

## NEWSLETTER

5TH SUNDAY  
OF LENT**John 12: 20-30**

Jeremiah, says that God would make a new covenant unlike the one made with stone tablets that Moses received on mount Sani, which they broke. So, God will act definitively and give a New Covenant- this New Covenant will be written directly into the heart-the very essence of a person. This initiative of God will be accompanied by the forgiveness of our sins. This New Covenant is what God has done in Jesus- as we record in the words of consecration every time, we celebrate the Eucharist.

In the Gospel, we see some Greeks making a request, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus' is a continuous theme of a personal encounter with Jesus that occurs throughout the Gospel, but since they are pagans direct us to the promise of Jesus, that when he is lifted up, 'I shall draw all men to myself. 'Now the hour has come' is preparing the disciples for what is to come. The request to be saved from the hour is similar to the Synoptic, tradition, and the presence of an angelic voice, the consoling angel at the 'agony in the garden' In John, however, Jesus goes to his passion, not as a helpless victim but as one who takes on the task he has been given by the Father. John's account of the Passion does not in any way downplay the humanity of Jesus but presents us with one who is aware that the cross is the way to glorification.

In every death, there is life-this is the message of Lent and Easter. The grain of wheat that dies will nourish us with food. In the death of relationships, of health, of faith, and all that may be dear to us there is always the invitation to a deeper life. In our hour of death is the call to everlasting life. *Fr. Christopher*

"Rejoice, Jerusalem...." (see Is 66:10). What is the reason for this joy? In the middle of Lent, what is the reason for this joy?... God's love found its summit in the gift of His Son to a weak and sinful humanity. He gave His Son to us, to all of us." *Pope Francis*

**Stations of the Cross**

Every Friday during Lent, at 7.00 pm.

**This coming week, let's pray-** *"Today we celebrate World Down's Syndrome Day. We pray especially for the current attempts in Northern Ireland to protect babies with Down's syndrome from abortion, that elected representatives would pursue the protection of rights for all people with disabilities, and that babies with Down's syndrome are loved and protected equally. Lord hear us"*

## Readings for this &amp; next Sunday

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

1st Reading; Isaiah 50: 4-7  
Psalm 21; 8-9, 17-20, 23-24 response v 2  
2nd Reading - Philipians 2; 6-11  
Gospel – Mark 14; 1-15; 47

**MASS INTENTIONS****March 20th, 2021**

6pm - John Higgins RIP

**March 21st, 2021**

9am—Pro Populo

11am— Declan Reid 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.

**Act of Consecration to St. Joseph**

O holy Patriarch, I \_\_\_\_\_ rejoice with you at the exalted dignity by which you were deemed worthy to act as a father to Jesus, to give him orders, and to be obeyed by him whom heaven and earth obey.

O great saint, as you were served by God, I too wish to be taken into your service. I choose you, after Mary, to be my chief advocate and protector.

I promise to honour you every day by some special act of devotion and by placing myself under your daily protection. By that sweet company which Jesus and Mary gave you in your lifetime, protect me all through life, so that I may never separate myself from my God by losing his grace.

My dear St. Joseph, pray to Jesus for me. Certainly, he can never refuse you anything, as he obeyed all your orders while on earth. Tell him to detach me from all creatures and from myself, to inflame me with his holy love, and then to do with me what he pleases.

By that assistance which Jesus and Mary gave you at death, I beg of you to protect me in a special way at the hour of my death, so that dying assisted by you, in the company of Jesus and Mary, I may go to thank you in paradise and, in your company, to praise my God for all eternity. Amen *St. Alphonsus Liguori*

**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*

**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.

**Diocesan Covid-19 Vaccination Confidence Event:**

With the support of Local Authorities Westminster Diocese is hosting a webinar on **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2021 10am-11.30am** to encourage confidence in COVID-19 vaccination among all our communities. There is concern that BAME communities are less likely than White-British ethnic groups to accept vaccination. A group of Catholic clergy from BAME communities and medical professionals will share information on health and wellbeing in the context of COVID-19 and vaccines. All are welcome. You do not have to register to attend.

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://zoom.us/j/92895192155>

**Meeting ID: 928 9519 2155**

**Password: 844612**

**Or join by phone**

Tel: 0208 080 6591 (and use the meeting ID and passcode above)

*Recently I wrote to our Member of Parliament Apsana Begum MP on the New Genocide Amendment to the Trade Bill tabled by Lord Alton of Liverpool. I share her response with you. Thanks*

Dear Christopher,

Thank you for writing to me about the New Genocide Amendment to the Trade Bill tabled by Lord Alton of Liverpool.

As you will know, following almost five decades of trade policy decided at European level, the Trade Bill represents a transfer of authority from the EU to the UK – providing the foundation and legal framework for the UK's post-Brexit trade deals.

During the Bill's passage through Parliament, I have supported a number of amendments covering a wide range of issues including parliamentary scrutiny, protecting the NHS and regulatory standards.

Lord Alton's amendment lays out that "International bilateral trade agreements are revoked if the High Court of England and Wales makes a preliminary determination that they should be revoked on the ground that another signatory to the relevant agreement represents a state which has committed genocide under Article II of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide".

a longstanding supporter of human rights and agree with you that the UK Government should be doing much more to support people around the world who are defending human rights. I have continued to be concerned at the Government's approach to human rights internationally and at the decision to not make human rights requirements an integral part of the UK's trade strategy, in particular. As one example, the Government signed an agreement with the Egyptian Government in December 2020 to "strengthen political and trade ties between the two countries". This agreement did not address the widely noted human rights abuses in Egypt where political opponents of the Government are summarily jailed and executed and that LGBT people are persecuted.

with groups like Amnesty International, important work speaking up for human rights defenders and campaigns is done in the UK by the trade union movement. As one example of this the Trade Union Congress (TUC) has recently called on the UK Government to use its leverage in trade negotiations with Turkey to ensure that the Turkish Government respects labour and human rights. I support campaigns such as these that seek to put pressure on the UK Government to change course on human rights. I stood on a manifesto that recognised that "around the world, human rights defenders and civil society activists remain vulnerable to attacks" and called for "reform of the international rules-based order to secure justice and accountability for breaches of human rights and international law". I stand by those commitments.

Since its conception, the Trade Bill has inspired concern amongst civil society and parliamentarians for what is argued to be its "scrutiny deficit." The Bill has limited provisions for Parliamentary oversight of the negotiation, implementation or ratification of any future trade deals. Given the potential economic and policy implications of future trade deals, many argue that the Bill should guarantee Parliament a direct vote on any future deals before they are ratified, comparing the situation to the US, Japan and the EU, where the legislative bodies all have a final vote on the ratification of trade deals. David Lawrence, Senior Political Adviser at the Trade Justice Movement argued the UK "lags far behind" other countries when it comes to scrutiny of trade agreements. I assure you that I will continue to do everything I can in Parliament and beyond to advocate for a transparent, accountable and progressive approach to trade that protects and upholds human rights.

Yours sincerely,

Apsana Begum MP

Member of Parliament for Poplar and Limehouse

### **In Remembrance**

The Public Air-Raid shelter at Bullivant's Wharf received a direct hit during the Blitz, in Second World War. 40 people lost their lives and 60 were injured. This weekend marks the anniversary of that sad event. Do remember them and any surviving relatives in your prayers. May their souls and souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen

### **First Communion Course's dates**

18 April, 25April, 2nd May, 9thMay, 16th May, 23rd May

with First Reconciliation on Saturday, 29th May at 11 am

30th May, 6th June, 13th June, 20th June, 27th June, 4th July

with First Communion on Sunday, 11th July at 3pm

All session start with Mass at 9 am and than the catechists will take children for a preparation classes. The parents have to come to collect their children at 10.45 am.

If you have not purchased the books you may do so from the Parish Office.

**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**

**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: £124.24 envelopes: £236.00 total: £360.24  
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