

NEWSLETTER

ALL
SAINTS

Yearning for Sanctity

The saints are not a small caste of chosen souls but an innumerable crowd to which the liturgy urges us to raise our eyes. This multitude not only includes the officially recognised saints, but the baptised of every epoch and nation who sought to carry out the divine will faithfully and lovingly. We are unacquainted with the faces and even the names of many of them, but with the eyes of faith, we see them shine in God's firmament like glorious stars.

But 'why should our praise and glorification, or even the celebration of this solemnity, mean anything to the saints?' A famous homily of Saint Bernard begins with this question, and the response he offers us is timely: 'The saints', he says, 'have no need of honour from us; neither does our devotion add the slightest thing to what is theirs. But I tell you, when I think of them, I feel myself inflamed by a tremendous yearning'. This, then, is the meaning of today's solemnity: looking at the shining example of the saints to reawaken within us the great longing to be like them; happy to live near God, in his light, in the great family of God's friends. Being a saint means living close to God, to live in his family. And this is the vocation of us all. But how can we become holy, friends of God? We can first give a negative answer to this question: to be a saint requires neither extraordinary actions or works nor the possession of exceptional charisms. Then comes the positive reply: it is necessary first of all to listen to Jesus and then to follow him without losing heart when faced with difficulties.

Like the grain of wheat buried in the earth, those who trust him and love him sincerely accept dying to themselves. Indeed, he knows that whoever seeks to keep his life for himself loses it, and whoever gives himself, loses himself, and in this very way finds life. The saints' biographies describe men and women who, docile to the divine plan, sometimes faced unspeakable trials and suffering, persecution, and martyrdom. They persevered in their commitment. Their names are written in the book of life and heaven is their eternal dwelling place. The example of the saints encourages us to follow in their same footsteps and to experience the joy of those who trust in God. In the Preface of the Mass, we will proclaim that the saints are friends and models of life for us. Let us invoke them so that they may help us to imitate them and strive to respond generously, as they did, to the divine call. In particular, let us invoke Mary, Mother of the Lord and mirror of all holiness. May she, the All-Holy, make us faithful disciples of her Son Jesus Christ! Amen

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

MASS INTENTIONSOct 30th, 2021

6pm - Pro Populo

Oct 31st, 2021

9am— Holy Souls

11am— Ints of

Fr Christopher

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

"Once we experience the power of God's love, and recognize His fatherly presence in our personal and community life, we cannot help but proclaim and share what we have seen and heard... Everything about Christ reminds us that He knows well our world and its need for redemption, and calls us to become actively engaged in this mission... No one is excluded, no one need feel distant or removed from this compassionate love."

Pope Francis

"There is no freedom without love. The selfish freedom of doing what I want is not freedom, because it turns in on itself, it is not fruitful... Freedom increases with love. But beware: not with self-centred love, with the love of a soap opera, not with the passion that simply looks for what we want and like: not with that, but with the love we see in Christ, charity – this is the love that is truly free and freeing. It is the love that shines out in gratuitous service, modelled on that of Jesus, who washes the feet of His disciples and says: "I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you" (Jn 13:15). Serving one another."

Pope Francis

Readings for this & next two Sundays

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

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1st Reading— Daniel 12: 1-13,
Psalm 15;5, 8-11, response v 1
2nd Reading - Hebrews 10; 11-14, 18
Gospel – Mathew 24; 42, 44

'Communion of saints'

The Church is a 'communion of saints' above all in the Eucharist, which unites us believers to Christ. However, the term 'communion of saints' refers to those who live in Christ who 'died for all', so that what each one does or suffers in and for Christ bears fruit for all. Those men and women who lived virtuously on earth enjoy the fruits of their labours in heaven. The Communion of Saints is made up of the Church in heaven, the Church on earth, and the Church in purgatory. The Church triumphant (those in heaven) prays for the Church Militant (the Church on earth), and for the Church Suffering (those in purgatory) since all are bound together in ties of charity. The Communion of Saints is a real treasure of the Church.

We speak of the saints when we recite the Creed or the Apostles Creed at Mass. Our invisible friends in heaven are there to intercede for us in all sorts of circumstances. They are close to our Lord and Our Lady and are able to bring our needs to them on our behalf.

We could all call upon our own patron saint and ask for protection, blessing, and guidance. Some saints are associated with different needs, like St Anthony, to help find lost articles or St Jude for desperate cases. Most importantly it is good to call upon them for spiritual blessings and graces such as they displayed themselves during their time here on earth. Equally, it's good to read the lives of the saints: they are like 'living gospels' and it helps us to follow their example. They all have a commonality which is their great love of God, their pursuit of holiness, and their humility, albeit manifested in different ways and by different paths. Now we can see why they are in heaven and remain powerful intercessors for all of us as we strive to become saints ourselves. This then is the calling for all of us.

Fr. Clinton

The road is wide and many take it!

Jesus' teaching of the road to perdition is long and wide. We can see many taking it. The global crisis we see is in fact a state of Godless pandemonium. *The pandemonium has the odour of Satan about it as the world slides deeper into chaos and darkness.*

In these last sixty years, we have witnessed many turning away from their God-given faith, away from grace, and turned towards darkness. Even once devout countries have abandoned their faith to please this passing world, what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul in the process. The key to this sad tide of events is a rising impiety and change for the worse is the increase in those seduced by the lure of seeking the happiness of wealth in the greedy pursuit of putting goods before God.

This generation will stop at nothing to acquire properties and spend their time and energy filling themselves with all the luxuries and they want all Now! spending on consumer goods has reached an online frenzy as they seek consolation in things and are prepared to sacrifice whatever is necessary to purchase them, including the use of contraception to help keep the family size down, so as to increase their spending power. Either we serve the world or we serve God who is increasingly overlooked in the stampede of self-indulgence and enjoyment. Many have forgotten the wise words, *'theirs is an endless road, a hopeless maze who seek for goods before they seek God'* (St Bernard).

The problem with this reckless pursuit of wealth is that it really is one giant snare. For it has helped take us to the current mess and created a climate characterised by self-gratification, self-indulgence, soft easy living, soft on sin too with a slack spiritual atmosphere. Crucially people have become forgetful of what really matters with regards to the sober ways of salvation, the precious goods of eternity, and most seriously of all, God and His mercifully saving ways.

John Cassidy

MEDITATION taken from Sister Faustina's Diary: Lift Us Up

I see your love, so pure and true that I give you first place among the virgins. You are the honor and glory of My Passion. I see every abasement of your soul, and nothing escapes my attention. I lift up the humble even to My very throne, because I want it so (*Diary*, 282).

My Prayer Response:

Lord Jesus, through the intercession of St. Faustina, help us to humble ourselves in our sufferings and lift us up to Your throne. Let us see Your glory, Lord, even in the midst of our sufferings.

November Dead Lists are now available on the table in the church's porch. Please, put your deceased loved ones on the list and put it in the envelope with your donation. Leave the envelope in the basket which is in front of the Altar.

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 Course:

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

First Reconciliation on 26 February 2022

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

First Holy Communion on 9 April 2022

Sick & Retired Priests'

Next weekend 6th & 7th November we will be having the annual collection for our sick and retired priests here at Westminster Diocese. Currently there are 80 sick & retired priests who receive support after a lifetime of service to the parishes. It's estimated that by 2025 the number of priests in retirement would double.

Most priests offer their resignation when they reach the age of 75, but many continue to serve in parishes, schools, hospices, and hospitals. At this time they are dependent on the Diocese for their care-for essentials like housing, any health needs and other essentials.

By giving to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund, you can ensure our priests are cared for. Please take a donation envelope as you leave the Church. The envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online, reducing the risk to everyone of handling cash or touching the envelopes. Please continue to pray for all our clergy, active, retired or ill and do pray for me. I thank you for your generosity. May God bless you all.

Fr. Christopher

London Docklands Singers

Haydn Parry Handel Mozart Campling Bach

London Docklands Singers

CELEBRATION

in aid of

Pancreatic Cancer UK

Handel - Zadok the Priest, Halle Ujah Chorus
Haydn - Trumpet Concerto, La Deum
Mozart - Ave verum corpus
and music by Bach, Parry, Ireland and Andrew Campling

19 November 2021 7pm
Southwark Cathedral, SE1
Tickets £20 (£18 concs., £6 transepts)

londondocklandssingers.org

CANARY WHARF
2011-12

The Grayford
TERRACE BOX RESTAURANT
6-100 LAMBETH

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, 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: £170.75 envelopes: £210.00 contactless collection last weekend: £132.00 total: **£512.75**
Standing orders in September **£2464.00**

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 SVP are distributing **11.500 Vinnie Packs** containing cold weather essentials to the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Each pack contains thermal gloves, thermal hat, two pairs of socks, wet wipes, toothbrush, toothpaste, Pavement magazine, information sheet and pen. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £3.70 per pack? Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West **sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237**. Thank you so much for your support."