

## NEWSLETTER

1 SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

## The Cry of Advent

Holy Church cries out to Jesus, desiring that we join her in repeating the word proper to Advent—the plea of the exile—‘Come!’ in heaven our song will express possession, felicity; from our lips and from our heart will break forth the ‘new canticle’ of holy Scripture. But in our banishment, although once in a while that heavenly chant flashes like lightning at midnight, ordinarily we can intone only the word of hope and desire: ‘Come! Come!’

This the word of exile. Let us not tire of repeating it. If we lie in darkness and in shadows of death, let us cry out to him. ‘Come!’ And he will come with his grace to purify us and to lift us up. If we sit in sadness and dejection, let us continue pleading: ‘Come! Come!’ And he will come with his presence to scatter our sadness and with his help to strengthen our weakness. May the constant cry of hope and of desire never fail to rise from our heart; then each coming of Jesus will purify us, give us life, and make us happy by inflaming us with love.

Here on earth love has the strange prerogative of producing emptiness in our hearts the more it fills them; of producing a thirst the more it refreshes us; for each degree of love that our soul receives is a new degree of hope and of desire blossoming from depth of our being. Hence, the more we love the more we repeat the word of exile, ‘Come!’ Even when arrived at the peak of perfection, from that height we continue pleading, and with greater vehemence we utter the same word; ‘Come!’

Is it not this same word that forms the theme, so to speak, of the blessed symphony of this world while awaiting the consummation of time? At the end of Revelation, Saint John paints with two masterly strokes—two phrases—the history of the world since Jesus came twenty centuries ago until he will return to judge the living and the dead at the end of time: *The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come’*. *Let everyone who listens answer, ‘Come’*. Come Lord Jesus.

*Servant of God Luis Maria Martinez*

Brothers and sisters, let us ask ourselves: on what are we investing our lives? On things that pass, such as money, success, appearance, physical well-being? We will take away none of these things. Are we attached to earthly things, as if we were to live here forever? When we are young and healthy, everything is fine, but when the time comes to depart, we have to leave everything behind.”

*Pope Francis*

**21st-** “As we ponder the hope found in the second coming of our saviour, we pray for all those in need of hope. We pray especially for those contemplating having an abortion, that they would be reminded of the hope God brings and His fundamental desire for our good. We pray also that as a society we would become channels of God’s hope, providing support to all pregnant women. Lord hear us”

## MASS INTENTIONS

Nov 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

6pm - Holy Souls

Nov 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

9am— Pro Populo

11am— Joaquin D’Souza  
RIP

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***

The Prayer for  
Synodal Journey,

We stand before you, Holy Spirit,  
as we gather together in your name.

With You alone to guide us;

Teach us the way we must go  
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;  
do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us  
down the wrong path  
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity  
so that we may journey together  
to eternal life

and not stray from the way of truth  
and what is right.

All this we ask you,  
who are at work

in every place and time,  
in the communion

of the Father and the Son,  
forever and ever. Amen

## Readings for this &amp; next two Sundays

1st Reading— Jeremiah 33: 14-16,  
Psalm 24;4-5, 8-9, 10, 14, response v 1  
2nd Reading - Thessalonians 3; 12-4;2  
Gospel – Luke 21; 25– 28, 34-36

1st Reading— Boruch 5: 1-9,  
Psalm 125, response v 3  
2nd Reading - ~Philippians 1; 4-6, 8-11  
Gospel – Luke 3; 4-6

1st Reading— Zephaniah 3: 14-18,  
Psalm Isaiah 12:2-6, response v 6  
2nd Reading - ~Philippians 4; 4-7  
Gospel – Isaiah 61; 1

## A Prayer for Advent

My hidden Lord Jesus, I love You and thank You with profound gratitude for uniting Yourself with fallen humanity. When You first entered into this world. You remained hidden for nine months in the immaculate womb of Your Blessed Mother. She carried You, body and blood, soul and divinity, within the sanctuary of her body. She also carried You within her heart as a result of her perfect love for You and her perfect obedience to the will of the Father.

Precious Lord, as I embrace this Advent Season, please open my eyes to see the great value and blessing of Your Incarnation. Help me to discover Your hidden presence in this world and within my own soul. I desire to see, understand and experience the profound effects that Your incarnation has on my life and I desire to receive these effects more fully this Advent.

May I become a sanctuary in which You dwell so that I, like Your dear Mother, may bring Your Presence into the world.

My loving Jesus, I choose you, this advent, as my King and my God. I abandon myself to You and seek to put all my trust in Your tender care. Draw me close to You and free me from my sin so that I may love You with a pure and holy heart.

Mother Mary, as You carried your dear Son in your immaculate womb, you also carried Him in your heart. Pray for me, this Advent, that I may surrender myself to the will of the Father in imitation of you. You said 'Yes' to all that God asked of you and never hesitated to fully embrace His divine will. Pray that I may imitate your perfect example so as to share a deeper union with you and your divine Son. Amen

Author Unknown

## 'Synodal process'

Meaning 'journeying together'

We begin with our own situation, with our own experience, especially this last year and a half which has surfaced both strengths and weaknesses in our life as the Church.

Some questions we can explore are these:

1. During this terrible pandemic what strengths did I find my faith and faith community?
2. How, during this time, was I disappointed and sorrowful?
3. In what ways did the grace of God most clearly touch and uplift me?
4. Whom did we neglect the most?
5. Who feels left out?
6. What could we do better?

How do we choose priorities for our own mission?

'The purpose of the Synod is not to produce more documents. Rather, it is intended to inspire people to dream about the church we are called to be, to make hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts and restore strength to our hands for our common mission' (Vademecum 1.3)

On 30th November there is an Area Meeting headed by Bishop Nicholas Hudson at St Mary and St Michael, 2 Larkin St, E10AA at 7pm where the discussion would centre on our Journey together. You bring your own views and concerns. If you are interested in attending, please give your name and details to the parish office and we would forward it to the Coordinator.

Thank you. Fr Christopher

"Dear brothers and sisters, the Lord is not so much looking for skilled Scripture commentators, as He is looking for docile hearts which, welcoming His Word, allow themselves to be changed inside. This is why it is so important to be familiar with the Gospel, to always have it at hand – even a pocket-size Gospel in our pockets, in our purses to read and reread, to be passionate about it. When we do this, Jesus, the Word of the Father, enters into our hearts, He becomes intimate with us and we bear fruit in Him... So each one of us can become a living, different and original "translation" not a repetition but a living, different and original "translation" of the one Word of love that God gives us. This is what we see in the lives of the Saints for example. None of them is the same as another, they are all different, but with the same Word of God."

*Pope Francis*

### MEDITATION taken from Sister Faustina's Diary:

**Meditation:** I saw Jesus, and from His Heart there issued those same two rays, which enveloped me, whole and entire. At the same moment, all my torments vanished. **My daughter**, the Lord said, **know that of yourself you are just what you have gone through, and it is only by My grace that you are a participant of eternal life and all the gifts I lavish on you.** And with these words of the Lord, there came to me a true knowledge of myself. Jesus is giving me a lesson in deep humility and, at the same time, one of total trust in Him. My heart is reduced to dust and ashes, and even if all people were to trample me under their feet, I would still consider that a favor (*Diary*, 1559).

**My Prayer Response:**

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for the graces and mercy You have lavished on me. Without them, *I am nothing*, but with them and only with them, I am a participant of eternal life. May I live in this true knowledge of myself.

#### **JUST A FEW MORE DROPS**

**Meditation:** I have been waiting to share My suffering with you, for who can understand My suffering better than My spouse? w (*Diary*, 348).

My child, just a few more drops in your chalice; it won't be long now (*Diary*, 694)

**My Prayer Response:**

Lord Jesus, help me to understand Your sufferings with my mind and heart. Help me not to wast the suffering that I do have—but to offer them to You— because they are precious to You for the salvation of souls.

"Let us ask ourselves: what is the centre, what is the beating heart of the Word of God?... Those who do good, are investing in eternity. When we see a person who is generous and helpful, meek, patient, who is not envious, does not gossip, who is not boastful, is not puffed-up with pride, who is not rude, this is a person who builds Heaven on earth. They may not be noticed or have a career, they will not make the news in the papers, and yet, what they do will not be lost because good is never lost, good lasts forever."  
*Pope Francis*

### The Church Boiler

Dear Friends, Our Church boiler installed when the Church was built has now become unserviceable, after 20 years of service. To replace it with a New one which is a necessity, would cost us **£4,000.00**. As the cold weather is almost upon us the Church needs to be heated. Therefore, I ask for any donations towards the cost of a new Boiler would be greatly appreciated. Donation envelopes are available on the table in the lobby of the Church, please take one; put your donation in and bring it back next weekend. There are envelopes that can be used by people who can gift aid their donation, so if you are a tax payer, please, leave an envelope with your donation signed and we will do the rest. Alternatively, you could pay by card using contactless given or transfer by bank. I thank you for your generosity and help. Last weekend we received **£539.00**. The new boiler installation is scheduled for next Tuesday. God bless,  
*Fr Christopher*

### PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM:

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

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

Parents Meeting will be on 2 December 2021 at 7pm. Children will need two books: First Reconciliation & First Communion. Parents should be prepared to buy a book/books on Thursday: £20 for each—cash only.

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; <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: £158.51 envelopes: £256.00 contactless collection last weekend: £128.00 total: **£543.00**  
Standing orders in October **£2643.30**

**Sick & Retired Priests,**

We collected **£251.00** for the second collection for our Sick and Retired Priests' Fund. Once again I thank you for your generosity. God bless you all.

*Fr. Christopher*

**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

**PARISH PROJECT**

Before the pandemic, a small working group of parishioners were looking at extending the hall and re-ordering some of the parish rooms. We have picked up this project again and would welcome your feedback on the architect's plans before we make further decisions and consider financing it. Plans will be on display in the church during Advent. Please look out for further announcements. Thank you,

*Fr Christopher*