

# NEWSLETTER

**13TH  
FEBRUARY**
**6TH SUNDAY  
OF ORDINARY  
TIME**

## The Beatitudes

Jesus is giving us the Beatitudes from Luke! Telling us how to turn negatives (poverty, hunger, hatred) into opportunities to show the love God has for those who suffer and feel left behind. This message of love is for all of us and it's a call to help others. We need to understand that there is a variety of poverty, hunger, and hatred.

What can we do today to share God's love with those who really need it? Could we identify a hunger that someone is suffering from, which could be a hunger due to isolation or loneliness? Could we help someone who may be suffering from spiritual hunger, by using the gifts that God has given us?

Jesus is telling us that Father's endless love is poured out first to the neediest—the marginalised, the despised, the refugee, the asylum seekers the homeless, those in poor housing, the families struggling to make ends meet, those with disabilities, and those who keep falling through the cracks. Then he looks at us and tells us, 'I want you to be like my Father in the way you love, in our place, and in our time. Love the neediest!

This weekend is the International Day for the sick. We pray for them and learn from them. Remember one saint who was bed-ridden for nearly 38 yrs, 'We are all dupes. We seek happiness and find sorrow. We offer ourselves for suffering and find joy' (St Marthe Rubin) Jesus seems to be saying happy the unhappy, What must he mean? Blessed means the condition of being righteous before God, of living as one should before God. The poor are not only those who are economically poor but include those who have been marginalised in any way in society. They are blessed because God is on their side as opposed to the 'rich' who often hold them in contempt and oppress them. Jesus is appealing for love and respect for all those who are outside one's social milieu.

*Fr. Christopher*

This weekend: "We pray for all unborn children diagnosed with disabilities, we pray for their protection and that of their mothers from the pressures of society to have an abortion, and that they would instead experience overwhelming love and support from all who surround them. Lord hear us".

## Readings for this & next Sunday

1st Reading— Jeremiah 17: 5-8

Psalm 1: 1-4, 6 response Psalm 39:5

2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 15;12, 16-20

Gospel – Luke 6;17, 20-26

1st Reading— Samuel 26: 2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

Psalm 102: 1-4, 8, 10, 12-13 response v 8

2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 15; 45-49

Gospel – Luke 6;17, 27-38

## MASS INTENTIONS

**February 12th, 2022**

6pm - Tom Madden RIP

**February 13th, 2022**

9am— Pro Populo

11am— Sick & Housebound

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

NEXT BAPTISMAL COURSE WILL BE ON **23 FEBRUARY** ON ZOOM. READ THE LAST PAGE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

***Sharing in the Blessedness of Christ***

Holiness demands a constant effort, but it is possible for everyone because, rather than a human effort, it is first and foremost a gift of God, thrice holy. The Apostle John remarks: '*Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are*'. It is God, therefore, who loved us first and made us his adoptive sons in Jesus. Everything in our lives is a gift of his love: how can we be indifferent before such a great mystery? How can we not respond to the heavenly Father's love by living as grateful children? In Christ, he gave us the gift of his entire self and calls us to a personal and profound relationship with him. Consequently, the more we imitate Jesus and remain united to him the more we enter into the mystery of his divine holiness. We discover that he loves us infinitely, and this prompts us in turn to love our brethren. Loving, always entails an act of self-denial, '*losing ourselves*,' and it is precisely this that makes us happy....,

In truth, the blessed *par excellence* is only Jesus. He is, in fact, the true poor in spirit, the one afflicted, the meek one, the one hungering and thirsting for justice, the merciful, the pure of heart, the peacemaker. He is the one persecuted for the sake of Justice. The Beatitudes shows us the spiritual features of Jesus and thus express his mystery, the mystery of his death and Resurrection. This mystery, which is the mystery of true blessedness, invites us to follow Jesus and thus walk towards it. To the extent that we accept his proposal and set out to follow him—each one in his own circumstances—we too can participate in his blessedness. With him, the impossible becomes possible and even a camel can pass through the eye of a needle; with his help, can we become perfect as the heavenly Father is perfect.

*Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI*

"Why do good to people who are not willing to accept you? It is a question that we too often ask ourselves. But it is a question that helps us understand God better. Faced with our closures, he does not withdraw: he does not put brakes on his love. Faced with our closures, he goes forward. We see a reflection of this in parents who are aware of the ingratitude of their children, but do not stop loving them and doing good to them, because of this. God is the same, but at a much higher level. And today he invites us too to believe in good, to leave no stone unturned in doing good."

*Pope Francis*

"At this moment I am thinking of so many people who are crushed by the weight of life and can no longer hope or pray... Prayer, however, is never an abstract or purely internal gesture, like these spiritualist movements that are more gnostic than Christian... Prayer is always inextricably linked to charity. It is only when we combine prayer with love, the love for children, or the love for our neighbour, that we are able to understand the Lord's messages."

*Pope Francis*

**Dear Friends,**

How the time has passed since I came here to this parish of St Edmunds. As I look back at twenty-five years of ministry where the Holy Trinity has taken me and I have enjoyed every minute with its challenges. Made so many friends: Yet having said all that, I am immensely grateful to God the Father for having sent here to St Edmund's a wonderful parish and even excellent parishioners. I thank you all.

In June I shall be celebrating my silver jubilee and I couldn't ask for a better parish in which to celebrate it with all of you. It's a matter of watching this space. In the meantime, we shall be having our Planned Giving Drive commencing on the 5<sup>th</sup> / 6<sup>th</sup> of March; 12th /13th of March; 19th/20<sup>th</sup> of March. Members of the Parish Finance Committee will be speaking to you. The parish needs to be funded adequately and we have to secure its future and the mission for the next generation. As you know, we recently replaced the church boiler, thanks to your generous donations. But we have bills to pay every single month, as every household and we rely on your donations entirely. You might not be able to donate money but you could donate your time instead. We are looking for volunteers in many fields but at the moment the most urgent is to find someone: 1.who could help with Parish website; 2. to help with counting the weekly collection once a month; 3. to clean the church. If interested, give your details to the parish office, where you will be put on a rota ( training will be provided). Could I invite you to reflect on your regular contribution I thank you all from the depths of my heart? May God bless you all

*Fr. Christopher*

### **Open to the Healing Presence of Jesus and Mary**

Jesus came on earth to be my model. I will follow the example of Jesus and walk generously in his steps.

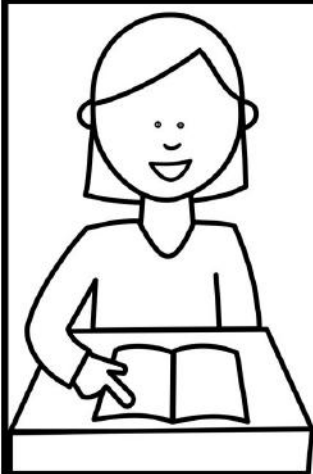
Divine Heart of my Jesus grant that I may love you always more and more.

O Mary, receive my heart as an expiatory victim for my offenses. O Mother, come to my help, give me the grace of dying to myself, so that I no longer live, but in Jesus and for Jesus. O Mother, for love of you I sacrifice all creatures so that my heart may belong entirely to you and to my Jesus.

O my Jesus, I want to follow and imitate you. My Jesus, make me love you. Love me, then crucify me as much as you will. Jesus, my God, I love you above all things. Gentle Jesus, do not be my judge but my Saviour.

Love triumphs, love is joyful. One who loves the Sacred Heart of Jesus rejoices.

O my dear Jesus, the desire of my heart rise to you alone. Jesus, full of grief, who are also the refuge of all grief-stricken souls, your love teaches me that from your desolation I must draw all strength I need. *St Bernadette Soubirous*



#### **Children's Playgroup coming to 11am Mass**

#### **Volunteer Today**

*Parents only. Rota-based  
Expected to arrive 15mins early  
Places limited to children of volunteers  
To open when we have enough volunteers*

**Free** DBS Check provided,  
for Criminal Records and Barred List  
May take two weeks to clear

Please email name, date of birth, address,  
and mobile, to [millwall@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:millwall@rcdow.org.uk)

**Parents Helping Each Other**

#### **Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony**

**Westminster Cathedral,  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at  
3pm.**

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their **5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (and every year over 60)** Wedding Anniversary of Catholic Marriage in 2022. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).



### **Help Us Help Others**

#### **Wanted: One Volunteer**

**Based at Christ Church, Manchester Road, E14 3BN**  
**Must be friendly, team-player, and like to talk**

**Help with setting-up, prayers, signing-in, hospitality,  
shop, registrations, and closing-down**

#### **Training Given**

*Takes place every Tuesday of the year  
Day starts 09.30am. Doors open 10.30am  
Doors close 12.00pm. Day ends 1.00pm*

**Please text name and mobile to 07968-971-874**

#### **Job Opportunity – Warden & Clerk – St Scholastica's Retreat**

Competitive Salary, pension, and accommodation onsite in Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire. The Trustees are seeking to appoint a Warden & Clerk to the Trustees for this almshouse charity that provides sheltered housing for Catholics in financial need aged 60 or over. For details of the role and how to apply, see: [www.stscholasticas.co.uk/warden-clerk-vacancy](http://www.stscholasticas.co.uk/warden-clerk-vacancy)

**Social Action for Health (SAFH) are offering a FREE 8 week course starting on Friday 11th February from 10:30-12:30pm at Trafford Friendship Hall, Trafford Street, Isle of Dogs.**

**Good Moves improves the health, health care utilisation, and self-management for residents with one or more long term condition especially long COVID**

**For more information please contact Dymphna on 07539078072**

**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](mailto: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.**

Parents are asked to come to see Fr Christopher first. Next, they must attend a Baptism Formation Program (during pregnancy or after birth) – The **next baptismal courses will be on 23 February at 7pm on zoom**. Please, drop an email to the office if you are interested, also you have 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: £245.63 envelopes: £298.00

contactless collection last weekend: £77.00

total: **£620.63**

Standing orders in December **£3257.00**

**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