

## NEWSLETTER

30TH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY  
TIME

## 'The light of a Christian cannot be hidden'

Nothing is colder than a Christian who does not care for the salvation of others.

You cannot plead poverty here; for the poor widow who put in two copper coins will be your accuser. Moreover, Peter said, 'Silver and gold I have none', and Paul was so poor that he often went hungry and lacked necessary food.

You cannot plead lowliness of birth; for the apostles also were lowly men and of humble parents. You cannot allege want of education; for they too were unlearned men. You cannot plead infirmity, for Timothy was of delicate health and was frequently ill.

Everyone can be of profit to his neighbour, if he will fulfill his role.

Look at the trees of the forest: how strong they are, how beautiful, how large also, and smooth, and of great height, but they don't bear fruit. If we had a garden, we should much rather have pomegranates or fruitful olive trees. The others are of the delight of the eye, not for profit, which in their case is very small.

Men who are interested only in themselves are like the forest trees, or rather they are not even so good. In fact, they are fit only for the fire, while the forest timber can be used for building houses and palisades. Such are the foolish virgins of the parable, chaste indeed and decent and modest, but as they are of no profit to anyone they are rejected. Such are they who do not nourish Christ.

Observe that none of these are charged with particular sins of their own, with fornication, for instance, or with perjury; in short, with no sin but that of being without use to another. Such was the man who buried his talent, showing indeed a blameless life, but not being useful to others.

How can such a one be a Christian? If yeast when mixed with the flour did not raise the whole batch, would it be yeast at all? Again if a perfume could not be perceived by those around, could it in any sense be called a perfume?

Do not say, 'It is impossible for me to induce others to become Christians', for if you were really a Christian, it would be impossible for you not to do so. As all nature acts in accordance with its own properties, so in this case too; this is part of the very nature of being Christian.

Do not insult God. To say that the sun cannot shine would be to insult him; to say that being a Christian is useless is to insult God and call him a liar. It is easier for the sun not to give heat, not to shine, than for the Christian not to send forth light; it is easier for the light to be darkness than for this to be so.

Do not tell me that it is impossible; it is the contrary that is impossible. Do not insult God. If we once get our own affairs right, the other will certainly follow as a natural and necessary consequence. It is not impossible for the light of a Christian to be hidden; it is not possible for a lamp so conspicuous as that to be concealed.

*St. John Chrysostom*

"Our Lord Jesus Christ, who was sent by the Father to redeem the human race, in turn sent the Twelve Apostles into the world so that, filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, they might preach the Gospel to all people and unite them under one Shepherd, and that they might sanctify them and guide them to salvation... And the work of the Saviour continues and develops to our own day."

*Pope Francis*

MASS INTENTIONSOct 23rd, 2021

6pm - Pro Populo

Oct 24th, 2021

9am— Ints of G O'Flaherty

11am— Ints of Winship  
Family

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*

*Time  
Change  
On 31  
October 2021*



FALL BACK

## Readings for this &amp; next two Sundays

1st Reading— Jeremiah 31: 7-9,

Psalm 125 response v 3

2nd Reading - Hebrews 5; 1-6;

Gospel - Mark 10; 46-52

1st Reading— Deuteronomy 6: 2-6,

Psalm 17;2-4, 47, 51 response v 2

2nd Reading - Hebrews 5; 1-6;

Gospel - Mark 10; 46-52

1st Reading— Kings 17: 10-16,

Psalm 145;7-10, response v 2

2nd Reading - Hebrews 9; 24-28;

Gospel - Mark 12; 38-44

### You will find nothing that is not contained in the Lord's prayer.

He who says, for example, 'as you have been glorified in us, so be glorified in all nations', and, 'Let your prophets be found faithful, what is he saying other than, 'Hallowed be thy name'?

He who says, 'Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved', what is he saying other than, 'Thy kingdom come'?

He who says, 'Direct my ways according to your word and let no iniquity master me', what is he saying other than, 'Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven'?

He who says, 'Give me neither poverty nor riches', what is he saying other than, 'Give us this day our daily bread'?

He who says, 'Remember O Lord, in David's favour all the hardships he endured', or, 'Lord, if I have done thus, if there is wickedness in my hands; if I have given back evil for evil', what is he saying other than, 'Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us'?

He who says, 'Rescue me from my enemies, O God, and deliver me from those who rise up against me', what is he saying other than, 'Deliver us from evil'?

And if you run through all the words of the sacred prayers, you will find nothing, in my opinion, that is not contained in that Lord's prayer. Hence there is freedom to use one form of words or another while praying, yet still saying the same things; but there should be no freedom to say different things.

We must pray in this way for ourselves, for our own people, for strangers, and for our very enemies, without hesitation; though according to the nearness or distance of the relationships different emotions will arise in the heart of the one who prays.

There you have, I think, not only the manner of your prayer, but also what you should pray for; not from my teaching, but from his who deigned to teach us all.

The blessed life should be sought, and requested from God. The nature of blessedness has been much discussed by many people; but why should we go to many people and much explanation? In the scripture of God it is put briefly and truly: 'Blessed is the people whose God is the Lord'. In order that we may be of that people, and attain to contemplation of him, and to everlasting life with him, 'The end of the commandment is charity from a pure heart, and good conscience and unfeigned faith'.

In the same trinity, hope is put in place of good conscience. Faith, then, and hope and charity, lead to God the man who prays, the man, that is, who believes, hopes and desires, and gives heed to what he is requesting from the Lord in the Lord's prayer.

St. Augustine to Proba

### Sin The Ultimate Virus

When we look upon the face of our Lord on the Cross, what do we see? We see the agony caused by our sinfulness, the worst of human woes. This work of our redemption was taken by our Lord out of love for God the Father, who saw mankind's doom and mercifully sought to free us from eternal destruction. Today, Satan has managed to deceive countless millions into believing that the greatest and only danger they face is a strain of the flu virus. None of us should doubt the difficulties associated with serious forms of flu, especially for the elderly and the most vulnerable of society.

When such viruses strike, which they do, it's incumbent upon society to respond in a manner proportionate to the threat.

Currently, things are different. Our thinking has become skewed when the perceived gravity of the virus of sin is eclipsed by the comparatively minor impacts of a flu epidemic. Mankind is deeply ensnared in the most serious of viruses' which is a mortal sin. The terrible consequences of sin start to take effect in this life as God allows us to do whatever we do to our own detriment, leading to the death of the soul and ultimately to its eternal destruction. Hell is real and many are heading in that direction unless they make a decision to amend their lives and change for the better.

Many people foolishly choose to follow the self-indulgent ways of the world. In truth, this is the motorway that leads to destruction. *Sins against the light, known as the sin of apostasy* are one of the gravest of these sins.

Millions of people have turned away from grace and have surrendered their faith in trading in their precious souls for the goods and corrupt ideas of the world. We must remember the fate of those angels who followed Lucifer in his revolt been turned into demons as a consequence of their apostasy. A similar thing happens to people as their apostasy makes them subject to the devil; *to lead a sinful life is to belong to the devil. (1John 3:8)*

As a consequence of this apostasy, many people and Catholics included, have allowed themselves to be perverted and corrupted in their thinking as they become motivated by lifestyles founded purely on the principle of self-gratification in the here and now.

The Lord nevertheless, looks down from heaven on the sons and daughters to see if any are wise, to seek God. All have left the right path, they are corrupt and have become an abomination in their will (psalm 13) Now is the time to return to me, turn and be saved, says the Lord, for I am God; there is no other, none beside me, I call you by name.

John Cassidy

### MEDITATION taken from Sister Faustina's Diary: Strengthened to Do God's Will

I am surprised that you still have not completely renounced your self-will, but I rejoice exceedingly that this change will be accomplished during the retreat (*Diary*, 369).

[Then] I heard these words: I am with you. During this retreat, I will strengthen you in peace and in courage so that your strength will not fail in carrying out My designs. Therefore, you will cancel out your will absolutely in this retreat and, instead, My complete will shall be accomplished in you. Know that it will cost you much, so write these words on a clean sheet of paper: "From today on, my own will does not exist," and then cross out the page. And on the other side write these words: "From today on, I do the will of God everywhere, always, and in everything" (*Diary*, 372).

#### My Prayer Response:

Lord Jesus, may Your love strengthen me to do Your will everywhere, always, and in everything. May I live the "Our Father" petition: "Thy will be done!"

### Being Bartimaeus

Don't you too feel the same urge to cry out? You who also are waiting at the side of the way, of this highway of life that is so very short? You who need more light, you who need more grace to make up your mind to seek holiness? Don't you feel an urgent need to cry out? *Son of David, Jesus have pity on me?* What a beautiful aspiration, for you to repeat again and again! I recommend that you meditate slowly on the events preceding the miracle, to help you keep this fundamental idea clearly engraved upon your minds: what a world of difference there is between the merciful Heart of Jesus and our own poor hearts! This thought will help you at all times, and especially in the hour of trial and temptation, and also when the time comes to be generous in the little duties you have, or in moments when heroism is called for.

*Many of them scolded him and told him to keep quiet*, as people have done to you, when you sensed that Jesus was passing your way. Your heartbeat faster and you too began to cry out, prompted by an intimate longing. Then your friends, the easy life, your surroundings, all conspired to tell you: 'Keep quiet, don't cry out.

Who are you to be calling Jesus? Don't bother him! But poor Bartimaeus would not listen to them. he cried out all the more. Our Lord who had heard him right from the beginning, let him persevere in his prayer. He does the same with you. Jesus hears our cries from the very first, but he waits. he wants us to be convinced that we need him. He wants us to beseech him, to persist, like the blind man waiting by the road from Jericho.

Let us imitate him. even if God does not immediately give us what we ask, even if many people try to put us off our prayers, let us still go on praying.

And now begins a marvellous dialogue that moves us and sets our hearts on fire, for you and I are now Bartimaeus. Christ, who is God, begins to speak and asks, *What do you want me to do for you?* The blind man answers, *Master, let me see again.* How utterly logical! How about yourself, can you really see? Haven't you too experienced at times what happened to the blind man of Jericho? I can never forget how, how meditating on this passage many years back, and realising that Jesus, was expecting something of me, though I myself did not know what it was. I made up my own aspirations: 'Lord, what is it you want? What are you asking me? I had a feeling that he wanted me to take on something new and cry *Master, let me see*, moved me to beseech Christ again, Lord, whatever it is that you wish, let it be done.

*St. Josemaria Escriva*

### PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM:

*(All applications will be accepted until 14 November)*

**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. The course will start in December 2021. Sessions will be on Saturdays at 3.30 pm. Please, see the dates below:

4 December, 11 December, 8 January, 15 January, 22 January, 29 January, 5 February, 26 February, 5 March, 12 March, 19 March, 26 March. April—volunteering, May—Confirmation.

**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.

Parents Meeting will happen on 2 December 2021.

Dates of First Reconciliation Couse:

9 January 2022, 16 January, 23 January, 30 January, 6 February, 20 February 2022

First Reconciliation on 26 February 2022

Dates of First Communion Couse: 27 February, 6 March, 13 March, 20 March, 27 March, 3 April 2022

First Holy Communion on 9 April 2022

**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**

**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, 1st December 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: £226.31 envelopes: £285.00 contactless collection last weekend: **£202.00** total: **£713.31**  
Standing orders in September **£2464.00**

Second Collection for CAFOD last weekend **£312.00**

**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

"The word "baptism" means "immersion": through His Passion, Jesus immersed Himself into death, offering His life to save us. Therefore, His glory, the glory of God, is love that becomes service, not power that seeks to dominate. Not power that seeks to dominate, no! But love that becomes service... To become great, you should take the path of service, serving others."

*Pope Francis*