

## NEWSLETTER

4TH SUNDAY  
OF LENT**Yes, God loved the world so much.**

It was never God's intention to condemn, nor does he force us to be saved. We are created with the freedom to choose. This means we can make bad choices as well as good. Let's look at the last twenty-four hours, what choices did we make were they good or bad?

The gospel emphasises the importance of faith and is most reassuring. All of us who believe in Jesus, who died and rose from the dead for us, have eternal life. God sent his only Son into the world, not to condemn it but that it might be saved, Jesus the key to salvation. All the blessings we long for are contained in Christ. We are prone to error and sin. The mercy and goodness of Jesus towards us will rescue us. To believe in Jesus is light- light that illumines around us, and sadly we prefer the darkness-due to our sinfulness. When we are consumed by our sins, we don't want the brightness of faith, which shows up our wrongdoing. God loved the world so much-It is my faith, and it sometimes challenging when there are floods, earthquakes, famine, droughts that have a huge impact on the poor. yet I see the figure of Jesus, lifted on the Cross, a devastating failure, and he offered himself in love for us.

'Yes, God loved the world so much, that he gave his only Son'. It has been said, that if all of the Scriptures were lost except for these thirteen words, we would have enough to give us hope. God our Father, I thank you for this statement of your love for us. Jesus is the light of the world. He enlightens us, oftentimes in mysterious ways that others might not understand. An early Church writer said: 'Sinners, deprived of the light, worship in the dark'. I like that! Lord, let me live in the light that streams from you. This divine light is in us, often called the light of God. Prayer is the time we 'switch on' this light, and allow ourselves to become aware of the light of God filling us with love, forgiveness, and healing. The light of God in each of us spreads to others and it's through God's people that God's light shines in the world. Prayer then gives us a consciousness of that light., received and given.

*Fr. Christopher*

**Stations of the Cross**

Every Friday during Lent, at 7.00 pm.

**This coming week, let's pray-** *"As we celebrate Mother's Day, we pray for all mothers who are expecting. 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 they journey through this life-changing experience. Lord hear us"*

**MASS INTENTIONS****March 13h, 2021**

6pm - Fr Kidan Lebasi  
RIP

**March 14th, 2021**

9am—Pro Populo

11am— Pauline Walters  
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.***

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

1st Reading; Jeremiah 31: 31-34  
Psalm 50; 3-4, 12-15 response v 12  
2nd Reading - Hebrew 5; 7-9  
Gospel – John 12; 20-30

## A Prayer for the Solemnity of St Joseph—19th March 2021

St. Joseph, Spouse of the Virgin Mother of God, teach us unceasingly, all the divine truth and all the human dignity contained in the vocation of spouses and parents

St Joseph, obtain from God that we may cooperate, with constancy, with that grace of the great sacrament in which man and woman promise each other love, fidelity, and conjugal integrity till death!

St Joseph, man of justice, teach us responsible love towards those whom God entrusts to us in a special way; love between spouses and love between parents and those to whom they give life! Teach us responsibility towards every life, from the first moment of its conception to its last instant on this earth. Teach us great respect for the gift of life. Teach us to adore deeply the Creator, Father, and Giver of life.

St Joseph, Patron of human work, assist us in all work, in that vocation of man on earth. Teach us to resolve the difficult problems connected with work in the life of each generation, beginning with the young, and in the life of society.

St Joseph, Protector of the Church, today, on your solemnity, we pray to God with these words; 'Almighty God, who chose to entrust the beginnings of our redemption to the loving care of St Joseph, by his intercession grant that your Church may cooperate faithfully in the fulfilment of the work of salvation.

*Pope St John Paul*

## St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patron of the Diocese.

On Friday 19th March, here at St Edmund, we will be keeping the Solemnity of St Joseph. It's fitting that in this Year of St Joseph we should make the Solemnity, and

**we shall have two Masses at 9.15 am & 8 pm.**

St Joseph the silent one who protected Our Blessed Mother and our Lord. He is our spiritual father as our blessed Mother is our spiritual Mother. St Joseph pray for us.

## For God So Loved the World

Christian Faith is centred on Christ; it is the confession that Jesus is Lord and that God has raised him from the dead. All the threads of the Old Testament converge on Christ; he becomes the definitive Yes to all the promises, the ultimate basis of our *Amen* to God. If Israel continued to recall God's great acts of love, which formed the core of its confession of faith and broadened its gaze in faith, the life of Jesus now appears as the locus of God's definitive intervention, the supreme manifestation of his love for us. The Word which God speaks to us in Jesus is not simply one word among many, but his eternal Word. God can give no greater guarantee of his love, Christian faith is thus faith in a perfect love, in its decisive power, in its ability to transform the world and to unfold its history. *We ourselves have known and put our faith in God's love towards ourselves* (1Jn 4:16). In the love of God revealed in Jesus, faith perceives the foundation on which all reality and its final destiny rest.

The clearest proof of the reliability of Christ's love is to be found in his dying for our sake. If laying down one's life for one's friends is the greatest proof of love, Jesus offered his own life for all, even for his enemies, to transform their hearts. This explains why the evangelists could see the hour of Christ's crucifixion as the culmination of the gaze of faith; in that hour the depth and breadth of God's love shone forth. It was then that Saint John offered his solemn testimony, as together with the Mother of Jesus he gazed upon the pierced one: *This is the evidence of one who saw it-trustworthy evidence and he knows he speaks the truth-*(Jn 19:35).

In Dostoevsky's *The Idiot*, Prince Myshkin sees a painting by Hans Holbein the Younger depicting Christ dead in the tomb and says; 'Looking at that painting might cause one to lose faith'. The painting is a gruesome portrayal of the destructive effects of death on Christ's body. Yet it is precisely in contemplating Jesus' death the faith grows stronger and receives a dazzling light; then it is revealed as faith in Christ's steadfast love for us, a love capable of embracing death to bring us salvation. This love, which did not recoil before death in order to show its depth, is something I can believe in; Christ's total self-gift overcomes every suspicion and enables me to entrust myself to him completely.

*Pope Francis.*

### 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.

St Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for me. Amen

### 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*

### Dear Friends in Christ,

According to World Health Organisation (WHO), on average 73.3 million abortions are performed every year. 220,821 per day and 8,367 per hour. Since you started to read this item, nearly 139 abortions have taken place, per minute.

These are not just statistics they are people who might have been called, David, Francis, Catherine, William, Elizabeth, James, etc;

Abortions are cruel and violent death of human beings. We mustn't forget that nor can we do nothing in the face of the suffering of others. Please pray, for an end to abortions. *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.

### 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/>

**First Communion Course's dates will be announced next week.**

**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 : **£270.00 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: £116.77 envelopes: £296.00 total: £413.17  
Standing orders in February **£2557.48**

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