

## NEWSLETTER

3RD SUNDAY  
OF LENT

## Lent Matters

Jesus fasted for forty days, before embarking on his mission. In the desert, he had no clear way, he experienced the weaknesses and temptations as we do, even the limitations of human flesh. This event in the life of Jesus represents life for each one of us as we pilgrimage through this barren land, with the potential to go astray. Lent is a special time in the Church's calendar that offers the opportunity to get closer to the Lord; getting closer to Jesus is the goal of spiritual life. He became man and he dwelt among us so that he could fully identify with our human frailty and the greater struggle we face on our journey towards eternal life.

Jesus can identify with the opposition that we face in our flesh, the seductions of the world, and the deceptive schemes of the devil. Such forces conspire to drive us away from God and rob us of all He holds in reserve for those who persevere in holiness. Be confident in the knowledge that our goal this side of eternity, is to stay in the right disposition with God. To correctly use things of this world to help us to attain eternal life. Don't allow things, no matter how valuable, to consume our hearts, *for what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his very soul.* As we begin this season of Lent, let's ask the Lord for that grace to approach this season of Penance with a generous heart. Do a self-examination to set some goals in relation to the demands of the flesh and resolve to make a resolution to moderate our worldly activities with the object of weeding out that which is of no value to the soul.

Fr. Christopher

## Ancient Prayer to St Joseph

O St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in thee all my interests and desires. O St. Joseph, assist me by thy powerful intercession and obtain for me all spiritual blessings through thy foster Son, Jesus Christ Our Lord, so that, having engaged here below thy heavenly power, I may offer thee my thanksgiving and homage.

O St Joseph, I never weary contemplating thee and Jesus asleep in thine arms. I dare not approach while he reposes near thy heart. Press him in my name and kiss his fine head for me, and ask him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath.

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.

This coming week, let's pray- *"Tomorrow we celebrate International Women's Day. We pray especially for all pregnant women that they too would be championed and supported by all of us in society, not only tomorrow, but always. Lord hear*

MASS INTENTIONSMarch 6th, 2021

6pm - Pro Populo

March 7th, 20219am—Ints of Fr Simon  
(Sick)11am— Sophia Lipska &  
Richard Winiarczyk 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.

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 &amp; next Sunday

1st Reading; Exodus 17:3-7;  
Psalm 94;1-2, 6-9, response v 9  
2nd Reading - Romans 5; 1-2, 5-8  
Gospel - John 4; 5-42

1st Reading; Samuel 16:6-7; 10-13  
Psalm 22; response v 1  
2nd Reading - Ephesians 5; 8-14  
Gospel - John 9; 1-41

"I wish everyone a good journey in this Season of Lent. And I recommend you fast, a fast that will not make you hungry: a fast from gossip and slander. It is a special way. In this Lent I will not speak ill of others; I will not gossip... And we can all do this, everyone. This is a good fast. And do not forget that it will also be helpful to read a passage of the Gospel, to carry a small Gospel in your pocket, in your purse, and pick it up when you can, any passage. This will make the heart open to the Lord." *Pope Francis*

### Prayer to St Joseph the Worker

O glorious St. Joseph, model of all who labour, obtain for me the grace to work in the spirit of penance in expiation for my numberless sins and miseries; preferring devotion to duty to my inclinations; to work with joy and gratitude, regarding it as an honour to develop and employ by work the gifts which I have received from God; to work with order, peace, patience, and moderation, without ever recoiling before weariness and difficulties; to work, especially, with a pure intention and detached from myself, ever having death before my eyes and the account which I must give for time lost, for talents unused, for good omitted, and for vain satisfaction in success, so fatal to the work of God. Amen *Pope St. Pius X*

### FROM POPE FRANCIS

VATICAN CITY -- People should fast from gossiping and spreading hearsay as part of their Lenten journey, Pope Francis said.

"For Lent this year, I will not speak ill of others, I will not gossip and all of us can do this, everyone. This is a wonderful kind of fasting," the pope said on Feb. 28 after praying the Sunday Angelus.

Greeting visitors in St. Peter's Square, the pope said his advice for Lent included adding a different kind of fasting "that won't make you feel hungry: fasting from spreading rumours and gossiping."

"And don't forget that it will also be helpful to read a verse from the Gospel every day," he said, urging people to have on hand a pocket-size edition to read whenever possible, even if it is just a random verse.

"This will open your heart to the Lord," he added.

The pope also led a moment of prayer for the more than 300 girls who were kidnapped by unidentified gunmen on Feb. 26 in Jangebe in north-western Nigeria.

Adding his voice to statements made by Nigeria's bishops, the pope condemned the "vile kidnapping of 317 girls, taken away from their school," and he prayed for them and their families, hoping for their safe return home.

The nation's bishops had already warned of the deteriorating situation in the country in a Feb. 23 statement, according to Vatican News.

"We are really on the brink of a looming collapse from which we must do all we can to pull back before the worst overcomes the nation," the bishops wrote in response to a previous attack. Insecurity and corruption have put into question "the very survival of the nation," they wrote.

The pope also marked Rare Disease Day, held Feb. 28 to raise awareness and improve advocacy and access to treatment.

He thanked all those involved in medical research for diagnosing and coming up with treatments for rare diseases, and he encouraged support networks and associations so people do not feel alone and can share experience and advice.

"Let us pray for all people who have a rare disease," he said, especially for children who suffer. In his main address, he reflected on the day's Gospel reading (Mk 9:2-10) about Peter, James, and John witnessing the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain and their subsequent descent back down to the valley.

The pope said pausing with the Lord on the mountain "is a call to remember -- especially when we pass through a difficult trial -- that the Lord is risen and does not permit darkness to have the last word."

However, he added, "we cannot remain on the mountain and enjoy the beauty of this encounter by ourselves. Jesus himself brings us back to the valley, amid our brothers and sisters and into daily life."

People must take that light that comes from their encounter with Christ "and make it shine everywhere. Igniting little lights in people's hearts; being little lamps of the Gospel that bear a bit of love and hope: this is the mission of a Christian," he said.

### The Kingdom of God is at Hand

The call goes forth

From the lockdown of addiction to power,  
come to the freedom of service.

From the lockdown of oppressing others,  
come to the freedom of brotherhood.

From the lockdown of hatred,  
come to the freedom of forgiveness.

From the lockdown of ruthless power,  
come to the freedom of the power of love.

From the lockdown of vengeance,  
come to the freedom of forgiveness.

From the lockdown of amazing vulgar wealth,  
come to the freedom of graceful sharing.

From the lockdown of wounding and looting others,  
come to the freedom of the Good Samaritan.

From the lockdown of obsessed with one's own family,  
treat the whole world as family-God is our Father,  
we are all brothers and sisters.

From the lockdown of storing our wealth in banks and gold,  
come to the freedom of sharing food with the hungry,  
shirt to the naked, spend time with the lonely.

From the lockdown of despair,  
come to the freedom of hope in the country,

for the faith of a mustard seed, we can move mountains.

The Kingdom of God belongs to the meek and humble. Evil has an expiry date, Good asserts at the end. There will be new Heavens and a New Earth, there will be no more tears. Believe and you will see wonders in life. May lent open our eyes to this reality; Seek truth and shed the self-delusionary lie in life. The Son of the carpenter; Jesus changed world history for the good and the benefit of all humanity.

There were leaders such as Caesar, Hitler, Stalin, Mao Zedong, Pol pot left with a dirty history, who killed millions of people.

May peace reign in our heart,

May love be our life pursue,

Forgiveness be our lifestyle.

*Cardinal Charles Bo*

### 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](http://www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena)**

You can go here to check for more details.

For further details you could ring  
the Freshfield office:

Telephone 01794875048

### 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.

### A JOURNEY WITH ST JOSEPH, Novena of St Joseph, 11th -19th March

This year has been dedicated to St Joseph, from 8th December 2020 to 8th December 2021. Pope Francis says: 'Each of us can discover in Joseph-the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence-an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble' (Patris Corde-With a Father's Love-Pope Francis) Let's do that. Let's ask St Joseph to keep a watchful eye on this family of the Church, to intercede on our behalf. Cardinal Vincent Nichols

Copies of the Novena are available for you to prepare yourselves for the Solemnity on the 19th—both: in the church & on line/in Newsletter section on our: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/millwall/parish-newsletter-2021/>

### **Abortion**

Did you know there are 73.3 million abortions that take place each year which is equivalent to 200, 821 per day and is 8, 367 per hour? Abortion is cruel and is the death of an innocent human being. Please pray for an end to abortions.

**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](mailto: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**

**Closed on Bank Holidays**

**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

**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: £9107.21 envelopes: £317.00 total: £424.21  
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 send your donation by bank. Parish account is on Parish Web.

*Thank you for your Generosity*

WRCDT Charity No: 233699