

NEWSLETTER

FIFTH
SUNDAY OF
EASTER**John 15: 1-8**

Dear Friends,

In our Gospel, Jesus introduces us to the great mystery of God sharing his life with us. 'I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever remains with me, with me in him bears fruit in plenty. The life that courses through the Holy Trinity is the same life that runs through my veins and yours. The vine is a special tree, where the distinction between the trunk and the branches is more difficult to make out than other trees: God shares his life with us, and we spend time in wonder and awe and thanksgiving, asking to be worthy of such a grace.

Abide in me as I abide in you., those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing, and I know this to my cost. Jesus gives this advice to his dearest friends before his passion. I must let this invitation resonate in my heart, asking for that grace to grow in my intimacy with him my Saviour, and my Lord so that my life would bear much fruit. For example, St Bridget of Sweden (Patron of Europe) had a deep union with Christ flowing into action in the world-in married life, in affairs of State, in practical charity: all rooted in commitment to Christ-which issued forth from mystical prayer.

We are reminded by Jesus that at the very core of our existence is to be connected with him. He invites us to 'abide', to rest, to stay, to remain in him, so the divine life flows in and through us. Do we have a sense of this abiding in him?

Perhaps it is a challenge to me as I am more inclined to be active and doing. It has taken me some time to realise that I need to be connected to Jesus, to know the beating of his heart, to receive life from him just as a great branch from the vine. We all can see the life and work of God in others-in ministry, in love, in commitment, courage, endurance, and in the ordinary daily kindness and compassion. We are gifted in a unique way to bear fruit for God in a way nobody else can. Daily prayer helps us to recognise the fruits, develop them and offer them in service of God and for his people.

When I feel that my life is barren and fruitless, It may be the direct consequence of been apart from Jesus and I fail. When I come to that realisation, I return to God in prayer and then I find I begin 'to bear much fruit.

Fr. Christopher

Priest Training Fund Collection—£462.10

Thank you for your generosity to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend. It is not too late to make a donation if you wish, you could place your donation in an envelope and mark it, Priest Training Fund. Do continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and do pray for me. Thank you

This coming week, let's pray- *“As we enter into this month dedicated to our Blessed Mother, we bring to mind all mothers. That, like Mary, they would be able to love and cherish their children from the point of conception. We pray also that these women would find support in their spouses, family and friends as they journey through the joys and trials of parenthood. Lord hear us”*

MASS INTENTIONS**May 1st, 2021**

6pm - All Those Suffering from Covid

May 2nd, 2021

9am—Ints of Kingsley & Ann

11am— Ints of Edgar (sick)

For weekday mass intentions please, see the notice board on the left hand side of the main door of the church.

Confession on Saturday between 5.15-5.45 pm

or by appointment.

ADORATION

Every Saturday from 5pm until 5.45.

*No Mass on Monday,
3rd May*

**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 9: 26-31
Psalm 21; 26-28, 30-32 response v 26
2nd Reading - John 3; 18-24;
Gospel – John 15; 1-8;

1st Reading; Acts 10: 20-25; 34-35; 44-48
Psalm 97; 1-4, response v 2
2nd Reading - John 4; 7-10;
Gospel – John 15; 9-17;

Why we must pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

When I was first told of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, my reaction was how ridiculous. Then in 2000, St John Paul II canonized St. Faustina and declared a universal observance of the Feast of Divine Mercy annually on the Second Sunday of Easter. I must confess even though I knew about the Divine Mercy, I didn't pay much attention to it.

Let's face it we have the Rosary and why must we have yet another, I would say. and the Rosary was more than enough.

Our Blessed Mother herself had given the Rosary to St. Dominic in 1221, and she sited 15 promises to all who would pray the Rosary. 'Whatever, you ask in the Rosary will be granted' It should be more than enough, I would say.

Then in St. John Paul II Homily at the canonization Mass of St. Faustina, he said, 'Today my joy is truly great in presenting the life and witness of St. Faustina Kowalska to the whole Church as a gift of God for our time by divine Providence, the life of this humble daughter of Poland was completely linked with the history of the 20th century, the century we have just left behind. In fact, it was between the First and Second World Wars that Christ entrusted his message of mercy to her. Those who remember, who were witnesses and participants in the events of those years and the horrible sufferings they caused for millions of people, know well how necessary was the message of mercy

My curiosity was aroused, who is this Polish sister, that touched the heart of St. John Paul II?

So, I ventured to read about St Faustina and yes, began to say the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and, recently partook in saying the Novena. In her diary,(687) Jesus tells her, ' Say unceasingly the Chaplet that I have taught you. Whoever will recite it, they will receive great mercy at the hour of death. Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from my infinite mercy'

True enough, I am a sinner a misery, and very much in need of His mercy.

On another occasion, Jesus tells St. Faustina, in her Diary (1541) ' It pleases me to grant everything souls ask of me by saying the chaplet. When hardened sinners say it, I will fill their souls with peace, and the hour of their death will be a happy one. Write this for the benefit of distressed souls: when a soul sees and realizes the gravity of its sins, when the whole abyss of the misery into which it immersed itself is displayed before its eyes, let it not despair, but with trust, let it throw itself into the arms of My mercy, as a child into the arms of its beloved mother. Tell them no soul that has called upon My mercy has been disappointed or brought to shame. I delight particularly in a soul that has placed its trust in My goodness. Write when they say this Chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the Just Judge but as the Merciful Saviour'

Well, I was converted

If Jesus promises these things, I cannot argue, I am in. From that day on I began praying the Chaplet- or as near-daily as I could manage at 3 pm.

I still say the Rosary and it's the mainstay of my spiritual schedule, and I also say the Chaplet. So, I encourage you all to say the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. God bless.

Fr. Christopher

John 15: 1-8; We likewise believe that Christ shed his blood for each of us and that no one is beyond the scope of his universal love (Fratelli tutti 85).

Our vocation invites us to produce fruit for the kingdom-the fruit of the Spirit. This is the will of the Father. Where the Spirit is there is not only freedom but generosity, kindness, human dignity, and service of others. The Holy Spirit who lives in us and works in us makes us generous and willing to give, serve and not count the cost. Being generous is not just about giving money but also concerns our time, our energy, our commitment and our dedication. St John Vianney said, 'I do not lend, I give, Hasn't the good God been the first to give to me?'

'It is to the glory of my Father, that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples'

Cardinal Vincent Nichols

May Devotion at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden :

May Devotion to Our Lady will take place on Sunday 9th May at 3.30pm at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden. It will include Holy Rosary and Benediction, with music from the Shrine Singers. Due to Covid Restrictions only a limited number of seats will be available for reservation. The Devotion will be livestreamed. For a link to the livestream and booking of available seats, please visit parish.rcdow.org.uk/Willesden.

Fr Stephen Willis

Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Easter

Tuesday 4th May has been designated a Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse. A Day of prayer for those who have been abused in a season of hope and new life.

Prayer: Praise to you Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

the source of all consolation and hope

Bethe refuge and guardian of all

who suffer abuse and violence.

Comfort them and send healing

for their wounds of the body, soul, and spirit.

Help us all and make us one with you

In your love for Justice

as we deepen our respect for the dignity of every human life.

Giver of peace, make us one in celebrating

your praise, both now and forever.

We ask this through Christ our Lord

Amen

The annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, On Saturday 15th May 2021 at 3.00 pm

The Cardinal will be celebrating a live-streamed Mass for all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th 30th, 40th, 50th, and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2021. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your details to the parish office with the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address, and email (or telephone number if no email) and these details will be sent to those organising this celebration. An Order of Service can be downloaded from the Cathedral website before the event-

www.westminstercathedral.org.uk Please send in your details as soon as possible. Thank you

A Covid-19 vaccine confidence webinar has been organized for the of Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster, with the cooperation of Hertfordshire County Council and Hammersmith & Fulham Council, and other local authorities. It will take place on Saturday 15th May 2021 from 10am to 11.30am and will feature a panel of eminent medical experts led by Prof Kevin Fenton, Regional Director of Public Health London. The panel will share the latest information on COVID-19 vaccination. There will be an opportunity for participants to ask questions anonymously. To join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/99627319556> Passcode: 546617

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 : **£530.00 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: £125.02 envelopes: £298.00 total: £423.02
Standing orders in March **£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