Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2021**

**Second Sunday after Nativity**

Masses at 6pm, Saturday & 9am & 11am Sunday

**From 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**all Masses at usual times**

**6<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**The Epiphany of the Lord**

9.15am & 8pm Mass



CAFOD's Advent parish resources and prayers include [Advent prayer cards](#) (one for each week), a series of daily [Advent reflections](#), [online prayer events](#), an online carol service guide with a carol sheet, a chance to join or organise a fun run and other social events. For more information on all of these please see [cafod.org.uk/parishes](http://cafod.org.uk/parishes)

### 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

### 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**

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**

### First Holy Communion

After Thursday's parent's meeting. It was noticed some parents were unable to attend. Could you contact the Parish Office to collect the books with payment. The cost of the books £ 40.00 Course one Reconciliation £20.00 Course two Communion £20.00 The baptism certificate of your child must be delivered to the office before the course commence. Dates of the sessions:

Frist Penance—Book 1

1.10th January; 2.17th January; 3. 24th January; 4. 31st January, 5. 7th February, 6. 21st February

with Frist Reconciliation on 27th February.

First Communion—Book 2

1. 7th March; 2.14th March; 3.21st March; 4.28th March; 5.18th April; 6. 25th April with **First Communion on 1st May 2021**

The St Vincent de Paul Society have assembled nearly 12,000 packs for the homeless and have distributed them throughout England and Wales. Each Vinnie Pack contains a thermal hat, thermal gloves two pairs of thermal socks, toothpaste, toothbrush, wet wipes, Pavement magazine, pen and information sheet and 5,000 of the packs have a reusable face mask included. The contents of each Vinnie Pack cost around £3.50 and donations to sponsor packs would be most welcome. Donations can be transferred to **SVP Vinnie Packs, a/c 46088237 sort code 60-60-04** or cheques made out to SVP can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ**. Any assistance is really appreciated.

Best wishes, Siobhán, SVP Vinnie Pack Project



THIS IS  
THE LAST  
NEWSLETTER  
IN 2020.  
THE FIRST  
ONE IN 2021  
WILL BE  
PRODUCED  
ON THE  
WEEKEND OF  
16/17  
JANUARY.

**LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:**    loose: £124.55    envelopes: £405.37    total: **£529.92**  
Standing orders in November **£2321.00**

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