

NEWSLETTER

PALM SUNDAY
OF THE PASSION
OF THE LORD

Mark 14: 1-15:47

When I read these passages of scripture, I pray that I may have the faith of Peter, who was the rock on whom the early Christians leaned on. I venture to look at Jesus to seek words to express what he means to me and open my heart to God's revelation.

The woman comes to anoint and comfort Jesus who is in danger. The woman puts aside her own reputation to comfort the one she loves and thank him for his compassion for her. This action of hers would be remembered for ages to come, and the scent of the ointment is the scent of the resurrection: this nard would soothe the spirits of those who would miss Jesus.

Part of our prayer is missing Jesus when he seems so distant and absent, and prayerful feelings non-existent. The scent of Jesus in our lives can keep us going.

Fr. Christopher

GOOD FRIDAY

In March 2019, a group from the Parish visited the Holy Land. How the time has flown by and so much has happened since. We have seen deserted streets around the Holy Sepulchre and Old Jerusalem and it echoed the wet Saint Peter's Square, which we saw Pope Francis cross on 27th March 2020 on his way to the Crucified One, before whom the entire world fell on its knees, imploring an end to the pandemic, and we felt united by the same mystery of pain.

Equally, it has been a year of trials for the Holy City of Jerusalem, for the Holy Land, and for the Christian community that lives in the Middle East that seeks to be the salt, light, and leaven for the Gospel. This past year, they have been cut off from the brethren from the various parts of the world, with the absence of pilgrimages, and *pro-Tera Sancta* which they depend fell far short.

As we gather this year for the Celebration of the Lord's Passion may we think of our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land and be generous in our giving to the collection on Good Friday, remembering what we give goes directly to help upkeep the Holy sites and help the Christian communities who continue to live in those lands. May God bless you all, and I thank you for your generosity.

Fr. Christopher

This coming week, let's pray- "We pray for all considering abortion. We pray that the love and support of those around them would encourage mothers to continue with their pregnancy and find peace and joy in what the future holds. Lord hear us"

MASS INTENTIONS

March 27th, 2021

6pm - Thanksgiving for Mrs Ogu & Family

March 28th, 2021

9am—Sebastian Pal RIP

11am— Departed Souls of Mendonca 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; Isaiah 50: 4-7
Psalm 21; 8-9, 17-20, 23-24 response v 2
2nd Reading - Philippians 2; 6-11
Gospel – Mark 14; 1-15; 47

1st Reading; Acts 10: 34, 37-43
Psalm 117; 1-2, 16-17, 22-23 response v 24
2nd Reading - Colossians 3; 1-4
Gospel – John 20; 1-9;

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel.

Come, come, let us go up together to the Mount of Olives. Together let us meet Christ, who is returning today from Bethany and going of his own accord to that holy and blessed passion to complete the mystery of our salvation.

And so he comes, willingly taking the road to Jerusalem, he who came down from the heights for us, to raise us who lie in the depths to exaltation with him, as the revealing word says, 'above all authority and rule and power and above every name that is named'.

He comes without display, without boast. 'He will not contend', he says, 'or shout out, and no one will hear his voice'. He is gentle and lowly, and his entrance is humble.

Come then, let us run with him as he presses on to his passion. Let us imitate those who have gone out to meet him, not scattering olive branches or garments or palms in his path, but spreading ourselves before him as best we can, with humility of soul and upright purpose. So may we welcome the Word as he comes, so may God who cannot be contained within any bounds, be contained within us.

For he is pleased to have shown us this gentleness, he who is gentle and who 'rides upon the setting sun', which refers to our extreme lowliness. He is pleased to come and live with us and to raise us up or bring us back to him through his kinship with us.

As the first fruits of the whole batch of man he is said to 'ride upon the heaven of heavens to the rising sun', which I interpret as his own glory and divinity. But because of his love for man he will not cease until he has raised man's nature from the ground, from one degree of glory to another, and has manifested it with himself on high.

So, it is ourselves that we must spread under Christ's feet, not coats or lifeless branches or shoots of trees, matter which wastes away and delights the eye only for a few brief hours. But we have clothed ourselves with Christ's grace, or with the whole Christ-'for as many of you as were baptised into Christ have put on Christ'-so let us spread ourselves like coats under his feet.

As those who were formerly scarlet from sin but become white as wool through the purification of saving baptism, let us offer not palm branches but the prizes of victory to the conqueror of death.

Today let us too give voice with the children to that sacred chant, as we wave the spiritual branches of our soul: 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel'

St Andrew of Crete

A SHELTER FOR ALL SOULS

MEDITATION:

On one occasion, I heard these words: My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy.

I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.

MY PRAYER RESPONSE:

Lord Jesus, thank You for the Feast of Mercy as a shelter for all souls, especially for poor sinners. May I prepare with confident faith to receive the graces You promise for us on that day. I want to plunge into the ocean of Your graces.

The Passage's mission and work is developing to cope with more people becoming homeless it is raising funds through the Big Give until Wed 31st March to support **No Night Out** a new initiative to take newly homeless people off the street straight away. Further details of the work is at www.passage.org.uk.

Double your Donation, Double your impact. This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. If someone (can be company, individual or trust) gave £10 online matched giving of £10 would bring the Gift up to £20 (and for individuals to £22.50 with Gift Aid with higher rate tax relief it may cost the donor less than £10). For more information ring Andrew Hollingsworth 020 75921886 andrew.h@passage.org.uk

Easter Services ***AT ST EDMUND'S***

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 1st April at 8pm

(Note there will be NO washing of the feet nor is there an altar of Repose; after Communion the reservation will be returned to the Tabernacle). You may stay in the Church for silent prayer.

GOOD FRIDAY - 2nd April at 3pm

(Note, at the veneration of the cross you are asked to bow NOT kiss nor touch the cross).

HOLY SATURDAY - 3rd April at 8.45 pm

(there will be NO blessing of the fire nor carrying of candles)

EASTER SUNDAY—4th April - 9am & 11am

No morning Mass on Monday, 5th April; Tuesday, 6th April ; Wednesday 7th April.

*BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD
ON SATURDAY, 3rd April at 11am*



*May We wish you a happy
and Holy Easter*

Fr Christopher & Katherine

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.

First Communion Course's dates

18 April, 25 April, 2nd May, 9th May, 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 sessions start with Mass at 9 am. Then the catechists will take children for a preparation class. 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.

NEW BOXES OF DONATION ENVELOPES are ready for collection at the church's hall.

If you cannot find your box, please, drop an email to Millwall@rcdow.org.uk and I will prepare the box for you. Katherine

There will be no Newsletter for the next three weeks.

We will start over on 25th April.

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 courses will be on 5 May & 6 June 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: £102.52 envelopes: £360.00 total: £462.52
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