

NEWSLETTER

4TH SUNDAY
OF LENT

PRODIGAL SON

We know how family and reputation is important, and it was no different in Galilee at the time of Jesus. Jesus captured the attention, when he spoke of the father's problems in running a family. This father is vastly different! he lets his disrespectful son have his way, and keeps his heart open to him, forgives him and loads him with honour on his return.

Then we see the father going to the eldest son to win him over so he too can rejoice as the father does. The father's heart and arms are open to both sons; all the father wants is to see the family reconciled and celebrate the feast together. Jesus is saying: 'this is what the kingdom of God is like. This is the goal of human history. This is what God is like. Be glad!'

Each time I let God down, the more magnificent this parable becomes, because it reveals what God is truly like. He is incredibly compassionate and forgiving, desperately wanting the world's happiness, and asking us only that we accept others, no matter what their faults.

The eldest son, resents a love and forgiveness that is not earned but freely given to his wasteful brother. Forgiveness is rarely deserved. If we can rejoice in knowing that we are forgiven despite our unworthiness, we will be much ready to forgive others!

With whom do I identify in this parable? I can identify myself with both sons. The eldest son who is outraged to see the love and forgiveness which is so freely given to his wastrel brother? Or the younger brother, who was given no opportunity to dwell on his wickedness. On his return he was wrapped in his father's arms, all he could do was to receive. Can I think of times when I found it harder to receive than to give? When I was so focused on my sins that I could not enter the Father's loving embrace.

The parable is the good news that Jesus came to give of the Father's love. Fr Christopher

"In this Lenten time, after the labours of each day, it will do us good not to switch off the light in the room without placing ourselves in the light of God. To pray a little before sleeping. Let's give the Lord the chance to surprise us and to reawaken our hearts. We can do this, for instance, by opening the Gospel and letting ourselves be amazed by the Word of God, because the Scripture enlightens our steps and inflames the heart. Or we can look at the crucified Jesus and wonder at the boundless love of God, who never tires of us and has the power to transfigure our days, to give them a new meaning, a new, unexpected light."

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

Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be

"As we celebrate Mothering Sunday, we pray for all mothers who are pregnant. We pray for an overwhelming sense of hope and joy to fill their lives, and for increased support to be given by their family, friends and local communities, as they journey through this life-changing experience. Lord hear us"

Readings for this & next Sunday

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

1st Reading— Isaiah 43, 16-21

Psalm 125 response v 3

2nd Reading - Philippians 3; 8-14

Gospel – John 8; 1-11

MASS INTENTIONS

March 26th, 2022

6pm - Pro Populo

March 27th, 2022

9am— Ints of All Mothers

11am— Ints of Heranchi
Gardener

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 Mother's Day Prayer

Happy Mother's Day

In the name of
JESUS CHRIST,
we lift up all
MOTHERS today.



We thank them for their
sacrifices so that we can
have a life of contentment.
Grant them favour, Lord
and may they have a
wonderful place in existence
in Your heart of **GRACE**.

Archdiocese of Birmingham

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

The children without names

According to figures from the World Health Organization (WHO), on average 73.3 million abortions are performed every year.

200,821 innocent children killed per day; 8,367 per hour. Since you started reading this email, nearly 139 abortions have taken place. 139 per minute. 139 human beings like you and me, only smaller. They are not statistics.

Around the world, CitizenGO is leading the fight to stop the legalized killing and the global abortion "Industry of Death". The Abortion Industry is rich with tax money from dozens of countries and localities, the UN, the EU and fat-cat Leftists like George Soros.

CitizenGO supporters stand against the tide of death everywhere, but we have none of the easy, big money of the Abortion Industry.

In the coming days and weeks, CitizenGO will be actively participating in demonstrations, online events, and rallies in order to defend life.

We will do our best despite the restrictions. CitizenGO team members are organizing in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, Argentina, Italy, Slovakia, Poland, France, New York... *and across the world*, wherever it is necessary—if we can find enough resources to act.

But the Abortion Industry is using its political muscle to try to shut up CitizenGO and shut down pro-life forces. CitizenGO fights back, but it is an uphill fight today.

Pro-lifers have been banned from praying near abortion centres and jailed for participating in pro-life activities in countries like Spain, Germany, the U.S., and more. An increasing number of countries are attempting to forbid conscientious objection for doctors, and President Macron of France demanded abortion be inserted in the Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Ann Kioko in Kenya and CitizenGO are being directly targeted by extreme Left groups demanding we be prosecuted for our pro-life work in Africa. And just as I warned two years ago, the World Health Organization is now pushing for abortion pills to be prescribed through telehealth consultations permanently – a power the Abortion Industry seized in the first days of the Covid pandemic and never wants to give up. If they have their way, abortion pills will soon ship around the world with virtually no limits. Just last week in the UK, shortly after the Department of Health decided to put an end to telemedical abortion, Baroness Sugg hijacked the social care bill in the Lords, who then voted in favour of legislation to once again allow this dangerous scheme. We now have to do whatever we can to stop this from being passed into law.

It is frightening to see how callously these unborn lives are snuffed out.

It's thanks to the support of citizens around the world that we stopped the abortion lobby that wanted to destroy existing legal protection for unborn babies in Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, Malawi, and Colombia. We have stood firm with African countries like Nigeria, Kenya, Namibia, Uganda, where cultural imperialists have spearheaded their pro-abortion campaigns.

Let us keep the momentum. It's crucial that we keep the pressure on now.

Though the UN is trying to stop pro-lifers from having an impact on the Conference on Women (CSW66) by banning us and many other pro-life organizers from holding events at the summit, we have no intention of letting that stop us from being your voice in support of the unborn. We are at this very moment pressuring the decision-makers at the Conference by flooding New York City with pro-life posters, newspaper ads, and bus banners. Simultaneously, CitizenGO campaigners are also in Geneva, defending the dignity of human life in the Human Rights Council of the United Nations. And now that Covid lockdowns are loosening, we are preparing several marches for life in different cities, like Munich, Buenos Aires, Brussels, Madrid, and Rome, just to name a few. But as you know, we don't receive any financial support, grants, or other funds from any government (nor do we want their support). **We only have you** to finance our pro-life efforts.

That is why I am writing to you asking for help. One day, I pray that abortion will be no more than an ugly memory. One day, those terrible figures with which I started this email will be a horror of the past. But that day has not yet come. We do our work in the hope that we will live to see it accomplished. If you are a believer, please pray with me to end abortion, and let God use you to accomplish that purpose.

Thanks to your support, we'll continue working and continue making this world a better place for you, for me, for our children and grandchildren... and for all the children:

If you want to make a donation; go to CitizenGo .

The Holy Confidence of the Prodigal Son

Look at the prodigal son. He leaves his father's house. He displays frightful ingratitude towards his father who is so good; he demands his part of the inheritance to go carousing, far away. Soon he finds himself stripped of everything and is forced to reflect. In the depths of his abjection, he has the grace to recall the goodness of his father. *I will leave this place and go to my father.* This is confidence. But humbly he recognises himself to be a sinner. *Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants.*

You know how the father received him, not as a servant, but as a beloved son. Seeing him coming from afar, he runs to meet him; seized with compassion, he throws himself on his neck, presses him to his heart, and embracing him, he tells his servants: *Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration.* And there was dancing and music. These eloquent details with which the story ends show us a father exulting in his happiness. And why? He tells us why and repeats it to the jealous older brother: *Your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.*

Oh, this desire, this need of the Father of mercies to retrieve his lost child and give him life! That is the heart of God! Remember that each time you pick yourself up after a fall, the feast of the prodigal son is renewed. Your Father in heaven clothes you again in his most beautiful cloak puts a ring on your finger and tells you to dance with joy. In a living faith, you will not approach the confessional with dragging feet, but as if you were going to a feast, even if you have to make a great effort each time to humble yourself and to conquer the monotony of the routine. After the absolution, you should dance like the prodigal son did at the request and for joy of his father. We do not dance enough in the spiritual life.

Fr. Jean Du Coeur De Jesus D' Elbee

"Overwhelmed by the sense of powerlessness against evil or demoralized by the "prophets of doom" — that we think it would be better if we had not been born?... Indeed, we are under pressure, exposed to opposing demands that confuse us. On the one hand, we have the optimism of an eternal youth, kindled by the extraordinary progress of technology, that depicts a future filled with machines that are more efficient and more intelligent than us, that will cure our ills and devise for us the best solutions to avoid dying: the world of robots. On the other hand, our imagination appears increasingly concentrated on the representation of a final catastrophe that will extinguish us... After all, the current pandemic puts a heavy weight on our carefree representation of what matters, in life and its destiny... The world needs strong young people, who move forward, and wise elders. Let us ask the Lord for the grace of wisdom."

Pope Francis

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>

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*



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.'

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

loose: £207.46 envelopes: £412.30

contactless collection last weekend: £59.00

total: **£678.76**

Standing orders in January **£2492.00**

If you are experiencing problems while donating by card, if only you can, please, take a photo and email it to the office. During week-days the machine is working perfectly and we cannot make a proper complain to the provider as we do not see errors.

We do apologies for any inconvenience caused.

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

Carbon Neutral Pilot Programme

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