

NEWSLETTER

26TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY
TIME**You must not stop him:**

When Jesus insisted that what we do in this life will have eternal consequences, whilst no other religious leader made such a claim. The good that we do, even something as giving a cup of water, will not go unrewarded. Equally, our unrepented loveless actions have consequences too. Thomas Merton once referred to the unspeakable triviality of much popular religion which consists precisely in not taking seriously even the possibility of these eternal consequences.

To believe in Jesus is a great gift from God. Anyone that does a good act in his name is certainly blessed. If however, we block others from believing in the Lord, we are told in no uncertain terms there will be a price to pay. How we deal with one another reminds us of our responsibility vis-a-vis the examples, either good or bad, that we portray in our way of living. Let's take a moment to examine our own lives to whom we are deeply indebted for the good advice and example we have received from them. They may not even know of their effects on us: we never know when we are being watched.

We as followers of Jesus are not meant to be an exclusive group who despises the good work that others do. We are encouraged to work with other Christians, and indeed with anyone of good will. That old slogan, 'Outside the Church there is no salvation' was a great stumbling block to many good people, we should leave it aside. Being full of ourselves has no place in the kingdom of God. The Holy Spirit blows like the wind wherever it pleases, and is at work incognito in every heart. God has a large imagination and labours to orchestrate all things for the good of the world.

Discipleship is not a personal privilege to be guarded. We have no monopoly on Jesus. Appreciation of the good deeds done by others is essential. In the kingdom, power-seeking, rivalry have no place: they are an obstacle and a cause of scandal.

Lord Jesus, self-renunciation and attention to the needs of our brothers and sisters are the hallmark of belonging to you. We are called to be a stepping stone for others, not a stumbling block.

Fr. Christopher

Next weekend:

3rd October 2021—**Marathon** Sunday—**No Mass at 11 am** next Sunday.

3th October 2021—Family Fast Day—Second Collection for Cafod on 3rd and 10th October 2021

MASS INTENTIONS**Sept 25th, 2021**

6pm - Pro Populo

Sept 26th, 2021

9am—Ints of Sick & House-bound

11am— Ints of Guy (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*

3RD OCTOBER 202127TH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY
TIME**MASS INTENTIONS****October 2nd, 2021**

6pm - Pro Populo

October 3rd, 2021

9am—Fr John Elliott

(Anniv)

11am— No Mass due to Marathon

Readings for this & next two Sundays

1st Reading— Numbers 11: 25-29,
Psalm 18:8, 10, 12-14 response v 9
2nd Reading - James 5; 1-6;
Gospel - Mark 9; 38-43, 45, 47-48

1st Reading— Genesis 2: 18-24,
Psalm 1:27, response v 5
2nd Reading - Hebrews 2; 9-11;
Gospel - Mark 10; 2-16

1st Reading— Wisdom 7: 7-11,
Psalm 89: 12-17, response v 14
2nd Reading - Hebrews 4; 12-13;
Gospel - Mathew 11; 25

You were so unteachable

Jesus' teaching on marriage, and the inadmissibility of divorce may be a joyful message to those who receive from God the wonderful gift of marital union but a source of anguish for those whose attempt at marriage has failed. In 'Amoris Laetitia', Pope Francis invites Christian families 'to be a sign of mercy and closeness wherever family life remains imperfect or lacks peace and joy'. Pope Francis offers 'an invitation to mercy and the pastoral discernment of those situations that fall short of what the Lord demands of us' (//5-6). Mercy is the love which all of us need to experience, regardless of our life-history or track record. The teaching on marriage and adultery needs to be read alongside Jesus' reminder that child, and the child's receptiveness to love, is the 'key' to the kingdom of God. The passage is less about the regulations for ordering relationships, and more of a glimpse or vision of God's loving plan for his children. And this plan remains 'good news' for everyone, not just the fortunate ones.

Our prayer today could be for marriage. If you are married, offer your love and your concern for your spouse to God-ask for God's help in your love. We might all pray for those who find their marriage difficult or close to breaking down. We can bring to our prayer those about to be married, giving thanks for the gifts we receive through the married love of others.

Two 'cares' in the gospel today-care for marriage and care for children. Maybe in prayer today we can bring to mind people who are close to and who have marriage or family cares, and pray for them. Help us, Lord, to truly care for the earth, for marriage and for children in our society.

Fr. Christopher

'God made them male and female'

Man is called to fatherhood by his very creation. He is prepared by God in body and soul to carry out his vocation. Yet, the fulfilment of his calling is essentially in the spiritual order. The life he is called to give is the life of the mind and will, the happiness he is called to communicate is human and divine. His natural endowments are to be raised and perfected by grace to the supernatural order, to the order of virtue. By the perfection of these virtues does he exercise his spiritual fatherhood, sanctify himself and those whom God has given to his care.

As man is called to a spiritual fatherhood by God, so is woman to a spiritual motherhood. To fulfil her God-appointed destiny, woman has been endowed with natural capacities, peculiarly hers, in turn elevated and perfected by grace in the supernatural order. A woman as woman has the capacity to draw out the best in those over whom she has influence. Her motherhood is chiefly expressed in drawing out the perfection of the image of God in those God gives her as spiritual children. Thus does she feed with the bread of supernatural life, arouse and quench the thirst for the waters of divine wisdom.

So does she make her children strong and herself become strong in the making. So does she open the eyes and heart to the joy of loving and possessing God. So does she give her loved ones the everlasting name of saint. And her children rise up and call her blessed.

A woman as woman has an ability to perceive evil as that evil threatens those she loves, by grace does she know sin in its ugliness, in its blasphemy of God, in its destruction of the soul. A woman as woman bears with pain, with suffering, with sorrow over the days and hours of the years. So she is patient and the source of patience; and no man is too strong or too old but that in her he finds consolation. A woman as woman can love, pour out herself in love, give in the face of rejection, give totally and without reserve. With God her love is creative of good, with Christ it is redemptive from evil, with the Holy Spirit it makes holy and gives constant expression of the dependence of the human race upon God's goodness. A love to which no creature can adequately respond, it provides the human race with a constant link to heaven, reaching out to divinity for satisfaction. A merciful love, it ever tempers justice. A persevering love, it mirrors the changes love of God for man. A joyous love, it brings to earth a foretaste of the happiness of heaven.

Fr. Elwood Ferrier Smith, OA

Threat of the Introduction of assisted suicide

In the next weeks, we face an unprecedented attack on the sanctity of life with Baroness Meacher's 'Assisted Dying Bill 2021' which received its 1st reading in the House of lords, and is due its 2nd Reading with full debate on Friday 15th October. The term 'Assisted dying' is euphemistic; the truth is that this bill seeks to introduce Assisted Suicide. If legalised, this Bill would allow a terminally ill adult with less than six months to live to be assisted in committing suicide.

Those in favour of the bill are making good use of language to confuse the issue and call it a compassionate and caring approach in order to redefine the question and obscure the actual reality and consequence of such legislation. As Pope Francis has said, 'Physician-assisted suicide is part of a 'thruway culture' that offers a 'false compassion' and treats a human person as a problem... True compassion does not marginalize anyone, nor does it humiliate and exclude- much less considers the disappearance of a person as a good thing.' He criticised 'those who hide behind an alleged compassion to justify and approve the death of a patient'.

Importantly, at this stage we need to argue the dangers of the introduction of Assisted Suicide, which include the safety of people who are vulnerable due to external pressures, and later liberalisation of the law which is evidenced by other countries which have introduced Assisted Suicide. Many voices from the world of disability and other allies are also very fearful and fighting this bill.

There are a number of important actions in the next weeks. First, could you all pray that the Bill will be defeated. Second, to ask you to write to the Peers from your personal experience and share stories which will argue the reasons for opposing the Bill as well as narrate the importance of precious time during the final stages of life. Healthcare and legal professionals should write giving reasons why they oppose the Bill. This needs to be done before the Second Reading on 15th October. Third, to ask you to engage and share stories and reasons against the Bill on social media.

To ensure that as many Peers as possible are contacted, it is recommended that many of you select a Peer who has the same initials (first and /or last name) and write to the Peer. Personal stories can be uploaded at <https://righttolife.org.uk/mystory>; Right to Life UK will ensure these stories are distributed widely to Peers.

Bishop John Sherrington

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Climate Crisis Appeal

Our local experts are helping people all over the world to adapt to climate change and protect our common home. This Family Fast Day, donate in the parish using a CAFOD envelope or online through the [CAFOD website \(cafod.org.uk/climatecrisis\)](http://cafod.org.uk/climatecrisis) and help communities affected by the worst impacts of the climate crisis. You can also add your voice to our online [petition](#) calling for our Prime Minister to show leadership in tackling the climate crisis, cafod.org.uk/climate. And thank you for your generosity for our emergency appeals to support our sisters and brothers in crisis in Afghanistan and Haiti. You can read more about CAFOD's response at cafod.org.uk/emergencies.

Dear Friends, I am happy to introduce Renata Gorska a member of our parish.

Dr. Renata specialises in Counselling & Educational Psychologist and as a family Psychotherapist

Should you require any assistance or advice. Dr. Renata can be contacted on 07972873993 (Do leave a TXT Message which she prefers and I have her assurance that she will call you back. Alternatively, you could email her at RENATA@PSYCHOTHERAPY ROOM.CO.UK

Fr Christopher

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM:

RCIA If you or anyone you know who wishes to learn more about the Catholic Faith and be received into the Church. Then please pick an application form from the table in the lobby of the Church.

Confirmation If you are in year 9 and would like to be Confirmed, then kindly take an application form from the table in the lobby. Please fill it in and hand it back to the parish office. It is hoped to start the course in December.

First Holy Communion If you are in year 3 and would like your son or daughter to make their first Holy Communion. Please collect an application form from the table in the lobby. fill it in and hand it to the parish office.

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

ALTAR SERVERS If you have made your First Holy Communion, and would like to be an Altar Server, could you submit your details to the parish office. We hope to commence training initially after the 11am Mass. Lauren, Joseph and Izabella will conduct your training. Thank you . *Fr Christopher*

BAPTISMS can happen now on a Saturday morning or afternoon.

Parents are asked to come to see Fr Christopher first. Next, they must attend a 2-session Baptism Formation Program (during pregnancy or after birth) – The **next baptismal courses will be on Wednesday, 13th October 2021 at 7pm**. Please, drop an email to the office if you are interested, also to book your appointment with Fr Chris. Later, we will need your email address to invite you to join the session on Zoom. 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.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

loose: £174.61 envelopes: £221.00 total: £395.61 contactless collection last weekend: **£118.**
contactless collection in August: **£517.5** Standing orders in August **£2828.**

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 sent your donation by bank. Parish account is on Parish Web.

Thank you for your Generosity

WRCDT Charity No: 233699

**ST EDMUND'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Westferry Road, Millwall E14 3RS
020 7987 2546

**BISHOP CHALLONER
COLLEGIATE SCHOOLS**

Commercial Road, London E1 0AB
020 7791 9500