

NEWSLETTER

SIXTH
SUNDAY OF
EASTER**John 15: 9-17**

This Gospel passage speaks of Jesus' love for his disciples and for us. When I read these words I dwell on his love and care for his friends. He reassures them of his love which, as they will soon see, cannot be greater. But I realise these words are addressed to me as well, in my weakness, uncertainty, and in my sinfulness. I strive to be in my love like Jesus by constantly seeking God's help.

'You are my friends, if you do what I command you' This seems strange, but if we look closely, it does make sense, as it is my experience. I find that is what I do for my friends, not because I am afraid of losing their friendship or because I want to be good in their eyes, simply because they're my friends. I call you friends, not servants. I have to ponder on these words with gratitude.

At the heart of the message is love, God loves you and me! How do we sit with this reality? if I could grasp God's love and accept that God loves all others in the same way. I am called to love myself and others, and it's abundantly clear that I am called to love the poor, marginalised, the excluded in a special way. Equally, it's clear that I am called to care for the planet, described by Pope Francis as 'our common home'; which God has entrusted to us.

My love for others must not be based on how others would respond. Jesus loves me totally whether I am sinful, bad, or indifferent. My love must have that quality too. But this can cost-it might destroy my life!

Such love would bear much fruit, whether I see it or not. Jesus' love bears much fruit after his death. I mustn't be discouraged when my love seems to have fallen on stones and is wasted. Such a love as St Paul says 'Love never ends' (1Corinthians 13:8) Loving actions are the building blocks of eternal life.

'God, who calls us to generous commitment and to give him our all, offers us the light and the strength needed to continue on our way. In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward'. (Pope Francis, Laudato Si, 245).
Fr. Christopher

13th May—THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**Holy Day of obligation****Masses at 9.15 am and 8pm**

This coming week, let's pray- "We pray for all unborn children diagnosed with disabilities, we pray for protection for them and their mothers from the pressures of society to have an abortion, and that they would instead experience overwhelming support by all who surround them. Lord hear us"

MASS INTENTIONS**May 8th, 2021**

6pm - Priests of the Diocese

May 9th, 2021

9am—Ints of Sick & Housebound

11am— Ints of Cardinal Vincent Nichols

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*****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 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;

1st Reading; Acts 1: 15-17; 20-26

Psalm 102; 1-2, 11-12, 19-20 response v 19

2nd Reading - John 4; 11-16;

Gospel – John 17; 11-19;

'Remain in my love'

In chapter fifteen of Saint John's Gospel, I have noted the many times the verb *manere*, to remain, appears. When this verb is used, it indicates Jesus' strong insistence, profound emotion, and ardent desire. It signals an element of great importance in his teaching, a point that Jesus wants to engrave on the hearts of his disciples.

In Christ's time, as in our own, people were motivated by exterior feelings and distracted from the treasure of their interior life. *Remain in me* is a simple, informal expression that reveals a desire for communion in love. *Remain in me goes beyond human comprehension; two people can only stay near one another, but how can they be within each other?* Remain in me is a form of permanent communion, which can be compared in some way to the Eucharistic communion.

I cannot receive the Eucharist as often as I wish during the day, but I can remain forever in you, Lord. You will be in me and I in you! To *remain in you* is not an idle or passive love for God, rather it is active: *Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty.*

Lord Jesus, I want to remain in you. You and I will be one: one unique will, one sole heart, one effort, one love. There will no longer be a distinction between what belongs to you and what belongs to me. *I live now not with my own life but with the life of Christ who lives in me.*

Venerable Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan

Often nowadays we find neither the time nor the energy to stop and be kind to others, to say 'excuse me', 'pardon me, 'thank you' (Fratelli tutti 224)

John 15: 9-17

Abide in me

The Greek word most often in the New Testament for love is agape. Agape is a quality of love more akin to self-sacrifice and unconditional self-giving. St Paul taught that love is the greatest virtue. St John of the Cross said that in the evening of our lives we will all be judged on the love we have shown to the stranger, the prisoner, the hungry, and the poor. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan and Matthew 25, we learn that love is practical, down to earth, and always involves self-sacrifice, a giving of ourselves. This quality of love isn't strained but falls from heaven like gentle rain and it blesses those that give and those that receive.

' Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, maybe holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen (St. Augustine)

"The practice of meditation has received a great deal of attention in recent years. It is not only Christians who talk about it: the practice of meditation exists in almost all the world's religions... We all need to meditate, to reflect, to discover ourselves, it is a human dynamic... Here, then, is the image of young people and adults sitting in recollection, in silence, with eyes half-closed... It is a phenomenon to be looked on favourably. Indeed, we are not made for rushing all the time, we have an inner life that cannot always be trampled on. Meditating is therefore a need for everyone. Meditating, so to speak, is like stopping and taking a breath in life." *Pope Francis*

"We join together in prayer with all the sanctuaries spread throughout the whole world, with the faithful, and with all persons of goodwill, to entrust into the hands of our Holy Mother the whole human race, sorely tried by this period of the pandemic. Every day of this month of May we will entrust to You, Mother of Mercy, the many people who have been touched by the virus and continue to suffer its consequences; from our deceased brothers and sisters to families who experience the pain and uncertainty of tomorrow; from the sick to doctors, scientists, nurses, engaged in the front line in this battle; from volunteers to all professionals who have given their precious service in favor of others; from people in mourning and grief to those who, with a simple smile and a good word, brought comfort to those in need; from those – especially women – who have suffered violence at home due to forced closure, to those who wish to resume the pace of daily life with enthusiasm. Mother of Help, welcome us under your mantle and protect us, support us in the hour of trial and kindle the light of hope for the future in our hearts." *Pope Francis*

MY MERCY ON BEHALF OF SINNERS

MEDITATION: Today Jesus said to me, I desire that you know more profoundly the love that burns in My Heart for souls, and you will understand this when you meditate upon My Passion. Call upon My mercy on behalf of sinners; I desire their salvation. When you say this prayer, with a contrite heart and with faith on behalf of some sinner, I will give him the grace of conversion. This is the prayer: (*Diary*, 186).

"O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of Mercy for us, I trust in You." (*Diary*, 187).

MY PRAYER RESPONSE: Lord Jesus, may I fulfil Your desire and come to know more deeply Your burning love for souls, which gushed forth from Your Heart as a fount of mercy for us.

Priest Training Fund Collection—£487.10

Thank you for your generosity to the Priest Training Fund collection. 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,

Fr Christopher

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

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 16 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: £182.04 envelopes: £230.50 total: £412.54
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