

NEWSLETTER

FOURTH
SUNDAY OF
EASTER

John 10: 11-18

In our Gospel Jesus presents himself as the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep, cares for them, and lays down his life for them. He contrasts himself to hirelings (the Pharisees). He says that he lays down his life, himself. No one takes his life from him. The sign of this will be his power to take up his life after he has laid it down. This is the theme that runs through the Passion narrative in John's Gospel and is a sign of his divinity

His death was not just a consequence of being in the wrong place at the wrong time, an unlucky outcome of his confrontation with the Pharisees. Rather, it was a result of Jesus freely choosing to be light in the world, an exponent of the truth, an embodiment of God's unconditional love and mercy. This light that was Jesus was unbearable to the Pharisees who built up over centuries the 620 laws based on the 10 commandments, and all that has to be done was to keep them to be saved. This reduced God to not been required to be saved. For Jesus, the keeping of the law was a consequence of being loved by God rather than the cause of being loved by God.

Sunday reminds us that we do not come to God alone-our worship draws us into the community and identifies us as sheep of the Good Shepherd. Being thought of as sheep is not to demean, but to rescue us from thinking too much of ourselves. Jesus calls us to humility and trust, cautioning us against those who work only for what they get and warning against whatever might snatch or scatters us. We know of leaders who want influence and money, and who value their own reputation and life above that of those who elected them, and who can be bought. Such leaders are a mistake and we live to regret having elected them.

Lord, you are a fearless leader. Death has no terrors over you. You value the life of your followers above your own. You are not in it for money, but you know me and love me.

The love of Jesus is love unto death. It's the self-sacrificing love that we see on the cross. It's the love that never sits down under feelings of failure but can always see the resurrection ahead in some form or other. In caring for all people, Jesus knew something of the resurrection, for in love are the seeds of resurrection. We rise above the self-centredness that confines and narrows us, to the outgoing love which expands our hearts and minds, as our hearts and minds grow to be like the heart and mind of Jesus.

Fr. Christopher

Priest Training Fund

This weekend 24th & 25th we will be having our Second Collection, which will support the Priest Training Fund. As announced last week, the fund pays for the formation of young men to the priesthood. The fund also supports the ongoing formation of ordained priests. Your gift ensures we can provide training for these men responding to Christ's call to dedicate their lives to serve God's people. Please be generous as you can and do continue to pray for vocations. Pray priests and pray for me. Thank you and may God bless you all.

Fr. Christopher

This coming week, let's pray- *"This Tuesday marks 53 years since the 1967 Abortion Act came into effect. As we hope and pray for an end to abortion, we pray especially for our Government, that their commitment to support pregnant women and their families would increase, and that they would anchor themselves in the desire to protect all human life. Lord hear us"*

MASS INTENTIONS

April 24th, 2021

6pm - Holy Souls

April 25th, 2021

9am—Ints of Kingsley &
Ann

11am— Ints of Cardinal
Vincent Nicols

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 Saturday from
5pm until 5.45.*

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; Acts 4: 8-12

Psalm 117; 1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28-29 response v 22

2nd Reading - John 3; 1-2;

Gospel – John 10; 11-18;

1st Reading; Acts 9: 26-31

Psalm 21; 26-28, 30-32 response v 26

2nd Reading - John 3; 18-24;

Gospel – John 15; 1-8;

Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (for Religious and Laity)

Virgin of Fatima, Mother of Mercy, Queen of Heaven and Earth, Refuge of Sinners, we who belong to the Marian Movement of Priests consecrate ourselves in a very special way to your Immaculate Heart.

By this act of consecration we intend to live, with you and through you, all the obligations assumed by our baptismal consecration. We further pledge to bring about in ourselves that interior conversion so urgently demanded by the Gospel, a conversion that will free us of every attachment to ourselves and to easy compromises with the world so that, like you, we may be available only to do always the Will of the Father.

And as we resolve to entrust to you, O Mother most sweet and merciful, our life and vocation as Christians, that you may dispose of it according to your designs of salvation in this hour of decision that weighs upon the world, we pledge to live it according to your desires, especially as it pertains to a renewed spirit of prayer and penance, the fervent participation in the celebration of the Eucharist and in the works of the apostolate, the daily recitation of the holy rosary, and an austere manner of life in keeping with the Gospel, that shall be to all a good example of the observance of the Law of God and the practice of the Christian virtues, especially that of purity.

We further promise you to be united with the Holy Father, with the hierarchy and with our priests, in order thus to set up a barrier to the growing confrontation directed against the Magisterium, that threatens the very foundation of the church.

Under your protection, we want moreover to be apostles of this sorely needed unity of prayer and love for the Pope, on whom we invoke your special protection. And lastly, insofar as is possible, we promise to lead those souls with whom we come in contact to a renewed devotion to you. Mindful that atheism has caused shipwreck in the faith to a great number of the faithful, that desecration has entered into the holy temple of God, and that evil and sin are spreading more and more throughout the world, we make so bold as to lift our eyes trustingly to you, O Mother of Jesus and our merciful and powerful Mother, and we invoke again today and await from you the salvation of all your children, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary., Pray for us O'Holy Mother of God that we would be made worthy of the promises of Christ. *Marian Fathers*

One Flock, One Shepherd

I want to tell you about still another discovery which we made when we had already become familiar with our Lord. This happened when one blessed day we seemed to understand what Paul meant when he exclaimed, *Jesus Christ is the same today as he was yesterday and as he will be forever*; and in another place: *I live now not with my own life but with the life of Christ who lives in me*. These two statements were linked with the tremendous statement the mysterious voice made to Paul when he was still Saul, *I am Jesus, and you are persecuting me* (Acts 9:5).

From that day on these words became the whole pattern for our life. If he can be identified with each one of us and if he is the same yesterday as today-then he just continues his very life in every one of us until the end of time. It is a big moment when one realises that. One feels like saying, 'All right, dear Lord, here are my hands and feet, eyes and ears, my lips and my heart-they are yours'. I suppose this is the first step towards the final goal: *I live now not with my own life but with the life of Christ who lives in me*.

As soon as one becomes familiar with the fact that he is the same today as yesterday, one will meet him constantly...He really is the same. Nothing has changed. The Good Shepherd is still going after the lost sheep; the Father is still waiting for the Prodigal Son; Mary Magdalene is still sitting at his feet after he has freed her from seven devils. It may be that not everybody will come across Mary Magdalene or the Good Shepherd in a drastic way. But as soon as we have awakened to what the words mean: *Jesus Christ...today as he was yesterday*, and as soon as we want to meet him today, we can always find him unerringly as Jesus, *a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering* (Is 53:3).

Once he would talk about the persecuted Christians of the first decade: *I am Jesus whom you are persecuting*. This is true throughout the centuries. All we have to do is to learn to think about our fellow men in that term: 'I am Jesus' *Maria von Trapp*

MY GREATEST ATTRIBUTE

MEDITATION

Proclaim that mercy is the greatest attribute of God. All the works of My hands are crowned with mercy.

Everything that you say about My goodness is true; language has no adequate expression to extol My goodness.

MY PRAYER RESPONSE;

Lord Jesus, help me to express and articulate clearly Your goodness. How can I speak of Your greatest attribute of mercy without Your grace? Fill me then, so I can proclaim Your mercy.

John 10: 11-18

This is one of the Gospel passages that remind me of my past, each time I read it. Sheep are known for straying, ignoring the danger, and been at risk of marauding wolves. We have a lot in common with the sheep and how often I have strayed from the path of righteousness. We tend to ignore the spiritual danger, and the Scriptures remind us that Satan prowls like a roaring lion to devour us. And I can attest to this especially in my wilderness years when I was far away from the Church. The good Lord through his instrument Sister Louise (may she rest in peace) brought me back to the faith.

We need to learn to hear the voice of the Shepherd, we need space and time to be still. When we are still, we can recognise the Spirit's voice, moving, urging, and encouraging us to turn to God and live the life of the Spirit. *Fr. Christopher*

“Sin brings torment; evil has its price... Of ourselves, we cannot remove it. Only God takes it away, only He by His mercy can make us emerge from the depths of our misery... We need to let ourselves be forgiven, to ask heartfelt pardon of the Lord. We need to open our hearts to being forgiven. Forgiveness in the Holy Spirit is the Easter gift that enables our interior resurrection. Let us ask for the grace to accept that gift, to embrace the Sacrament of forgiveness. And to understand that Confession is not about ourselves and our sins, but about God and His mercy.” *Pope Francis*

“Dear sister, a dear brother, do you want proof that God has touched your life? See if you can stoop to bind the wounds of others. Today is the day to ask, “Am I, who so often have received God’s peace, his mercy, merciful to others? Do I, who have so often been fed by the Body of Jesus, make an effort to relieve the hunger of the poor?” Let us not remain indifferent. Let us not live a one-way faith, a faith that receives but does not give, a faith that accepts the gift but does not give it in return. Having received mercy, let us now become merciful.” *Pope Francis*

“Let us not confess to abase ourselves, but to be raised up. We, all of us, need this badly. Like little children who, whenever they fall, need to be picked up by their fathers, we need this. We too fall frequently. And the hand of our Father is ready to set us on our feet again and to make us keep walking. That sure and trustworthy hand is Confession. Confession is the sacrament that lifts us up; it does not leave us on the ground, weeping on the hard stones where we have fallen. Confession is the Sacrament of resurrection, pure mercy... God forgives everything.” *Pope Francis*

There will be **BIKE MARKING** event on 29/04/2021 between the hours of 11:30 – 17:00 at Island Gardens park. Please do pass the message on to anyone who you think might also benefit from the event.

Island Gardens SNT

First Holy Communion Parents,

The First Holy Communion Catechists, are requesting volunteers— parents to help with the sessions. Ideally, they would need 4 helpers, 2 for each group. Parents are needed to keep an eye on children while the catechists run the session. Should you be able to help, then speak with Monica Kabat Directly.

The session on 2nd May, the Fifth Sunday of Easter there wouldn't be a session at the church, instead the topic for this Sunday would be regarded as Homework. Thank you for your understanding. *Fr Christopher*

First Communion Course’s dates

18 April, 25April, **2nd May—no session at church**, 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. 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.

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 your. Katherine

**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 : **£500.00 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: £195.81 envelopes: £291.50 total: £487.31
Standing orders in February **£2841.35**

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