

NEWSLETTER

1ST SUNDAY
OF LENT

Repent

Let us fix our thoughts on the blood of Christ; and reflect how precious that blood is in God's eyes, inasmuch as its outpouring for our salvation has opened the grace of repentance to all mankind. For we have only to survey the generations of the past to see that in every one of them the Lord has offered the chance of repentance to any who were willing to turn to him. When Noah preached repentance, those who gave heed to him were saved. When, after Jonah had proclaimed destruction to the people of Niniveh, they repented of their sins and made atonement to God with prayers and supplications, they obtained their salvation, notwithstanding that they were strangers and aliens to him.

All those who were ministers of grace of God have spoken, through the Holy Spirit, of repentance. The very Lord of all himself has spoken of it, and even with an oath: By my life, the Lord declares, it is not the sinner's death that I desire, so much as his repentance; and he adds this gracious pronouncement, Repent, O house of Israel, and turn from your wickedness. Say to the children of my people, Though your sins may stretch from earth to heaven, and though they may be redder than scarlet and blacker than sackcloth, yet if you turn wholeheartedly to me and say 'Father', I will listen to you as I would to a people that was holy.

Thus, by his own almighty will, he has confirmed his desire that repentance should be open to every one of his beloved.

Let us bow, then, to that sovereign and glorious will. Let us entreat his mercy and goodness, casting ourselves upon his compassion and wasting no more energy in quarrels and a rivalry which only ends in death.

My brothers, do let us have a little humility; let us forget our self-assertion and braggadocio and stupid quarrelling, and do what the Bible tells us instead. The Holy Spirit says, The wise man is not to brag of his wisdom, nor the strong man of his strength, nor the rich man of his wealth; if a man must boast, he should boast of the Lord, seeking him out and acting with justice and uprightness. Most particularly, let us remember what the Lord Jesus Christ said in one of his lessons on mildness and forbearance. Be merciful he told us, that you may obtain mercy; forgive, that you may be forgiven. What you do yourself, will be done to you; what you give, will be given to you; as you judge, so you will be judged; as you show kindness, so it will be shown to you. Your portion will be weighed out for you in your own scales. May this precept, and these commands, strengthen our resolve to live in obedience to his sacred words, and in humility of mind; for the holy word says, Whom shall I look upon, but him that is gentle and peaceable, and trembles at my sayings?

Thus, there exists a vast heritage of glorious achievements for us to share in. Let us then make haste and get back to the state of tranquillity which was set before us in the beginning as the mark for us to aim at. Let us turn our eyes to the Father and Creator of the universe, and when we consider how precious and peerless are his gifts of peace, let us embrace them eagerly for ourselves.

Pope St. Clement I

This coming week, let's pray- *"As we begin this season of Lent, we offer up the merits of our daily sacrifices to the needs of the most vulnerable in society. We offer them especially for the poor, the lonely and the unborn. That the Lord would see their needs and pour out his love and blessing upon them. Lord hear us"*

MASS INTENTIONS

February 20th, 2020

6pm - Pro Populo

February 21st, 2020

9am—Ints of Liza Yoxall (sick)

11am— Darell Benjamin (Anniv)

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.*

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

1st Reading; Genesis 22:1-2; 9-13; 15-18
Psalm 115;10, 15-19, response Psalm 114;9
2nd Reading - Romans 8; 31-34
Gospel – Mark 9; 2-10

Why did our Lord enter the Desert?

In this season of lent, we are told after his baptism, led by the spirit he went into the desert. One may ask why? Jesus in conformity with the commandment could merit the righteousness of life. It has been suggested our Lord wished to be born in every likeness to Adam so that he could take all sins of humanity. Adam was born of the virgin earth and Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, Adam was formed by the hands of God, and Jesus was formed in the womb by the Holy Spirit. Both came forth with God as Father; each has a virgin for a mother; as the Evangelist says, is a son of God, but Adam is a creature and Jesus is a Son in substance.

In the desert, Jesus fulfils the command of God, so he could save the wondering Adam in the place where he had been dispossessed of paradise. Adam, when he was cast out of paradise, had to endure the desert places of a harsh world. It's in the desert, that salvation is first restored to mankind-where there are no rich foods, where there are no pleasures. In paradise, Satan contends with Adam, and in the desert, Satan struggles with Jesus.

The body of the Christian is as it were a desert when it is not filled with food and cheered with a drink. Jesus Christ then, inhabits the desert of our body-he has found that our land is desolate because of hunger and parched by thirst. When Jesus dwells in the desert of our bodies, he overcomes all the factions of the devil, and safe and secure from the thoughts of this world he takes it for his habitation, so that we might see heaven and earth within ourselves. This means we might think of nothing other than the Lord of the heavenly Kingdom and the author of earthly resurrection.

Fr. Christopher

Dear Friends,

How the time has flown by! Lent begins this weekend, a path leading to Easter, Christ's victory over death. This time is a time of conversion and we are asked to return to God 'with all our hearts' (Joel 2: 12). To discard the mediocrity and allow ourselves to grow in love and friendship with our Lord. Remember Jesus is our friend who will not abandon us. Even when I sinned and walked away, like the Father in the Prodigal Son waited for me and he does the same with you. Patiently waiting with the full expectation, to forgive.

This Lent bring to him in prayer all that you are going through in this pandemic and ask the Holy Spirit to inspire you in your conversation with Jesus as he did in the desert guided by the same Spirit. This season lets us deepen our faith through the means of sanctification offered to us by the Church: Fasting, Almsgiving, and prayer. We ponder on the word of God and I would encourage you to read the parable of the De-vias and Lazarus (Lk 16: 19-31) read it a couple of times and then see yourself in the story Alternatively, read the Psalms or any of the other parables. God bless,

Fr Christopher

Daily Act of Consecration to St Joseph

O dearest St. Joseph, I consecrate myself to your honour and give myself to you, that you may always be my father, my protector, and my guide in the way of salvation. Obtain for me a greater purity of heart and fervent love of the interior life. After your example, may I do all my actions for the greater glory of God, in union with the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. O Blessed St. Joseph, pray for me, that I may share in the peace and joy of your holy death. Amen

Memorare to St. Joseph

Remember, O Most Chaste Spouse of the Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, my spiritual father, and beg your protection. O Foster Father of the redeemer, despise not my petitions, but in your goodness hear and answer me. Amen

Mill Hill Missionaries; National Novena to St. Joseph, 10th -18th March 2021

This year, for the first time the Masses from St. Joseph Church will be available on Zoom, via the Mill Hill website: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena You can go here to check for more details. For further details you could ring the Freshfield office: Telephone 01794875048

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

Fast from hurting words and say kind words
 Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
 Fast from anger and be filled with patience
 Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope
 Fast from worries and have trust in God
 Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity
 Fast from pressures and be prayerful
 Fast from bitterness: fill your hearts with joy
 Fast from selfishness and be compassionate
 Fast from grudges and be reconciled
 Fast from words; be silent and listen. *Pope Francis*

Next Thursday, 25th February 2021 at 11.30 am there will be a Funeral Mass for late **Rita Burke**, who died on 25th January 2021.

Stations of the Cross

Every **Friday and during Lent**, we will have here at **St Edmund's the Stations of the Cross at 7.00 pm**. The first will happen on 26th February. If you would like to volunteer to lead, please give your name and details to the parish office. First session will be let by Paul.

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

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

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

COVID -VACCINE

Dear Friends,

Some of us from the Parish have received the vaccine and waiting to be called for the second. If you are called do accept the invitation to have yourself vaccinated. If, however, you are in any doubt could I suggest that speak with your GP (General Practitioner) who is aware of your medical history and can advise you? Do be guided by their advice not what you read on social media sites. Thank you.

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 24 March 2021 at 7pm on Zoom.** Please, drop an email to the office to reserve your space during the next course. Later we will need your email address to invite you to join the session. Before you do the course you need to come to the office to buy a baptism pack (£10).

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 : **£250.00 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: £88.00 envelopes: £218.00 total: **£306.00**
Standing orders in January **£2732.47**

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