

## NEWSLETTER

3 SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

## Baptised by Spirit and Fire

We must simply live in Jesus Christ. Rather he himself must be our life and must live in us. he must live in us with his spirit, with his grace, with the impression of his mysteries, with the application of his merits, with the efficacy of his sacraments, above all with the sacrament of his Body and Blood so that we can say with the Apostle: *I live now not with my own life but with the life of Christ who lives in me (Gal 2:20)*. This means that Christ lives in our hearts and reigns there like a master and king. It means that Christ's spirit expands and grows in us and that, like life-giving, heat, Christ encompasses us, sets everything, and divinises everything. He loves with our heart thinks with our mind, speaks with our tongue, and works with our hands. For him we consume ourselves; for his glory, we study; with his grace, we perform our duties; for love of him we bear pain; to give him pleasure we enjoy pastimes and partake of nourishment itself. His throne is established in the heart of every Christian: *the kingdom of God is among you (Lk 17:21)*.

A coin must have the image of the sovereign; otherwise, it would not be worth anything and could not circulate in the marketplace. In the same way the works of Christians cannot earn heaven because nothing pleases the eternal Father if it does not display the image of his Son and does not, in some way, bear his likeness.

*Blessed John Baptist Scalabrini*

"The pandemic has had a global impact; it has made us realize that we are all on the same boat; it has made us experience what it means to have identical fears. We have come to understand that the great issues must be faced together, since in today's world piecemeal solutions are inadequate... The future of us all is at stake, and that future will be peaceful only if it is integrated. Only if it is reconciled with the most vulnerable will the future be prosperous... When we reject the poor, we reject peace."

*Pope Francis*

"I ask God to rouse us from our disregard for those who are suffering, to shake us from an individualism that excludes others, to awaken hearts that are deaf to the needs of our neighbours. I ask every man and woman, all of us, to overcome the paralysis of fear, the indifference that kills, the cynical disregard that nonchalantly condemns to death those on the fringes! Let us combat at its root the dominant mind set that revolves around ourselves, our self-interest, personal and national, and becomes the measure and criterion of everything."

*Pope Francis*

This weekend: *"Today we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patron saint of the unborn. We ask for her guidance and inspiration as we, the Church, seek to support all pregnant mothers and unborn children, and that we would become models of support to all in society. Lord hear us"*.

## Readings for this &amp; next Sunday

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

## MASS INTENTIONS

## Dec 11th , 2021

6pm - Pro Populo

## Dec 12th, 2021

9am— Jan Bednarczyk  
(Anniv)

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*

## 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



### 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*

**NEIGHBOURS IN POPLAR,  
St. Matthias Community Centre  
113 Poplar High Street, E14 0AE  
tel; 02079870257  
[www.neighboursinpoplar.com](http://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.

## MEDITATION taken from Sister Faustina's Diary: With a Despairing Soul

Meditation Jesus: **Tell Me all, My child, hide nothing from Me, because My loving Heart, the Heart of your Best Friend, is listening to you.**

Soul: Your response.

Jesus (interrupting): **Do not be absorbed in your misery — you are still too weak to speak of it — but, rather, gaze on My Heart filled with goodness, and be imbued with My sentiments. Strive for meekness and humility; be merciful to others, as I am to you; and, when you feel your strength failing, if you come to the fountain of mercy to fortify your soul, you will not grow weary on your journey** (*Diary*, 1486).

Your response My Prayer Response:

Lord Jesus, draw souls overwhelmed by their miseries to gaze at Your Heart filled with goodness. Draw them to the fountain of mercy to strengthen them on their journey. Teach them to be meek and humble. And teach them to be merciful as You are to them.

"Dear brothers and dear sisters, our lives are very often not what we imagine them to be. Especially in loving and affectionate relationships, it is difficult to move from the logic of falling in love to the logic of a mature love... You newlyweds, think about this. The first phase is always marked by a certain enchantment that makes us live immersed in the imaginary that is often not based on reality and facts – the falling in love phase. But precisely when falling in love with its expectations seems to come to an end, that is where true love begins or true love enters in there. In fact, to love is not the pretension that the other person, or life, should correspond to our imagination. Rather, it means to choose in full freedom to take responsibility for one's life as it comes... This movement from falling in love to mature love is a demanding choice, but we must choose that path."

*Pope Francis*

## CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

**Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021**      **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Masses at 6pm, Saturday & 9am & 11am Sunday

Confession on Saturday - 5pm – 5.45 pm

**Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

6.00pm

11.30 pm

**Christmas Eve**

Children's Mass for Christmas

Midnight Mass of Christmas

with Carols before

**Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**Christmas Day**

Mass at 11am

**Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> December**

**The Holy Family of Jesus,**

**Mary and Joseph**

Mass at 11am

**27<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

No Mass

**28<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

No Mass

**29<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

10 am Mass with Altar Servers

Renewal of Promises

**30<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

10 am Mass

**31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

11 am Mass

**Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022**

11 am Mass

**Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022**

**Second Sunday after Nativity**

Mass at 11am

**2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022**

No Mass

**From 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**all Masses at usual times**

**6<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**The Epiphany of the Lord**

9.15am & 8pm Mass

## Crib Collection

Dear Friends, Permit me, to thank you for your generosity in giving to the Crib Collection over the years. This year your offerings to the crib collection will be used by Catholic Children's Society to help and support the poorest in our midst. Also, could I ask, that you pray for the Christians in the Holy Land who are going through a difficult time?

Thank you, Fr Christopher

## Decorating the Church

Next Sunday 19th December, immediately after the 11 am Mass, we would like to decorate the church for Christmas. If you would be able to volunteer to assist, please see John Chesson, who would direct you.

Many thanks

Fr Christopher

## Congratulations

Dear Friends,

I take this opportunity to thank Gail O' Flaherty, the staff and pupils of St Edmund's for again being ranked among the top five schools in the 'league table in the borough of Tower Hamlets, despite the pandemic. It is also on the list of the top 500 schools in the country. Do continue to remember the staff and pupils in your prayers.

**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: £150.09 envelopes: £177.00 contactless collection last weekend: £139.00 total: **£466.09**  
Standing orders in October **£2353.00**

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 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 **£5329.00**. I thank you for your generosity and help. God bless,

*Fr Christopher*