

## NEWSLETTER

4 SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT

## The Visitation

After angel Gabriel had spoken with Mary. Mary proceeded to travel to her older cousin Elizabeth traveling from Nazareth to Ein Karim a long journey. Mary who carries the secret-she is the womb of God. The visitation of Mary could be described as a Eucharistic moment. Meaning, that the light of Christ comes to Elizabeth through Mary They both rejoice! Mary's desire was to visit her cousin in loving service to assist her pregnant cousin.

It is a wonderful encounter: two women, bound by kinship, both bearing sons, both blest by the Lord, It must have been affirming to Mary that the angel's revelation made to her, is understood by her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth is the first to bear witness to the Lord's presence in our world. We too can bear witness and encourage each other along the way. Helping the other to notice God brings hope and consolation, way beyond our expectations.

We can imagine this encounter of the two women, but four. The forerunner and the Messiah are physically present, each in the womb of his mother. Here, a young Galilean carries within her womb the one, 'who is and who was and who is to come'. At this juncture, the new covenant of God with his people is beginning. This covenant is renewed in our own life!

In this life, we are sharers in the sorrows, 'mourning and weeping in this vale of tears'. If we remain faithful we can be sharers in the happiness of the life to come. In Luke's Gospel, joy emerges wherever Jesus happens to be, Angels, shepherds rejoice at his birth. His disciples cannot fast or mourn while he is still around. Zacchaeus rejoices when Jesus comes to his house, The two disciples on the road to Emmaus were overcome when they recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread, and they hurried back to Jerusalem to share their joy with the others.

Lord, as Christmas draws near, free us from being self-absorbed and self-centred. Instead, fill us with eagerness and generosity of heart. Like Mary, may we go out in loving service of others and experience your love leaping in us and in those with whom we come into contact because you are near.

*Fr. Christopher*

This weekend: "We pray for all expectant mothers. We pray for an overwhelming sense of hope and joy to fill their lives, and for increased support to be provided by their family, friends and local communities, as they journey through this life-changing experience. Lord hear us".

## Readings for this &amp; next Sunday

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

1st Reading— Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 12-14  
Psalm 127: 1-5 response v 1  
2nd Reading - Colossians 3; 12-21  
Gospel – Luke 2; 41-52

## MASS INTENTIONS

## Dec 18th , 2021

6pm - Holy Souls

## Dec 19th, 2021

9am— Pro Populo

11am— Priests of the  
Deanery

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



**Fourth Sunday  
of Advent**

### A Prayer for Christmas

Lord Jesus, born in Bethlehem, we pray for our brothers and sisters in the land of your birth. May you strengthen us with them to be the lights of the world. May we witness to your grace, like the shepherds long ago, and may we proclaim in our lives all that we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

"Faith is not an abstract theory, a generalized theory – no! Faith touches us personally and transforms each of our lives. Let us think about the concreteness of our faith. Is my faith abstract, something abstract or concrete? Does it lead me toward serving others, helping out?"  
*Pope Francis*

"Life is not meaningless; it is not left up to chance. No! It is a gift the Lord grants us, saying to us: discover who you are, and work hard to make the dream that is your life come true! Each of us – let's not forget this – has a mission to accomplish... How can I contribute to the good of the Church, to the good of society? The Advent Season is meant for this: to stop and ask ourselves how to prepare for Christmas. We are so busy with all the preparations, with gifts and things that pass. But let us ask ourselves what we should do for Jesus and for others!"  
*Pope Francis*

### 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.

"Let's choose something concrete, even if it is small, that is adapted to our situation in life, and let's continue doing it to prepare us for this Christmas. For example: I can call a person who is alone, visit that elderly person or that person who is ill, do something to serve a poor person, someone in need. Even still: maybe I need to ask forgiveness, grant forgiveness, clarify a situation, pay a debt. Perhaps I have neglected prayer and after so much time has elapsed, it's time to ask the Lord for forgiveness. Brothers and sisters, let's find something concrete and do it! May the Madonna help us, in whose womb God took on flesh."  
*Pope Francis*

### Decorating the Church

This Sunday, 19th December, immediately after the 11 am Mass, we will decorate the church for Christmas. If you are able to assist, please see John Chesson, who would direct you. Many thanks

Fr Christopher

### 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

Dear Friends,

The little child Jesus of Bethlehem is the central figure of human history; in him, we find all human journeys. In this season, here in this place, the choice is easy, it is strong, and we all can say with a heart full of joy: He came for me.

We wish you and your families a holy Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Fr. Chris & Katherine



## 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** *Christmas Eve*

6.00pm

Children's Mass for Christmas

11.30 pm

Midnight Mass of Christmas with Carols before

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

11am

Mass of Christmas Day

**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

**3<sup>rd</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



**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: £163.77 envelopes: £116.00 contactless collection last weekend: £149.00 total: **£466.09**  
Standing orders in November **£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 cost us **£4,000.00**. I am grateful for all your donations , have received **£5339.00**. I thank you for your generosity and help. God bless,

*Fr Christopher*