

NEWSLETTER

'It is the Lord'

The beloved disciple says to Peter 'it is the Lord' he recognises the Lord as the man at the lakeside. As for the others it had not dawned on them who it is. Until the beloved disciples recognition. Yes, words of recognition, but much : seeing with the eyes of faith. The beloved disciples recognition spurs the others to recognise the risen Saviour with eyes of faith.

When confronted in times of need, help seems to come from unexpected source and we sense the presence of the Lord. The unexpected catch of fish was such a moment for the disciples. Pray for light to recognise such moments in the recent past.

'Come and have breakfast' A homely invitation! Jesus knew the hunger of these men after a nights fishing, equally he knows our needs too. Tell Him your needs right now, and wait quietly to receive Jesus to linger in his presence as he looks at you with a simile of affection.

Fr. Christopher

Do you love me'

When Jesus founded the Church on Peter; he asked him the same question three times: *Simon son of John do you love me?* He could have said: 'Peter, will you be a man of character, capable of heading your brothers to follow in your path? Will you be a wise man, capable of instructing them and explaining things to them? A model of virtue as an example to them? He did not ask a single one of those but only *Simon son of John, do you love me?* That is all. If Peter loved Jesus, the Holy Spirit would be in him and he would lack nothing he needed to feed the lambs and the sheep. *Love..is the answer to every one of the commandments*, said Saint Paul (Rm 13:10), and Saint Augustine: 'Love, and do what you will'

Listen to Saint John of the Cross affirming that 'the smallest movement of pure love is worth more to the Church than all works put together'. And little Therese, on the very eve of her death, said to her sister Celine, 'I have said everything, Everything is accomplished. It is love alone that counts'. After her death a deluge of miracles fell down from heaven to make us say, 'She was not wrong: it is love alone that counts'.

I made a pilgrimage to Assisi, Ars, Paray-le-Monial, Lisieux, and these cities which still, across the centuries, remain filled with the celestial perfume of the saints who live there. I asked myself how were Francis, the holy Cure', Margaret Mary, and Therese able to accomplish the divine mission which was theirs in the holy Church? And the answer came to me for each one, like a refrain: *Dilexit-he loved, she loved*. For a well-known cardinal, all dogma was contained in the word *dilexit te*: I have loved you: all morality in this other word, *diligam te*: That I may love you.

Fr. Jean Du Cœur

Readings for this & next Sunday

1st Reading— Acts 5: 27-32, 40-41
Psalm 29; 8-9, 4-6, 11-13 response v 2
2nd Reading - Apocalypse 5; 11-14
Gospel – John 21; 1-19

1st Reading— Acts 13: 14, 43-52
Psalm 99; 1-3, 5 response v 3
2nd Reading - Apocalypse 7:9, 14-17
Gospel – John 10; 27-30

3RD & 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MASS INTENTIONS

April 30th, 2022

6pm - Pro Populo

May 1st, 2022

9am— Ints of Therese Ayo Gomez

11am— Ints of John

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

On Saturday

(from 5pm until 5.45)

SECOND COLLECTION

On 7th & 8th May

will be for the

Priests Training Fund. Your generosity helps with the training for our young men in Allen Hall and in Rome. It also provides for the on going formation of our ordained priests. Please pray for vocations and for all the priests and pray for me. You can use the QR code to make your donation online or alternatively visit

www.rcdow.org.uk/donations.

Thank you once again for your generosity

The Office will be closed between 3-6 May 2022. We are sorry for any inconvenience caused.

'The Sheep that belong to me'

It is not easy to listen: we get distracted by things around us or we are focused on what to say, that it is hard to have the openness to listen to someone else. It may take time and I might be in a hurry. That I may forget there are people whom I should be listening to and give my time to them?

The Lord's words reassures our aching hearts; Lord gives us his best gift, which is eternal life; you will defend us from anyone who tries to snatch us away from you, what more can we ask?

You offer your invitation to follow you, but I consider myself as a follower of yours? My daily prayer helps me to keep you in view, to listen and to deepen the relationship that exists between us. This means we attuned to his word. We pray that we would be more attuned to his word. The Lord Jesus, is drawn to those who hear him-He brings the gift of eternal life. Jesus draws his own life from the Father, and to follow him means to be drawn into the mystery of their life. This is what happens, in faith, at the heart of our prayer.

Fr. Christopher

The Good Shepherd

Each year, when, spring with its breezes begins to usher in the birth of so many sheep, and to deposit the numerous young of the fruitful flock about the fields, the meadows, and the paths, a good shepherd put aside his songs. He anxiously searches for the tender sheepings, picks them up, and gathers them together. Happy to carry them, he places them about his neck, on his shoulders, and in his arms. He wants them to be safe as he carries or leads them to the protecting sheepfolds.

The good shepherd, the text reads, is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The force of love makes a man brave, because genuine love counts nothing as hard, or bitter, or serious, or deadly. What sword, what wounds, what penalty, what deaths can avail to overcome perfect love? Love is an impenetrable breastplate. It wards off missiles, sheds the blows of swords, taunts dangers, laughs at death. If love is present, it conquers everything.

But is that death of the shepherd advantageous to the sheep? Let us investigate. It leaves them abandoned, exposes them defenceless to the wolves, hands over the beloved flock to the gnawing jaws of beasts, gives them over to plunder and exposes them to death. But what are we to do, since Life himself could not die unless he had decided to? Who could be taken life away from the Giver of life if he were unwilling? He himself said, *I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again.* Therefore he willed to die-he who permitted himself to be slain although he was unable to die. And who doubts that these slain martyrs will arise, and live, and reign, since Christ himself, though slain, has arisen, and lives, and reigns? Hear the voice of the Shepherd: *The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice.* The sheep who have followed him to death must follow him to life. They who have accompanied into the midst of insults must also accompany him into honour. They who shared his passion must also share his glory.

Wherever I am, he says, my servant will be there too. Where? Truly, above the skies where Christ is sitting at the Father's right hand. O man, let not living by faith disturb you, nor the long time you must hope fatigue you. Your destiny is a certain one and is being kept for you with the very Author of all things! *You have died* Scripture says, *and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God. But when Christ is revealed-and he is your life-you too will be revealed in all your glory with him.* (Col 3: 3-4).

Saint Peter Chrysologus

Priest Training Fund Collection

Dear Friends, Next Sunday 8th May, is Good Shepherd Sunday. It's the day for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. Currently, there are 58 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 17 of whom are for the diocese of Westminster and two are studying in Rome for the Diocese. Last year four men were ordained to the priesthood to serve in our Diocese. The fund continues to support the ongoing formation of our ordained priests.

I take this opportunity to thank all of you who continue to give generously to this Fund each year. Donation envelopes are available on the table in the lobby. Please take one, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation where there will be a Second Collection. Please pray for vocations and for your priests. You can use the QR code to make your donation online or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. I thank you for your generosity.

Fr Christopher

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

**CONGRATULATION TO ALL OUR FIRST COMMUNION CHILDREN
WHO RECEIVED COMMUNION FOR THE FIRST TIME.**

At the same time we thank our catechists and helpers who were involved in the whole process of preparing our young people for their BIG DAY.



The Rosary Group's May Devotions

Sunday 01st May

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

Meetings held 1st Sunday of every month

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

Road to Carbon Neutrality

Dear Friends, Sometime ago the Diocese selected 8 Parish's for a pilot project to achieve carbon neutrality. It's Cardinal wish that by 2030 Westminster Diocese would be carbon neutral. With this in mind, I approached Dymphna Dale with a group of enthusiasts to put forward suggestions, how we here can achieve this objective. Please see the Cardinal Vincent, video on the road to carbon neutrality <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/carbon-neutrality> Having seen the video, and should you wish to participate with the group you are most welcome. Many thanks to Dymphna and the group.

Fr. Christopher

**Diocese of Westminster
Roman Catholic Parish of St Edmund of Abingdon, Millwall**

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Fr Christopher Silva

Parish Priest,

Mrs Katherine Woznicka

Parish Administrator

The office may be contacted by phone:

Monday to Friday 9am-2pm

Closed on Bank Holidays

A date for your diary: 12 June 2022 at noon

our Parish BBQ this year will be combined with a celebration of 25th anniversary of Fr Christopher's priesthood. Everyone is invited. Details will follow.

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 a standing order.

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

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

loose: £285.72 envelopes: £199.00

contactless collection last weekend: £15.00

total: **£499.72**

Standing orders in March **£2748.00**

If you are experiencing problems while donating by card, if only you can, please, take a photo and email it to the office. During weekdays 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

WRCDDT Charity No: 233699



St Michael's Catholic Grammar School - Applications to sit the entrance tests for Year 7 Entry in September 2023

Applications are now being accepted for girls currently in year 5 to sit the entrance tests for year 7 entry to St Michael's in September 2023. Applications can be made through the online system available on our website <https://www.st-michaels.barnet.sch.uk/admissions/admissions-2023-24/>. Parents should ensure that they read the Admissions Policy prior to making an application and provide the **original** Certificate of Catholic Practice signed by their Parish Priest by the closing date of 4pm on Tuesday 5 July 2022.