

NEWSLETTER

6TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY
TIME*Why We Pray, Fast, and Give Alms*

Christian asceticism never aims at annihilating life in us; on the contrary, its purpose is to liberate it. It does not imply any kind of condemnation of the things which it gives up, but simply an absolute preference for the one thing needed [cf. Lk 10:42] [The Christian mortifies himself] always, to gain more life. Even when the moment arrives for him to complete his Eucharist, like the martyrs, by offering his own death joined to that of Jesus, he will do it joyfully because he will do it with resurrection in mind.

What all asceticism aims at is the destruction of the obsessive concentration on self-caused by sin. It aims at letting us be seized, invaded, and carried away by the generosity of God's life, the life which is love. It is the conflict between this love and the tendency in all of us which has caused our own flesh, and the world with us, to curve inwards, as it were. It is this tendency, that is, sin, that brought death into the world and all the pangs leading up to it. But God only allowed his work to be damaged like this because he knew how to find the remedy.

Asceticism in all its forms has therefore no other purpose but that of leading us to abandon ourselves in everything through faith to the love of God. It only seems to break us in order to raise us up and open our hearts. In everything, the Christian life will be marked by a continually expanding rhythm, that moves from ever-renewed discoveries to ever deeper renunciation. When in one sense the Christian no longer has anything, in another he has everything. But as long as he remains on earth, everything must continually be given up again, only to be found once more. The process must go on until we are ready for the total and definitive abandonment of death, that is, for the fullness of the resurrection *Fr. Louis Bouyer*

This coming Tuesday, 16th February 2021 at 10.30 am there will be a Funeral Mass for late **Jean Elizabeth THAKE** of Stewart Street, who died on 31st January 2021. There will be no 9.15 am mass.

This coming week, let's pray- *"We pray for all unborn children diagnosed with disabilities, we pray for their protection and that of their mothers from the pressures of society to have an abortion, and that they would instead experience overwhelming love and support from all who surround them. Lord hear us"*

MASS INTENTIONS**February 13th, 2020**

6pm - Pro Populo

February 14th, 2020

9am—Sick & Housebound

11am— Ints of Jakubowski Family

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 & next Sunday

1st Reading; Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46
Psalm 31; 1-2, 5, 11 responsive v 7
2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 10: 31-11;1
Gospel – Mark 1;40-45

1st Reading; Genesis 9:8-15
Psalm 24; 4-9, responsive v 10
2nd Reading - 1 Peter 3: 18-22
Gospel – Mark 1;12-15

Ash Wednesday & Lent

Next Wednesday 17th Marks the beginning of Lent. Traditionally, we mark the beginning of Lent by marking our foreheads with a sign of the cross after the prayer over the Ashes, and the celebrant proceeds to say the words, Repent and believe the Gospels' we seek the one thing that is necessary; The grace of God.

Given the current situation, it's become somewhat difficult to sign on the foreheads with Ashes. It's been suggested that the ashes be sprinkled on the head instead. On Ash Wednesday here at St Edmund, **there will be Mass at 9.15 am and 8pm.**

The alternative suggestion put forward is this; On Ash Wednesday celebrate it at home, with your family in the household, or 'support bubble' of which you are part and then read the prayer,

'Lord God, with all our hearts we beseech you: have mercy on your people; spare your people; strengthen all people in the struggle against the havoc of this pandemic, Lord our God, without you we are so weak and our courage so limited. Give us your strength; give us your love, give us wisdom and skill to continue this fight. Spare your people, O Lord we pray. Comfort those who mourn and gather into your kingdom all who have died. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, who died and rose to life, who lives and reigns with you, forever and ever. Amen

Then sign the cross on each other's foreheads as an inner movement of the outward manifestation in the imposition of ashes., and then continue with your own prayers.

Ash Wednesday at Home:

Gather together and start with the Sign of the Cross

Read the Gospel of the Day, Matthew 6: 1-6 and 16-18

Say the prayer above together

Make the Sign of the Cross on each other's foreheads, using 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust, you shall return' or 'Repent, and believe in the Gospel'

Pray together: The Our Father; the Hail Mary; after each one has made a silent prayer for their own intentions.

Conclude with the 'Glory be to the Father'

Give each other the sign of peace.

During, lent we could say the above prayer as part of our inner spiritual movement. Please include me and all the priests in your prayers, too.

God bless you all, *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

Dear Friends in Christ,

This current lockdown has been difficult compared to the two previous ones. The first Lockdown was not so much of a challenge, but I had to cope with COVID and made a full recovery only towards the end of June 2020.

I do miss the music, the singing, and the choir. Even though the numbers are down to see some of you at Masses has warmed my heart, so thank you. I also, miss my regular contact and conversations with my Spiritual Director, even though we do have a chat now and again, but I do miss that one-to-one session with him and the laughter. I am grateful to Joseph and Izabella for continuing to serve at the 11 am Mass but I do miss the others, Ella, Lauren, and Angelina especially their cheekiness.

I am equally grateful to Katherine for keeping the office going and constantly looking out and checking on me, so thank you to her and to the Dean who makes his visits to inquire as to how I am, and inevitably in our sharing we or rather he supporting me to keep my feet firmly on the ground. I have worried too at the state of our finances which as a direct consequence of this situation is depleted.

I have looked, forward to having some form of a holiday but I cannot see it with all the restrictions but then we are all in the same boat as it were on this! equally, I am thankful to God for His graciousness to me by focusing on my daily office and readings and saying the rosary, which has helped immensely. Thank you, to all of you, for inquiring as to how I am and if there is anything I would need. I have been moved by your love and kindness; As one parishioner said the other day when all these restrictions are over and when we all can come together, 'Let's have a big celebration' Yes, even I look forward to that, and thank you to all of you. Do keep me in your prayers, God bless,

Fr. Christopher

Prayer to St Joseph

O St Joseph, guardian of Jesus, chaste spouse of Mary, you who passed your life in perfect fulfilment of duty, sustaining the Holy Family of Nazareth with the work of your hands, kindly, keep those who with total trust now come to you. You know their aspirations, their miseries, and their hopes. They come to you because they know that you understand and protect them. You, too, have known trial, toil, and weariness. But even in the midst of worries about the material life, your soul was filled with profound peace, and it exulted in unerring joy through intimacy with the Son of God Who was entrusted to you, and with Mary, his most sweet mother. May those whom you protect understand they are not alone in their toil, but show them how to discover Jesus at their side, to receive him with grace, to guard him faithfully, as you have done. And with your prayers obtain that in every family, in every factory, in every workshop, wherever a Christian works, all maybe satisfied in charity, in patience, in justice, in seeking righteousness, so that abundant gifts may shower upon them in heaven. Amen

St. Pope John XXIII

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2021

Cardinal Nichols thanks all of you for your generous support for the Lenten Appeal, especially throughout the unprecedented events of 2020. Your donations have helped to fund initiatives in parishes, schools, and charities in three mission areas which are more critical than ever. Marriage and Family Life: enriching and supporting marriages, the essential building block of society and the Church. Youth and Evangelisation: helping young people, the future of the Church, as they grow in their relationship with God and deepen their Catholic faith. Caritas Westminster: putting our faith into action by serving those in need. Education Service: supporting our schools. This year the Cardinal is asking us to think about families who are struggling to put food on the table. Poverty is deepening across our Diocese and the need for food banks and supermarket vouchers has accelerated. Through your generosity, we're continuing to provide food for those most in need. Please take a donation envelope or alternatively you could make a donation online using the QR code, which you can scan using your mobile.

Thank you for your generosity.

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

**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

To all our Chinese ,Vietnamese & Korean friends, we wish them all:

Gong XI Fa Chai and Chuck mung nam moi

Saehae Bog manh—ibad-euseyo

Have a Blessed weekend with your loved ones.

BAPTISMS can 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 will be on 17 February 2021 at 7pm on Zoom, but all places have been taken.** Please, drop an email to the office to reserve your space during the next course. The date will be confirmed shortly. Later we will need your email address to invite you to join the session.

GARDEN PROJECT; we want to launch a garden project in our parish. Our garden needs a complex approach. Each year we ask volunteers to come to help to clean it. But while cleaning it we dump a huge amount of organic matter out. If we could shred and to compost it instead of throwing away, we could reuse what is growing in the garden and put it back into the soil as compost. At the moment we do not own a garden shredder. We would very much like to buy one this season with a few other necessary garden tools. We can later share the shredder with our parishioners who have their own gardens. If you like the ecological approach to gardening and want to support us: please, donate in an envelope that you can find on the table in our porch: with GARDEN PROJECT on top of it or by your online banking with Garden as a reference..

We have collected : **£225.00 so far.** Thank you very much, Katherine

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO CLEAN THE CHURCH. If you can spare an hour or two monthly to help us to keep the church clean, please, contact the office to discuss details. Thank you.

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LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS: loose: £54.10 envelopes: £155.00 total: **£209.10**
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 sent your donation by bank. Parish account is on Parish Web.

Thank you for your Generosity

WRCDT Charity No: 233699