

## NEWSLETTER

2ND SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY  
TIME

## St Joseph

As announced by Our Holy Father, Pope Francis has declared a year of St Joseph commencing from 8th December 2020 - 8th December 21.

We are invited by Holy Father to Pray to St Joseph and to help us during the Year here are some quotes: 'With the exception of our loving Mother, St Joseph stands above all the saints' St. Maximilian Kolbe

'The Almighty has concentrated in St Joseph, as in a Sun of unrivalled luster, the combined light, and splendour of all the other saints' St Gregory Nazianzen

Though not his [Jesus'] father by generation, he [St Joseph] was his father in his upbringing, his care, and the affection of his heart. It seems to me, therefore, that Joseph is clearly the holiest of all the saints, holier than the patriarchs, than the prophets than the apostles, than all the other saints. The objection cannot be raised that the Lord said of John the Baptist: *Among those born of women, there has been none greater than John the Baptist [LK 7:28, Mt 11: 11]*. Just as this cannot be understood to mean that John is even holier than Christ or the Blessed Virgin, so it can't be understood in reference to blessed Joseph, the spouse of the Virgin Mary and the father of Christ, for just as husband and wife are one in flesh, so too Joseph and Mary were one in heart, one in soul, one in spirit. And as in that first marriage, God created Eve to be like Adam, so in the second marriage he made Joseph to be like the Blessed Virgin in holiness and justice' St Lawrence of Brindisi.

'Who is not aware that, after the Blessed Mother, St Joseph is of all the saints, the one who is the dearest to God?' St Alphonsus Liguori

I hope the above quotes, would encourage you to pray to St Joseph whom I fondly regard as my spiritual father. St Joseph pray for us.

Fr. Christopher

Saint Joseph : Let's pray to him

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen  
Say this prayer throughout this year of St Joseph, for our conversion.

*With the passage of time, life's trials and difficulties – experienced in faith – help to purify our hearts, making them humbler and thus more and more open to God. Even our sins, the awareness of being sinners, of experiencing such bad things. "But I did this... I did...": if you approach it with faith and repentance, with contrition, it will help you to grow."*  
Pope Francis

MASS INTENTIONSJanuary 16th, 2020

6pm - Pro Populo

January 17th, 2020

9am—Sick & Housebound

11am— Ints of Zbigniew Jakubowski (sick)

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.

ADORATION

*Every Friday from 9.45 until 1pm.*

*Everyone is invited .*

**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.

## Readings for this &amp; next Sunday

1st Reading; 1 Samuels 3; 3-10, 19,  
Psalm 39;2, 4, 7-10, responsive vv 8,9  
2nd Reading - Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20  
Gospel – John 1;35-42;

1st Reading; Jonah 3:1-5, 10  
Psalm 24; 4-9, responsive v 4  
2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31  
Gospel – Mathew 1;15

**'What do you want?'**

These are the first words Jesus speaks at the beginning of his ministry. One could say, these are important words Jesus asks of each one of us. All our searching could be expressed, 'What do you want?' The gospel of John is the answer to that question. But the answer, as all of us discover, is not a 'What' but a 'Who'? when Jesus answers the two disciples he says, 'come and see' he does not give a program or some kind of a policy. It is by spending some time with Jesus, that we are persuaded to follow him. It is by encountering Jesus as the Samaritan woman, the man born blind, and Nicodemus they did just that they encountered him and we need to do that too. When John uses a parable, it is all about Jesus-the true vine, the Good Shepherd, and the 'I am'; sayings underline this. For John, faith is not some philosophy or a moral code or affirmations, but a personal encounter with Jesus. In our First reading Samuel didn't know the Lord, so Eli had to guide him. Eli equally, knew that when God calls there is only one answer, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening'. The reason Christianity emphasises the importance of prayer in all its forms is not that it gives answers or achieves success or solves difficult problems, instead, it enables the one who prays to spend time with Jesus. Once Andrew comes to know Jesus his first reaction is to take others to Jesus. Evangelisation is simply introducing others to Jesus with whom one has met and spent time with him. *Fr. Christopher*

Dear Friends in Christ,

What has brought us encouragement has been taken away. Sometimes, even more, when someone we know has been lost to COVID or has made recovery and yet struggling with long COVID.

We are in the first week of ordinary time. The daily Gospel readings from Mark. He introduces the Lord's ministry calling us to repentance. It becomes a personal invitation. It's calling you and me to turn again to the Lord to work afresh in his service.

We are told how Jesus went to some lonely place to pray and we don't need to look for that place. He is here in the Tabernacle in our Church and in our hearts. By visiting the Church spending some time in prayer we can be in his presence. A great blessing.

With this pandemic which is at our doorstep as it were. It has taken over our lives. But the Lord calls us to fear not and to place our trust in him. We know what to do, the uncertainty and fear still remain.

How do I address these concerns? Jesus' ministry begins with healing from the diabolical, sickness, and with forgiveness of sins. His presence which we all desire, 'Come Lord Jesus'

Despite the desolation, the isolation I feel at times in my ministry to you and to others. I bring it to the Lord, who alone can calm and restore. Only he can infuse fresh energy, love and he alone can heal and strengthen.

This latest lockdown bears heavily than the first. The newness of the challenge it seems has gone. I thank you all, for encouraging me, which enables me to support you. Thank you also to all those who carry out the tasks here in the Church which sustains me in the ministry here and enabling the church to stay open.

I encourage you to take the vaccine when it is offered to you, which might bring calm. Let's not forget, that coming to the Lord is the first and greatest good.

Finally, permit me to quote from the Collect, 'Attend to the pleas of your people with heavenly care, O Lord, we pray that we may see what must be done and gain strength to do what we have seen. We ask this through Christ our Lord' Amen *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 [Dymphasdesigns@aol.com](mailto:Dymphasdesigns@aol.com)

### Mary's Compassion

Thinking back to my previous years where my actions have brought miseries. I have needed mercy, from the Queen of Mercy, whose mercy is immense and it covers the whole earth; frankly, the whole earth is covered with miseries.

The greatest is sin; of all those who like me were miserable, and the most miserable are sinners-certainly can class myself in that category. Over these, more than all others, is Mary, the Queen of Mercy, who exercises her power and command. I am a sinner and her sinful subject who has oppressed her heart, employing her cares all her authority, and her thoughts to liberate me from my miseries and sinfulness. To render me happy, blessed, provided I desire it. So many times, I have fallen and as a loving Mother, she has extended to me the gems of her royal crown.

My sinfulness can be compared to the wild beats and it etched into her crown as gems of the Queen of Mercy. These beats are the sinners whom Mary has converted and saved. Oh! Mother, when I think of it, I pray that my salvation would be your crown.

I pray that all sinners would not be lost and Mary continues to exercise her tender compassion, over us all who desire it.

*Fr. Christopher*

### Pray the Rosary

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis has requested us all to pray the Rosary for peace in the world and an end to the pandemic. To pray it individually or as a family. Thanks.

*Fr. Christopher*

### BAPTISMS happen now on a Saturday morning or afternoon.

Parents must attend a 2-session Baptism Formation Program (during pregnancy or after birth) – **Next baptismal course's date will be announced soon for a course in February on Zoom.** Please, drop an email to the office to reserve your space. Later we will need your email address to invite you to join the session.

### First Holy Communion

Dear Parents, Due to the current unusual situation, we had to delay the start of this Year's First Holy Communion Program. Given the importance of the Sacrament, we concluded that the young people should attend Mass each session prior to attending the sessions. In light of this, we hope to commence the program after Easter. The start date would be communicated to you via newsletter, email. Thank you for your understanding.

*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

**Diocese of Westminster  
Roman Catholic Parish of St Edmund of Abingdon, Millwall  
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**LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:**      loose: £46.50      envelopes: £121.00      total: **£167.50**  
Standing orders in December **£3043.00**

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**

WRCDDT Charity No: 233699

