

NEWSLETTER

2 SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

On the road to Bethlehem

Each time I am in the Holy Land and in particular Bethlehem. I wonder what the journey might have been for our Blessed Mother and St Joseph. Traveling along the dusty roads, on a donkey gently guided by Joseph protecting our Blessed Mother with child. Navigating, through the pandemonium of highways and byways packed with people pushing to reach the destination to comply with Roman power and domination.

For Joseph and Mary, this call to go to Bethlehem to register is a sign from God, and it confirms that the child to be born is the shepherd king and saviour of his people. It fulfils the promise that the Anointed One would be born in Joseph's hometown of Bethlehem.

Before dawn, they set out, Mary on a donkey, Joseph leading the way keen on a good start before darkness. Mary heavily pregnant almost reaching the end of her term, is sensitive to jolts, twists, and turns. It's a perilous journey to take with wild beasts, desert wastes with pirates that prey on the vulnerable. There is Joseph gently guiding and keeping ever closer with Mary to protect and provide to fulfil his mission.

What joy that greets them as they see in the distance the Holy City. A very last effort to reach the City of David. and to find lodgings before nightfall. Mary cries that her contractions have begun, the pain is excruciating, no one has any room, but a kind soul who sees Mary's condition takes pity and points to a cave where animals shelter but it's smelly, and yet it's dry warm, and free. This is not what Joseph envisaged but it's better than nothing. For Mary, it's holy ground where she could lie down to prepare.

As night falls and people settle down, wrapped in their own petty complaints. They are completely oblivious to heaven coming to bless the earth, as the water breaks Mary about to give birth. it's agony and ecstasy, with humanity and divinity joined together as one.

Fr. Christopher

"Jesus is our friend! That is what he told his disciples at the Last Supper... Friendship with Jesus cannot be broken. He never leaves us, even though at times it appears that he keeps silent. When we need him, he makes himself known to us; he remains at our side wherever we go... Having Jesus as a friend is an immense consolation. It can turn each of us into a grateful and joyful disciple, one capable of showing that our frailties are no obstacle to living and proclaiming the Gospel. In fact, a trusting and personal friendship with Jesus can serve as the spiritual key to accepting the limitations that all of us have, and thus to be at peace with them." *Pope Francis*

This weekend: "We pray for an end to abortion. We pray especially that the Government would see the harm caused by the temporary 'DIY' abortion scheme, and that efforts to end this practice would be successful.

Lord hear us".

MASS INTENTIONSDec 3rd, 2021

6pm - Holy Souls

Dec 4th, 2021

9am— Pro Populo

11am— Deceased members of Ogu and Nwokej Families

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 & next two Sundays

1 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

1st Reading— Micah 5: 1-4,
Psalm Isaiah 79:2-3,15-16, 18-19 response v 4
2nd Reading - Hebrews 10; 5-10
Gospel – Luke 1; 39-45

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

Daily Act of Consecration To the Sacred Heart of Jesus & Immaculate Heart of Mary

Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary, I Consecrate my entire self to the Most Holy Love of Your Two Hearts. I wish to make reparation for all the sins of the world, including my own. I offer these things for the love of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. I will keep my mind on beauty and turn my thoughts from evil things, I will not show off, but remain humble. I will offer up all my sufferings, sickness, and hurts. I will seek God's will, not my own. I will show appreciation for the kindness, the blessings that I receive, from God for all things. I will do everything in my life for the love of God. And I will love others, as God loved me.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, receive the offerings and consecration I now make of myself to You. Keep me faithful unto death. Bring me one day to the Happy Home in Heaven. I desire to live forever with God the Father and the Most Holy Spirit and You my Jesus, together with your Most Immaculate Mother. Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary, please protect us. Amen

Received via email

from my friend Dorothy Coomarewell

"If we think about it, our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines... How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small ways, and in everyday ways, how to accept and deal with a crisis by adjusting their routines, looking ahead and encouraging the practice of prayer. How many are praying, making sacrifices and interceding for the good of all. Dear brothers and sisters, I think of the many people who find it difficult to find meaningful bonds in their lives, and because of this they struggle, they feel alone, they lack the strength and courage to go on."
Pope Francis

MEDITATION taken from Sister Faustina's Diary:

Meditation: When I met with the Lord, I said to Him, "You are fooling me, Jesus; You show me the open gate of heaven, and again You leave me on earth." The Lord said to me, **When, in heaven, you see these present days, you will rejoice and will want to see as many of them as possible. I am not surprised, My daughter, that you cannot understand this now, because your heart is overflowing with pain and longing for Me. Your vigilance pleases Me. Let My word be enough for you; it will not be long now** (*Diary*, 1787).

My Prayer Response:

Lord Jesus, I long to see Your face and rejoice in Your presence as I live in this vale of tears. Give me courage, Lord, to persevere in serving You until You call me home to be with You forever

He who loves the coming of the Lord is not who affirms that is not far off, nor is it he who says it is near, but rather he who whether it be far off or near, awaits it with sincere faith steadfast hope, and fervent love. *St Augustine*

NEIGHBOURS IN POPLAR, St. Matthias Community Centre

113 Poplar High Street, E14 0AE

tel; 02079870257 www.neighboursinpoplar.com

Christmas Meals 2021

Neighbours in Poplar volunteers will be cooking and delivering hot festive meals over Christmas and New Year. Would you be able to spread a message and perhaps alert older people you know, who may be looking to spending Christmas on their own?

We need to know if you need a meal on Saturday, 25th December 2021 or on Sunday, 26th December 2021; on Saturday 1st January 2022 or Sunday, 2nd January 2022.

There will be no Wednesday deliveries on December 29th or January 5th.

The Church Boiler

Dear Friends, Our Church new boiler was installed on 1st of December. It will cost us **£4,000.00**. I am grateful for all your donations so far as we have received **£974.00**. You can still join the collection. 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. 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 who did not attend the meeting: please, come to the church office to buy the books. Children will need two books: First Reconciliation & First Communion. Each book is £20 —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 in mid February, date will be confirmed later**. 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: £136.27 envelopes: £226.00 contactless collection last weekend: £187.00 total: **£549.27**
Standing orders in October **£2643.30**

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