

NEWSLETTER

27TH
FEBRUARY

**8TH SUNDAY
OF ORDINARY
TIME**

Now is the Day of Salvation

The Church repeats to us the powerful appeal which the prophet Joel addressed to the people of Israel: *Now-it is the Lord who speaks-come back to me with all your heart, fasting, weeping, mourning.* The expression with all your heart is important: it means from the core of our thoughts and feelings, from the wellspring of our free decisions, choices, and actions, in an act of complete and radical freedom. But is such a return to God possible? Yes, because there is a power which does not reside in our own hearts, but springs from God's own heart. It is the power of his mercy. The prophet goes on to say: *Turn to the Lord your God again, for he is all tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in graciousness, and ready to relent.* To return to the Lord is possible as grace, for it is God's own work and the fruit of our faith in his mercy. This return to God becomes a concrete reality in our lives only when the Lord's grace penetrates and deeply shakes us, enabling us to rend our hearts. In our own day, lots of people are ready to rend their garments in the face of scandals and acts of injustice-the fault naturally of others-but few seem prepared to do something about their own hearts, their own consciences, and their own intentions, allowing the Lord to transform, renew, and convert them.

Well, now is the favourable time; this is the day of salvation. These words of the Apostle Paul also echo in our hearts with an urgency that leaves no room for absence or inertia. The frequent repetition of the word now tells us that we cannot let this moment pass: it is given to us as a unique and unrepeatable opportunity.

The Apostle fixes his gaze on the sharing which Christ wanted to characterise his life, by taking upon himself all that is human, even our sin. Saint Paul's words are forceful: God made him *into sin* for our sake. Jesus, the innocent one, the holy one, *the sinless one*, took upon himself the burden of sin by sharing with humanity its wages of death, even death on a cross. In this, God's immersion in human suffering and the abyss of evil is the root of our justification. To return to God with all your heart on this Lenten journey means embracing the cross, following Christ along the path which leads to Calvary, unto complete self-giving. It is a journey which teaches us each day to abandon our selfishness and self-absorption in order to make room for God, who opens and transforms our hearts.

Dear Brothers and sisters, let us begin our Lenten journey with joyful confidence. May we feel deep within us the call to conversion, to return to God with all our heart, accepting his grace which makes us new men and women, with that astonishing newness which is a share in the very life of Jesus. May none of us be deaf to this appeal, which comes to us in the austere rite, at once so simple and so evocative, of the imposition of ashes?

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church and the model of all authentic disciples of the Lord, accompany us throughout this Lenten season.

Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI

Please pray for the people and the land of Ukraine

'Almighty God, Through Jesus' Divine name and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we humbly ask for your mercy, to obtain peace in the land of Ukraine. May all the people of that Country remain safe from danger. Please do not let Chaos and war reign in the land of Ukraine but only peace that come from you'. Amen

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be

Readings for this & next Sunday

1st Reading— Ecclesiasticus 27, 4-7
Psalm 91: 1-4, 2-4, 13-16 response v 2
2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 15; 54-58
Gospel – Luke 6; 39-45

1st Reading— Deuteronomy 26, 4-10
Psalm 90: 1-2, 10-15 response v 15
2nd Reading - Romans 10; 8-13
Gospel – Luke 4; 1-13

MASS INTENTIONS

February 26th, 2022

6pm - Holy Souls

February 27th, 2022

9am— Pro Populo

11am— Ints of Winship
Family

Ash Wednesday;

A day of fast and abstinence

9.15am Pro Populo

8.00pm Ints of Priest of our
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

Ash Wednesday

Holy Father Pope Francis has said, 'His heart aches over the situation in Ukraine and has asked all the faithful to hold a 'Day of Fasting for Peace' on Ash Wednesday 2nd March.

He goes on to say, Despite the Diplomatic efforts of the last few weeks, increasingly alarming scenarios are opening up. Pope Francis continues, many people all over the world are feeling anguish and concern. Please continue to pray for Ukraine and its people.
Thank you

Laying Hold of Christ's 'Store of Goodness'

Each day in the life of a Catholic who would lead a spiritual life—who would, in fact, live as a true Catholic and member of Christ—should flow and develop from the offering our Lord makes of him every day in Mass. The duties of the day are the fulfilment of the promise made of loving service; the hardships of the day are the evidence of that generous submission. If this task seems to be above our strength, let us remember that we are not alone, God is with us. And it must never be forgotten that it is in the Mass that he gives us his *own* Body and Blood as our food so that we may have his strength to live his life. He has promised that those who eat his bread shall live by him.

Not only has he given us himself, but he has given us his Spirit—God, the Holy Spirit—as a permanent gift who dwells in our souls to animate and strengthen us and to make us capable of living divinely as members of Christ. In all things that the will of God demands, God the Holy Spirit is himself our strength more than adequate for their performance. There is then nothing in God's plan of which we are incapable.

That is why we can so confidently offer ourselves to God in the Mass. For in doing the will of God we become the 'meat' of Christ; we are 'consecrated' and transformed into his Body by the action of the Holy Spirit. Each time we do his will for love of him we are born anew in him, and he in us. We give ourselves to him by doing his will instead of our own, and we find in that very act that he is given to us. By living the Mass we become more and more one in Christ. That is our whole destiny, for Christ is all. We bring him forth in ourselves through faith, hope, and charity by doing the will of God in humble submission. He is the fruit of our lives and we need seek for no other. No more is needed of us, even by God. For Christ is his glory. God made the world for his glory. We must live for that glory. We cannot give him greater glory than by bringing forth Christ in our lives, by putting on Christ, by entering into Christ, for Christ it is through whom and with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, is all the glory of God.

Dom M. Eugene Boylan, O.C.R

Dear Friends, in our Gospel on Friday, Jesus defines the fundamental sacredness of marriage. I'm convinced that the deep sacramental and religious meaning of marriage—even within the Church—has been, in recent years, dramatically compromised. We say that marriage is a vocation, but do we mean it?

We can look at human sexual relationships at a number of different levels. Two people can come together purely for physical pleasure, for economic reasons, or for psychological companionship. And we might witness two people coming together out of authentic love. But none of these levels is what the Bible means by marriage. I would invariably ask young couples, "Why do you want to get married in church?" Most would say something like, "Because we love each other." But I would reply, "Well, that's no reason to get married in church."

They usually looked stunned, but I meant it. You come to church to be married before God and his people when you are convinced that your marriage is not, finally, about you; that it is about God and about serving God's purposes; that it is, as much as the priesthood of a priest, a vocation, a sacred calling.

Fr Christopher

'let me take the splinter that is in your eye'

We may put on a good show of words, and actions, but is what is at the root of these that is visible to God. Because God sees the heart and always does. When we focus on the faults of others, which might be true, it takes away the focus of our own.

Fr. Tony de Mello used to say, 'when I change, my whole world changes' not only that, but when I change, other people are likely to change but, if they don't, my attitude towards them will not be the same. Quoting Fr Tony de Mello again, 'Attitude is everything'-my attitude.

When Jesus, tells us to hold off criticism until we have cleared our own slate, he is telling us not to criticise at all, because we are not above criticism ourselves. Remember the story of the woman caught in adultery. Jesus said, 'Let him who is without sin cast the first stone!' what did happen? They walked away, beginning with the eldest. Throwing stones, or casting aspersions on others, is an ignoble business. Taking to pieces is the trade of those who cannot construct. Jesus might have seen someone trying to take the speck out of the eye or may watched blind people leading each other.

Fr. Christopher

Dear Friends, The Finance Committee in conjunction with the Diocese was to Hold a Planned Giving Drive here in the Parish Commencing on 5th /6th ; 12th /13th ; 19th /20th of March. In the light of the current climate with the cost of living rising and Putin not helping matters. The Diocese and I have decided to differ the Drive until after Easter.

In the meanwhile, I ask you to consider your giving by taking Planned Giving Envelopes which will be issued in March. You can always use the Contactless machine at the back of the church donating by card and there is a possibility to gift aid your donations made by card as well. You may consider Gift Aiding your Giving and even giving by Direct Debit. Alternatively you could donate your time in the various fields such as: Helping with the Parish website; Volunteering to count the weekly collection by going on a rota; Helping to clean the church by going on a rota. Finally, we also, need volunteers for Catechesis in Baptism; RCIA; First Holy Communion. If you are interested, then give your details to the parish office, indicating where you would like to help. Many Thanks and God bless you all.

Fr. Christopher

“Only love makes us capable of speaking the truth fully, in a non-partisan way; of saying what is wrong, but also of recognising all the goodness and holiness that are present in the Church, starting precisely with Jesus and Mary. Loving the Church, safeguarding the Church and walking with the Church. But the Church is not that little group that is close to the priest and commands everyone, no. The Church is everyone, everyone. On a journey. Safeguarding one another, looking out for each other.”

Pope Francis

“Dear brothers and sisters, I encourage you to ask for the intercession of Saint Joseph precisely in the most difficult times in your life and in that of your communities. Where our mistakes become a scandal, let us ask Saint Joseph to give us the courage to speak the truth, ask for forgiveness, and humbly begin again. Where persecution prevents the Gospel from being proclaimed, let us ask Saint Joseph for the strength and patience to endure abuse and suffering for the sake of the Gospel. Where material and human resources are scarce and make us experience poverty... let us pray to Saint Joseph to be Providence for us.”

Pope Francis

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2022

The impact of Covid-19 is still being felt by everyone, I am grateful for your generosity. There are fewer donation envelopes, and you will see that both the envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with your phone camera to give online. The funds raised in this year's appeal will be shared between parishes and Caritas Westminster. The effects of the pandemic are making daily life harder for all. The Church is responding with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need. Just as a mosaic is made up of many different coloured pieces, each one unique, each person's contribution to this mosaic of hope will bring light into the lives of people across the Diocese. Please take a donation envelope as you leave the Church from the table in the lobby. I thank you for your generosity. God bless.

Fr Christopher

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony

Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 14th May 2022 at 3pm.

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their **5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (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).



**The Rosary Group's
Monthly Prayer Meeting**

Sunday 06th Mar

**Meet by statue of Blessed
Virgin Mary after 11am Mass**

*Meetings held 1st Sunday of every month,
plus every Sunday in May and October*

Open to all. Beginners Welcome
Bring your Rosary. Booklets Provided
Pray With Us † Pray The Rosary



Help Us Help Others

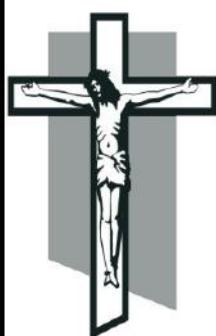
Wanted: One Volunteer

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



Stations of the Cross

**Takes place: Every Friday
in Lent, 7pm, 30 mins**

Dates: 04Mar, 11th, 18th, 25th, 01Apr, 08th
Events led by new Readers
All Welcome. Please Attend

London Docklands Singers want to invite you
for

St Matthew Passion—J S Bach

On Saturday, 2 April 2022

at 7.30pm

At All Saints Church, Poplar E14

Ticket £15 (£12)

londondocklandssingers.org

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.

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 28 April 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: £223.70 envelopes: £200.00 contactless collection last weekend: £64.00 total: **£487.70**

Standing orders in December **£3257.00**

Last Sunday there was a problem with our card reader and some people were not able to make a card donation. The problem happened due to a poor internet connection, we believe. But we are sorry for any inconvenience caused. We put a new Wi-Fi connection and a new router with a hope that it is not going to happen again.

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

“Nowadays it is common, it is an everyday occurrence, to criticise the Church, to point out its inconsistencies — there are many — to point out its sins, which in reality are our inconsistencies, our sins, because the Church has always been a people of sinners who encounter God’s mercy. Let us ask ourselves if, deep in our hearts, we love the Church as she is, the People of God on a journey, with many limitations, but with a great desire to serve and to love God.” *Pope Francis*