

NEWSLETTER

3RD SUNDAY
OF LENT**Repentance and Forgiveness**

Repentance is a powerful word. We should use it not only in Lent but constantly because daily we commit acts, say words, have inward movements that we are sorry for, wish we have not said or done, and in some way wish to atone for. That is good. It is also good to know that sin is not the immediate cause of this or that calamity. Sometimes God sends us sorrow, trials, and sadness so that we repent, do penance, and turn our face to him. At times it is very hard to understand that those calamities and tragedies can make us understand the love of God and his tenderness and mercy shine with a new shine, better than ever. Let us be reassured and let us open ourselves to whatever God sends us.

A supposed calamity changes into a benediction, into something we could offer to God. Let us look at things that way: it takes faith, but you pray for faith.

Let us be listeners of Christ's voice, and realise that what seems to us a tragedy is but a message, full and pressed down, of his love. Pain and suffering can lead to repentance and unite us again with Christ, especially if we have lost him temporarily.

Sin is turning my back on God. I walk away from God, into a deadly place, a Godless place, in which I look at mirrors, and in every mirror I see myself. Sin is the adoration of self, in a manner of speaking, instead of God. The Eastern Churches pray: 'Turn not away your face from your servant, for I am afflicted. Hear me speedily, attend to my soul and deliver me!'

Listen and you will understand the stating point of Lent, the mysterious mixture, of darkness and light. I stand before God, before the glory and the beauty of his kingdom. I realise that I belong to it, that I have no other home, no other joy, no other goal. I also realise that I am exiled from it in the darkness and sadness of sin: 'for I am afflicted Lord,' Only God can help is that affliction, only he can attend to my soul.

Servant of God Catherine De Hueck Doherty

"If we fall, let us stretch out our hand to the Father, who always lifts us up. If we are lost, if we are misled by the enticements of the evil one, let us not hesitate to return to God, who "is generous in forgiving." In this season of conversion, sustained by God's grace and by the communion of the Church, let us not grow tired of doing good. The soil is prepared by fasting, watered by prayer, and enriched by charity." *Pope Francis*

"Lent is a favourable time to seek out – and not to avoid – those in need; to reach out – and not to ignore – those who need a sympathetic ear and a good word; to visit – and not to abandon – those who are lonely. Let us put into practice our call to do good to all, and take time to love the poor and needy, those abandoned and rejected, those discriminated against and marginalized." *Pope Francis*

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

"Tomorrow, we will celebrate World Down Syndrome Day. We pray especially for the lives of all unborn children diagnosed with Down's syndrome, that as a society we would not view them as a problem to resolve, but as people to love and protect. Lord hear us"

Readings for this & next Sunday

1st Reading— Exodus 17, 3-7

Psalm 94: 1-2, 6-9 response v 9

2nd Reading - Romans 5; 1-2, 5-8

Gospel – Luke 4; 5-42

1st Reading— Joshua 5, 9-12

Psalm 33: 2-7 response v 9

2nd Reading - Corinthians 5; 17-21

Gospel – Luke 15; 1-3, 11-32

MASS INTENTIONS**March 20th, 2022**

6pm - Ints of Tanya

Rajanayake

March 21st, 2022

9am— Pro Populo

11am— For all the Victims
of the conflict in
Ukraine

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

A Date for Your Diary

St Edmund's Penitential Service will be on

22nd March 22 at 8 pm.

'Confession is the Soul's bath. Even a clean and unoccupied room gathers dust; return after a week and you will see that it needs dusting again'

St Padre Pio

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, send now Your Holy Spirit over the earth.

Let the Holy Spirit live in the hearts of all Nations, that they may be preserved from degeneration, disaster, and war. May Our Lady of All Nations, who is your Blessed Mother, be our Advocate and guide.

Amen.

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys,
Glory be

Pope to consecrate Russia and Ukraine to Immaculate Heart of Mary

Pope Francis will consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, on March 25, in St. Peter's Basilica, during the Celebration of Penance that he will preside over at 5:00 pm (Rome time). On the same day, Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, the papal almoner, will carry out a similar act of consecration at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal, as envoy of the Holy Father.

March 25 is a special date. Apart from being the feast of the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, it was on this day, 38 years ago, that in 1984, Saint Pope John Paul II consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Message of Fatima is a call for peace! When Our Lady appeared, in 1917, she told the three shepherd children: "God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls will be saved, and there will be peace". Our Lady had also asked for the consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart, stating that if this request were not granted, Russia would spread "its errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church." "The good," she added, "will be martyred; the Holy Father will have much to suffer, various nations will be destroyed."

The true devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, through ongoing conversion, prayer, penance and reparation, entrusting oneself to God and Mary, will help saving the world and bring about peace! We invite you to pray for peace and join the act of consecration on March 25.

We are making a **Promotional Campaign at our [online Fatima shop](#)** to mark this occasion. For orders of any of the **items listed here or any orders superior to 25,00 Euros**, we will mail you, by post, a beautiful [Fatima Mass Card](#), certifying that a Holy Mass will be celebrated for you and for your intentions, here at Fatima, on the day of the consecration!

Please, read below a response to a letter I had posted to our local MP, Fr Christopher

Dear Christopher,

Thank you for contacting me about the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

I am opposed to unjust wars, illegal invasions, and imperialism.

I am appalled and devastated at the Russian invasion of Ukraine. It is a catastrophic military assault that will cause untold misery and death. This unacceptable act of aggression is a disaster for the people of Ukraine and for people all around the world.

Throughout the period of escalating tensions, including the build-up of Russian troops on the border with Ukraine in recent months, I have been calling on the UK government to do everything it can to bring about a diplomatic solution to this crisis and avoid bloodshed. Moreover, I support calls for urgent diplomatic work by the UK government, in coordination with the international community to put pressure on Russia to end its invasion and withdraw its troops. I want to echo the statement of the United Nations (UN) General Secretary who has called on President Putin to stop the conflict and "in the name of humanity" bring your troops back to Russia."

Likewise, the Trade Union Congress (TUC) have highlighted that "working people always suffer in conflict" and that "the pursuit of peace is a fundamental trade union value, an essential condition to secure safety, social justice and workers' and human rights." They have "encourage[d] solidarity between workers across borders."

I am all too conscious that the horrors of this invasion are being felt brutally by the people of Ukraine. Wars, especially on this scale, always have terrible consequences for civilian populations and many will now be forced to flee their homes. The humanitarian consequences for civilians must be urgently addressed and I note that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' (UNHCR) calls for neighbouring governments to keep borders open to all those that need safety. In my view, the UK government has a moral responsibility to assist refugees from Ukraine fleeing this war – to support humanitarian assistance for forcibly displaced people and to welcome those seeking to come to the UK.

It is now estimated that more than 1 million people – 2% of Ukraine's population – have now fled the country, and projects that more than 4 million may have to flee before the conflict is over. I believe it is vital that these people be supported.

Unfortunately, so far, I do not believe the UK Government has lived up to its humanitarian obligations to the people of Ukraine. While the Government has said it will allow 100,000 relatives of Ukrainian nationals already in the UK to enter, there have been reports that it has stopped accepting visas from desperate people trapped in Ukraine.

Further to this, the Government continues to push through the Nationality and Borders Bill which will criminalise those Ukrainians crossing a border by an irregular route to seek asylum. Many human rights groups have opposed this legislation, and the United Nations (UN) has said it contravenes international law. I will continue to argue for it to be replaced with a humane asylum system that supports those in need, from Ukraine and round the world.

As your MP, I assure you that I will do all I can to support all those Ukrainians in our community, and all those who are worried about family and friends in Ukraine.

I was elected on a manifesto that pledged "to protect our security at home and abroad. It emphasised the need for a "foreign policy based on peace, justice, and human rights." I remain committed to these principles.

I will continue to advocate both inside and outside Parliament against war and for peace, democracy, and human and trade union rights around the world.

Yours sincerely, Apsana Begum MP Member of Parliament for Poplar and Limehouse

Dear Friends, On 25th March, Holy Father will consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in order to express spiritual solidarity with the people of Ukraine and the peace-loving people of Russia. The Cardinal Vincent Nicols will unite the Diocese of Westminster with this Act by reciting the Act of Consecration in Westminster at the end of the 5.30 om Mass on that day. Fr Christopher

"Dear brothers and sisters, rivers of blood and tears are flowing in Ukraine... The number of victims is increasing, as are the people fleeing, especially mothers and children. The need for humanitarian assistance in that troubled country is growing dramatically by the hour. I make a heartfelt appeal for humanitarian corridors to be genuinely secured, and for access to the besieged areas to be guaranteed and facilitated, in order to offer vital relief to our brothers and sisters oppressed by bombs and fear. I thank all those who are taking in refugees... Thank you, brothers and sisters. Let us pray together for Ukraine. Let us pray together, as brothers and sisters, to Our Lady, Queen of Ukraine."

Pope Francis

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2022

There are fewer donation envelopes, and you will see on the donation envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with your phone camera to give online. What you give to 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 parts each piece is unique, each person's contribution will bring light into the lives of people across our Diocese. Please collect a donation envelope as you leave the Church from the table in the lobby. I thank you for your generosity. God bless you all. *Fr Christopher*

Resource ideas for the Lent & Easter

SYCAMORE: are you looking to renew & refresh your faith this Lent in an informal setting, or support for parents with children in sacramental programmes? If so, click: <https://www.sycamore.fm/pathways/b-formation-pathways/lent-course/>

The God Who Speaks – are providing a range of free resources for use in the home, churches & schools to feed our Lent & Eastertide journey <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/the-god-who-speaks/focus/preparing-for-lent-and-eastertide/>

Wintershall comes to Trafalgar Square – be part of something amazing <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/one-good-friday>

St. Edmunds Church needs your help!

The Diocese of Westminster announced in July 2021 the aim of becoming carbon neutral by 2030 in its parishes and curial buildings.

We are inviting you to be a part of this very exciting project. You do not need any particular skills or expertise- just willing to give a few hours a month to meet and take this project forward.

Knowing what you can do to make a difference and where to start can be tricky, especially when we're bombarded with so much jargon and abstract information in the news; it can sometimes feel like everything has a bad impact! What can we do to live more 'sustainably' and what does that really mean? How can we do more for the planet and reduce the environmental impact we have?

If you would like to know more and become involved, please

email millwall@rcdow.org.uk, or provide your details on the information sheets provided on the table at the back of the church

Carbon Neutral Pilot Programme

We will host our 1st meeting on Wednesday 30th March at 7pm in St. Edmunds. All welcome



On the one-year anniversary of the Ever Given ship getting stuck in the Suez Canal, Catholic charity Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) is hosting a webinar about modernisation in the shipping industry. It will look at the history of the container ship, the rise of the ultra-large container vessels, and explore what impact modernisation of the shipping industry has had on seafarers around the world. Please register now at www.stellamaris.org.uk/modernisation to join online on **23 March at 7.30pm** to hear how shipping has changed in the last century, the impact this is having on seafarers today, and the important role Stella Maris has in supporting them.



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

Dear Friends, The photos of the Ceramic Crosses were sent to me via whats app. I insert them in the News Letter the price of each is \$ 150.00. The money raised through your purchase will go to help the Christian families and children in the Holy Land. Contact details:

Ramon Kando & Sons

Bethlehem-Holy Land

Contact person; Lara Kando

Phone: + 972-598184001



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.

NEW DONATION BOXES OF ENVELOPES, For those registered in previous years, the envelopes are now ready for collection in our Sacristy. If you would like to sign up, and to increase your donation by £0.25p from every pound you donate, please, find a Gift Aid form on a table in church's lobby and leave it in the Sacristy or deliver to the office. Once you sign the declaration, I can prepare a box of envelopes for you. You can also donate by standing order.

Do not hesitate to contact the office on Millwall@rcdow.org.uk you should have any question. Katherine

'The Passage, a Catholic charity working with homeless people is raising funds through the Big Give a matched giving scheme from 12.00 noon on Monday 14 March. Every £1 donated online between 12.00 noon on Monday 14 March and 12.00 noon on Monday 28 March makes £2 and £2.25 if you are a taxpayer through Gift Aid. Please visit: <https://bit.ly/BigGiveMarch22> to support the campaign. The campaign 'It takes more than a house to make a home' focuses on the services we provide to people who have been homeless in their journey to being happily settled in a new home. The Passage would be very grateful for your support. For questions about the campaign or assistance making a donation please ring 020 7592 1856.'

THE FRIENDS

The Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral is seeking to recruit a part time Organising Secretary to help administer the charity, assist in recruiting new members and in organising events. The appointment based in Westminster Cathedral Clergy House is for 20 hours per week at a salary in the region of £14,500 per annum. The appointment is for 12 months. Closing date 27 March 2022. For further details please visit <https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/the-friends-seek-an-organising-secretary/>.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

loose: £279.38 envelopes: £265.00

contactless collection last weekend: £149.00

total: **£693.38**

Standing orders in January **£2492.00**

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 send your donation by bank. Parish account is on Parish Web.

Thank you for your Generosity

WRCDT Charity No: 233699