

NEWSLETTER

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid'

Too many anxious Christians today think that their efforts to preach and teach and enter into outward activities can do more to save the world than the surrender of their souls to God, to become Christ-bearers. They believe that they can do more than our Lady did, and they have not time to stop to consider the absurdity of this. They fear that if the world goes on hurling itself into disaster, as it seems to be doing now, Christ's kingdom may be defeated. This not so; Christ has given his word that he will be with and in his little flock until the end of the world. However dark our days seem to be for Christianity, they are not so dark as the night following the crucifixion must have seemed to the apostles. For that night Christ had already prepared them. He told them to wait: to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit. He told them that he was going away, that they would no longer see him and know the consolation of his presence with them, but that it was better for them that he should go, and that the condition for the coming of the Holy Spirit, through whom he would live on in them, was his going (Jn 16: 7-8).

Christ himself prepared for his Resurrection by resting in the tomb, just as he had prepared for his birth by resting in his Mother's womb. He did not call the legions of angels he could have called to fight back the forces of evil that had crucified him; he simply lay in the tomb at rest and, at the appointed moment in time, rose from death to renew the life of the whole world.

The apostles, like the modern apostles, were afraid, and with good cause... They, with the Mother of Christ, alone stood for Christ's kingdom, and the murderous hatred of Christ's enemies pointed straight at them. But Christ told them simply to wait in the city until the Holy Spirit came to them; not to run away, not to make plans of their own, not to be troubled, with either their own recent failure and sin or concerning the danger that fenced them all around, but only to wait, with his Mother among them for the coming of the Comforter who would make them strong, heal their wounds, wash the stains from their souls, and be their joy.

Christ does not change, the preparation for the coming of the Spirit is the same today as two thousand years ago, whether it be for the rebirth of Christ in one soul that is in the hard winter, or for the return of Christ from the grave, whose blood is shed again by the martyrs. The preparation is the same: the still, quiet mind, acceptance, and remaining close to the Mother of God, resting in her rest while the life of the world grew within her towards the flowering of everlasting joy.

Caryll Houselander

26 May 2022

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Mass at 9.15 am

1st Reading— Acts 1: 1-11

Psalm 46; 2-3, 6-9, response v 6

2nd Reading - Ephesians 1, 17-23

Gospel – Luke 24; 46-53

Readings for this & next Sunday

1st Reading— Acts 15: 1-2, 22-29

Psalm 66; 2-3, 5-6, 8 response v 4

2nd Reading - Apocalypse 21, 10-14, 22-23

Gospel – John 14; 23-29

1st Reading— Acts 7: 55-60

Psalm 96; 1-2, 6-7, 9 response v 1, 9

2nd Reading - Apocalypse 22, 12-14, 16-17, 20

Gospel – John 17; 20-26

MASS INTENTIONS

May 21st, 2022

6pm - Fr Tony Nye RIP

May 22nd 2022

9am— Wiktor Jakubowski
(Anniv)

11am— Ints of Newly
Confirmed

May 26th 2022

9.15am— Ints of Fr
Christopher

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)

Annual Mission Appeal/ Date for your Diary

Cardinal Vincent Nichols has invited The Spiritans formerly known (Holy Ghost Fathers) to make their annual Mission Appeal in the Diocese of Westminster. Such Mission appeals are encouraged by the Bishops Conference as a means to inform parishioners of the Churches wider mission.

As such a representative of the **Spiritans will be here at St Edmund's on the weekend of 11th & 12th of June** and will be speaking at all Masses. There will be a Second Collection and it will be Cash only. Thank you for your generosity.

Fr Christopher

'I am going away, and shall return'

Friends, I weep as I see what's happening to the church and to priests round the world. Bishops who have spoken out against injustice have been intimidated or even killed. Priests have been killed with some of their congregations for celebrating mass. Church's burnt because they symbolises the Christian faith. I weep when priests and bishops have to move around in Mufti for their own safety.

Take Deborah Emanuel, who regarded Nigeria as home she was falsely accused of blasphemy and was stoned to death.

We have seen politicians using the uneducated, the unemployed to carry out atrocities for their nefarious ends. Innocent protesters calling for justice 'so called' thugs inflicting beatings and some seriously injured and others succumbing to their injuries. Today, my Mother Land weeps as it's incurred a mountain of debt. The cost of living crisis has shown how families are struggling to survive, only for some heartless politician to say, they should get a better job.

In our Gospel from John Jesus says, 'I am going away, and shall return' we wait in the midst of the darkness for Him to come and shine His light to illuminate our world. Carl Jung, was asked how long does this process take? He replied, as long as it takes. God lives in our hearts, The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are active within us. It's an amazing thought for us to comprehend and savour. Jesus is preparing the disciples for the day when he will no longer be present to them in bodily form. We who know the story they didn't know what was coming next so they were confused. God helps us to grow even in times of injustice and confusion around us. Jesus is inviting us to be open to a deeper way of being in relationship with him. Often times when confronted with injustice it can be hard to let go and to embrace the deeper relationship that he offers to us. On the other hand if we allow ourselves to be consumed in the injustice we see in our world and in the past; we can be in danger of letting the present become dead to us.

Fr. Christopher

DEATH OF A LOVED ONE

It can be very hard to watch a loved one die, to see him or her facing up to a terminal illness, to know they struggle daily with pain. However much you may know a loved one is approaching death, it is always a shock when it comes – and then, on top of all that, you are faced with all the grisly details of arranging a funeral.

There are things you can do to ease the burden:

Please let us know your loved one is ill. We can arrange for communion to be taken on a regular basis or, if that is not wanted, for people to come and visit.

Some people, particularly when they are frightened by death, find it helpful to talk things over with a priest: I shall never intrude with uninvited advice and, if you prefer a different priest, I can arrange that too.

When death actually happens, please come and talk with me first, before you contact the funeral director. All too often, everything has been fixed up with the undertaker before we know anything about it – with the frequent consequence that you miss out on many of the consolations of the Church and we cannot deliver what you specify. Cardinal Vincent issued guidance on what is and is not allowed in Catholic services: ask me and I'll send you one.

At the moment, there are a lot of scary advertisements about the cost of funerals that drive the bereaved into serious debt. The solution being promoted is to take out insurances to cover your funeral costs. The reality is that your grief may well be being exploited to get you to spend more than you should. The Quakers have produced a very useful leaflet (on the table in the porch) giving advice on how to avoid this.

Are you aware that grants are available in some cases for families on low incomes? Occasionally, even the Church can help. Check these things out before you commit yourself to a particular funeral director. There is no reason you should not contact two or three of them and ask for itemised quotations before you make your choice.

Think about these things before death occurs. They are not things you want to be troubled with when you are overwhelmed by grief. The loss of a loved one is bad enough; don't make it worse than it needs to be.

Fr Christopher

St Edmund's Church BBQ
combined with Fr Christopher's 25th Anniversary of His Ordination

Sunday 12th June 2022

12:15 to 2:30 pm

Selection of food and drinks included

Please come along to meet everyone and celebrate



**Tickets are now available to buy after any Mass
or from the Office. Get them in Advance so we can cater.**

Dear Friends. On 14th June, Fr Chris will celebrate 25th Anniversary of his ordination. We will celebrate with him during our BBQ on Sunday, 12th June. We want to encourage you to make a contribution toward a gift and a cake that we will share during our BBQ. If you want to contribute, please, find a prepared envelope on the table in the porch and put the money inside. Leave the envelope with our Sacristans: John or Paul, or put it into our collection basket. You can also leave it in the office during a week. Looking forward to celebrate together, Parish Council.

Pray the Rosary

The Holy Father, Pope Francis has urged all Catholic's to pray the Rosary, and to pray intensely before the Tabernacle. He urges all of us to go to the nearest parish or Church. He pleads with us saying, 'Wars, famines, are latent; the evil one is among us. To stop his plans, we must all pray to God the Father to pour out his Mercy on the world and that the Holy Spirit enlighten the rulers to be aware of god and evil and fight together for peace and love' He goes on to urge us to unite ourselves with him in prayer. He continues, 'Wherever you are in the world at your preferred time, drop everything and pray 3 x The Our Father, and Hail Mary. Plead with God the Father to send the Holy Spirit on the earth. Thank you for responding to Holy Father's appeal.

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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Telephone: 020-7987-4114; Email: millwall@rcdow.org.uk; <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/millwall/>



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

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

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: £347.33 envelopes: £174.00

contactless collection last weekend: £124.00

total: **£645.00**

Standing orders in April **£2697.45**

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

The Garden

Dear Friends,

We are seeking volunteers to help to tidy the garden. If you could help us, then please give your details to the parish office. Much appreciated.

Fr. Christopher