

## NEWSLETTER

11TH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY  
TIME***The Meaning of the Sacred Heart***

His heart is alive with love for all of us. It is a love that is more than a feeling. His is a love that is willing to sacrifice; it is not just sentimental but he is willing to give himself totally because he loves. Look at the crown of thorns. The thorns remind us of our little difficulties, those little unpleasant events. But love bears it; love more than bears it because it knows that this is part of loving.

See the wound in the Heart did Jesus get this wound? When he was on the cross, a spear was thrust into his Heart. He did not run away. This is love! His love is more than just a good feeling; love exists when we are wounded. Our Lord said, 'My Heart is open', open to all those who wish to come in, or go out, and come in again. This is so much part of loving. Parents do this with their children. How many times children hurt their parents..., and they come back. And their parent's heart is always open to them.

There is one more characteristic of love, the cross. When would a parent say to their child, 'That's it! Enough! No more!' Even if they say it, they don't mean it. How much our Lord loves us! He does not say, 'I love you a lot, but not that much'. Rather, he said, 'I love you a lot, even if it costs me my life'.

What is hate like? It is the opposite of love. You shrink, you pull away from everyone. If you love, you expand, you give, and you attract; you cannot keep it to yourself. The flames of love represent that outgoingness of love: love which gives warmth, comfort, and consolation to everyone who comes near: The enemies of Jesus could do many things to Jesus, but one thing they could not do was to make him hate or to give up loving us or to say, 'This is enough! You are worth a lot but not this much!' No! We are worth everything for our Lord. That generosity comes from his Heart and it is ours for the asking.

*Servant of God Sister Ida Peterfy*

***The Greatness of Our Christian Vocation***

What do my actions mean to anyone and what are they worth? They are little drops of water in a vast ocean, tiny grains of sand in an enormous desert! But an immense ocean is composed of countless drops of water, and a boundless desert of infinite grains of sand.

Am I not dust, which is destined to return to dust? Am I not less than dust because 'I was taken from the ash heap'? *From the dust, he lifts up the lowly, from the dungheap he raises the poor to set him in the company of princes, yes, with the princes of his people (Ps 112: 7-8)*

Lord, you made me your child not only for my personal happiness, not for my own advancement, but to entrust me with a particular mission within your plan of salvation. Lord, help me to meditate unceasingly on the advice of Saint Leo the Great: 'Christian, be aware of your dignity!'

Perhaps I am only a grain of sand, but every grain has its own place, its special role to carry out—the sole condition is my awareness of this reality and my unity with all others.

*Venerable Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan*

**MASS INTENTIONS****June 12th, 2021**

6pm - Ints of Sick & House-bound

**June 13th, 2021**

9am—Pro Populo

11am— Ints of Fr Christopher (Ordination Anniv)

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.

THE OFFICE IS CLOSED FROM 14 – 18 JUNE  
THER WILL BE NO NEWSLETTER NEXT WEEK  
SORRY FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE

Let's pray for Fr Christopher's intentions and wish him all the best on his 24th ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

**Readings for this & next Sunday**

1st Reading—Ezekiel 17: 22-24,  
Psalm 91; 2-3, 13-16, response v 2  
2nd Reading - 2 Corinthians 5; 6-10;  
Gospel – Mark 4; 26-34;

1st Reading— Job 38: 1, 8-11,  
Psalm 106; 23-26, 28-31, response v 1  
2nd Reading - 2 Corinthians 5; 14-17;  
Gospel – Mark 4; 35-41;

## **Bishops of England and Wales: Protect life from conception to natural death**

Bishop John Sherrington, English and Welsh Bishops' Conference head for life issues, highlights the fundamental dignity of the human person and respect owed to life in his 2021 Day for Life message.

**By Vatican News staff writer.** The annual celebration of the Day for Life is dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning of human life at every stage and in every condition. In a message released ahead of the annual observance, Bishop John Sherrington, lead Bishop for Life issues for the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales (CBEW), draws attention to the fragility of life and the reality of death brought to the fore by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the debate surrounding 'assisted suicide' and its legalization in the country. This year, in England and Wales, the Day for Life will be celebrated on Sunday 20 under the theme, "Caring for the sick and dying."

**Covid-19 pandemic.** Bishop Sherrington highlighted that the Day for Life, inaugurated by Pope St. John Paul II, "presents an opportunity to pray for the gift of life from conception to natural death, to raise awareness of the precious gift of life, and to support the work of protecting life in its most vulnerable stages."

Situating this in the context of the ongoing health crisis, the Bishop noted that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought into sharp focus the fragility of life and the reality of death. "In the UK alone, more than 126,000 people have died from Covid-19," he said.

However, in the face of such suffering and death, the Bishop points to the "extraordinary dedication of healthcare professionals and their loving care for the sick and dying," as well as the sacrifices people made for the greater good during the pandemic.

These acts, he said, "are a powerful testimony to the fundamental dignity of the human person and to the respect owed to each life, particularly through proper care and love in the last moments of life."

**Assisted Dying** "Against this backdrop of loving care, we are now faced with the very real threat of the legalization of 'assisted suicide' in our country," said Bishop Sherrington. He recalled a current Private Members Bill in the House of Lords on the so-called "Assisted Dying" and expressed concern that it is "only a matter of time before the issue is back in the House of Commons."

"It is not a question of 'if' this challenge will come, it is now a question of 'when'?" he said.

Bishop Sherrington stressed that the theme for the Day for Life this year focuses on assisted suicide and the respect owed to life. He also informed the faithful about online resources available to inform them about the threat to life and Catholic response about it.

**Day for Life collection.** Every year, a collection is done to raise funds to support efforts in promoting and protecting life from conception until its natural death. However, in 2020, there was no collection due to the pandemic and funds are very much depleted while "the threats to life have never been greater."

The proceeds from the annual Day of Life collection to be held in parishes in England Wales assist the work of organizations who raise awareness, engage in parliamentary work and pastoral outreach.

**AREA BISHOP'S P.A.** Bishop Nicholas, our Area Bishop, is looking to appoint a Personal Assistant to provide him with administrative and secretarial support. The hours of work are **17.5 hours per week** (4-5 weekdays, negotiable upon appointment); salary **£19.11 per hour**. Closing date: 1<sup>st</sup> July. The job description may be found at <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/pa-to-auxiliary-bishop-archbishops-house/>

**Mark 4: 26-34** I was once told by my spiritual director that, the kingdom of God is multi-faceted, like a diamond. St Paul reminds us when he says, who can understand the mind of God? But many aspects of it are revealed. The emphasis is on the quiet and in ways God goes about the divine project for the salvation of the world. Currently, I worry about what is happening in my Motherland (Sri Lanka) and the people suffering, and about the pandemic, God on the other hand takes it all into view, doesn't panic.

{Perhaps it's my task to sow seeds and trust that they would grow at their own rhythms and come to harvest in good time. Let me sow with love since love endures into eternity. Let me keep my eye on you always: since I am the disciple, you are the Lord of the harvest and the project manager.

There is something hidden and mysterious about the kingdom of God. We at times get an occasional hint as to what it may be or where it could be found. The first parable in our Gospel informs us that, whilst we live out our ordinary day-to-day lives, the kingdom continues to grow-We don't know-how! we don't bring it about but some mysterious power brings it about. This is consoling teaching for Christian communities under persecution, or who live in a hostile secular environment, or whose numbers are dwindling.

The second parable is equally consoling which deals with growth. The smallness of the mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of the seeds on earth: yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub'. it is not a lesson in botany, but we Christians are tempted to becoming the most numerous, most powerful, most influential religion in the world. Even if such hopes were fulfilled, this wouldn't guarantee that the kingdom of God had come. As Christians, we are called to see ourselves as the mustard seed-small childlike, humble, and trusting. As Jesus says, in Luke, 'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom' ( Luke 12: 32)

When we think of a 'miracle', what does come to mind is a miracle that has taken place in a Marian shrine, like Lourdes. But there is the slow-motion-miracle of growth. This is not a one-off event that has been concluded before our eyes-but over time it's a real happening, God's hidden hand is giving it direction. My life is God's project' I must leave God free to stay working on me. Then I shall be 'God's work of art'

*Fr. Christopher*

#### **Mark 4: 35-41** 'Let us cross over to the other side'

This phrase has importance for Mark, and for me as a disciple. I am enthusiastic about accepting the invitation from Jesus. to come on board, and all is well for a while. However, when the crossing proves difficult, I could capsize if not for the presence of Jesus who calms the storm. Am I, the one who has the presence of mind to wake him up and he saves the day? Mark conveys a warning that we are moving into a new depth of discipleship. The hostility of Jesus' enemies grows more intense that culminates in his passion and death, and all his disciples have deserted him.

When I reflect on my life, there have been innumerable times, when I have had storms, a crisis of one kind or another I have fled and questioned, 'Do you exit at all' or how could you do this to me' and in my lack of faith giving up and walked away. Thank God that after a while I have returned. Now I pray that my faith will keep me close to him in the storms that threaten to swamp not only me but the Church, the world, and nature itself.

Let's take our place with Jesus in the boat and allow ourselves to be drawn into the whole experience and let it unfold. How do you feel when the waves pour into the boat, threatening to sink? Do you cry out to Jesus to find he is unresponsive because he is asleep? After a while, he wakes up and calms the wind and the sea; and chides the disciples and us for our lack of faith. Do we share their awe as they and we realise that we are all in the presence of extraordinary power? Are we faithless as they were when storms come into our lives and Jesus seems distant and unconcerned?

Jesus is always looking out for my needs- even if he seems to be asleep.

*Fr. Christopher*

### St Edmund's Church BBQ

**Sunday 27th June 2021—12:15 to 2:30 pm**

**Selection of food and drinks included**

Please come along to meet everyone.



Tickets now on sale after every Mass or from the office. Please, buy your ticket as soon as to help us to buy adequate amount of food.

£10 for an adult

£5 for OAP

Children under 16 - free

*Thank you, BBQ Organizers*

**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](mailto: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**

**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 from all who surround them. Lord hear us"*

**Next week, please pray-** - "As we celebrate Father's Day, we pray for all fathers who are expecting a child. That they would find peace in their changing circumstances, and be a source of love and support for the child's mother as they prepare for their child to enter the world. Lord hear us"

**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).

**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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297 Westferry Road, Millwall. E14 3RS

Telephone: 020-7987-4114; Email: [millwall@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:millwall@rcdow.org.uk); <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/millwall/>

**LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:**      loose: £168.33      envelopes: £360.00      total: £528.33  
Standing orders in May **£2385.**

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