

## NEWSLETTER

27 SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**'Increase our faith'**

During the Algerian Civil war it was getting extremely difficult for the Monks of the Trappist Monastery in Tibhirine. The Monks were from France, and were asked to leave but they refused as they were serving the local people with their needs. On March 27<sup>th</sup> 1996, seven monks were abducted from the monastery. Two months later their heads were found but the rest of the torso was never found. The Prior Fr Christian de Cherge let a letter with his family only to be opened upon his death.

It came to be known as his spiritual testament and part of the translation in English reads, which I share with you:

' If it should happen one day-and it could be today-that I become a victim of the terrorism which now seems ready to encompass all the foreigners living in Algeria, I would like my community, my Church, my family, to remember that my life was given to God and to this country. I ask them to accept that the One Master of all life was not a stranger to this brutal departure. I ask them to pray for me: for how could I be found worthy of such an offering? I ask them to be able to associate such a death with many other deaths that were just as violent, but forgotten through indifference and anonymity.

...I should like, when the time comes, to have a clear space which would allow me to beg forgiveness of God and of all my fellow human beings, and at the same time forgive with all my heart the one who would strike me down. ....In this 'thank you', which is said for everything in my life from now on, I certainly include you, friends of yesterday and today, and you my friends of this place, along with my mother and father, my brothers and sisters and their families-that hundredfold granted as was promised.' And you also, the friend of my final moment, who would not be aware of what you were doing. Yes, for you also I wish this 'thank you'-and this *adieu*-to commend you to God whose face I see in yours And may we find each other, happy, 'good thieves' in Paradise, if it pleases God, the Father of us both'. Amen

In this document we see Fr Christian's faith he senses that he will lose his life as a result of terrorism. But the terrorism did not overcome him. He forgave his murderer in advance, 'I should like ..to forgive with all my heart the one who would strike me down'. He even called his murderer 'friend of my final moment' and in whose face God could be seen and prayed they would be two 'good thieves' together in Paradise. We admire Fr. Christian's faith when faced with the most difficult challenge of his life. It was only in faith in God and prayer that he and his fellow monks could remain despite what seemed inevitable. In faith in God we see life differently. We see reality, reality in the sense of what life is really all about and the ultimate destination of life beyond what is around us every day. Prayer sustained Fr. Christian and his fellow monks. They prayed the Liturgy of the Hours seven times a day as well as celebrating Mass together and meditating together. The many hours spent in prayer each day surely gave them strength in their final days. Faith and prayer is also our sustenance when confronted with our crosses and trails.

When reading our first reading from Habakkuk, I was reminded of the monks of Tibhirine. We hear Habakkuk crying to God. His fellow Jews were suffering in a time of crisis but God seemed slow to answer: 'How long Lord, am I to cry for help while you will not listen; to cry 'Oppression!' in your ear and you will not save? But God answered him the Jews were to hang on because fidelity to God is rewarded. God loves those who are faithful to him. In 1995 at Baltimore on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October Pope John Paul II commented on Habakkuk and he quoted a Polish Proverb, 'God takes his time but he is just' Pope John Paul went on to say the following: 'There is no evil to be faced that Christ does not face with us. There is no enemy that Christ has not already conquered. There is no cross to bear that Christ has not already borne for us, and does not now bear with us. And on the far side of every cross we find the newness of life in the Holy Spirit, that new life which will reach its fulfilment in the resurrection. This is our faith. Amen

*Fr. Christopher*

**CAFOD's Family Fast Day** this year is on Friday, 7th October. **Second Collection in our church will happen next weekend.** We will be collecting money to help people in Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Sudan, up to 20 million who are fighting for their survival due to the worst drought in four decades and by grain shortage caused by war in Ukraine. By having a simple meal and donating to the collection (using the CAFOD envelope from the table in the church's lobby), or by giving to CAFOD online, we will be sharing a powerful act of solidarity.

**MASS INTENTIONS****Oct 1st, 2022**

6pm - Pro Populo

**Oct 2nd, 2022**

9am— Uyi Ojefua RIP

11am— NO MASS due to Marathon

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)

**Sunday,  
2 October is  
Marathon Sunday.  
Due to restrictions  
caused by road  
closure, there is no  
Mass at 11 am.**

**Readings for this &  
next Sunday**

1st Reading— Habakkuk 1; 2-3; 2,2-4  
Psalm 94:1-2, 6-9 response v 7-8  
2nd Reading - 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14  
Gospel – Luke 17; 5-10

1st Reading— 2 Kings 5; 14-17  
Psalm 97:1-4 response cf v 2  
2nd Reading - 2 Timothy 2:8-13  
Gospel – Luke 17; 11-19

### A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:

ON SUNDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER AFTER THE 11AM MASS WE WILL CELEBRATE ONE WORLD DAY HERE IN THE PARISH.

WE ASK YOU TO JOIN US AS WE BRING A DISH THAT IS CHARACTERISTIC OF OUR COUNTRIES/ REGION. TO SHARE WITH OTHERS, IT IS AN EXCELENT OCCASION TO MEET NEW MEMBERS AND OTHERS, WHO ATTEND MASS ON SUNDAYS. WE ALSO APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP SET UP AFTER THE 9AM MASS ON THE DAY IN THE GARDEN. ALSO IF YOU ARE INTERESTED THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE IS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS, INTERESTED THEN GIVE YOUR DETAILS VIA EMAIL TO THE PARISH OFFICE.

Dear Friends, It has been brought to my attention, that some young children running around the Church during Mass has caused distraction when trying to be focused. Since the Mass is the source and summit of all prayer. Also, while some were trying to pray after Mass, they were distracted by conversations at the back with tea's and coffees.

Could I suggest, that should your child wish to run around, then please take them to the hall. An audio system works there and you can hear the Mass. If you stay behind for tea's and coffees then recognise the sacred space of the church and perhaps go outside. Thank you, Fr Christopher

### **Sacramental Programs**

Parish Sacramental Programme will be commencing. Please see the table in the lobby of the church for application forms for both: First Holy Communion and Confirmation courses.

First Holy Communion: fill the details CLEARLY and submit the forms to the parish office. The closing date to hand in your application is 13<sup>th</sup> November 22. The parents meeting will be on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm.

Confirmation: If you are in year 9 in Secondary School, and would like to Prepare for Confirmation. Fill it in CLEARLY and hand it into the parish office. The last date to submit you forms is 13<sup>th</sup> November 22. The course will commence in January 2023

R C I A: The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: If you or anyone you may know who would like to be received into the church, DROP AN EMAIL to Millwall@rcdow.org.uk by 16<sup>th</sup> October.

### **SCHOOL APPLICATIONS**

We are approaching that time of the year when parents request a priest's reference. Usually, it's the Catholic Practice form. Catholic Practice means regular attendance at Mass. It is a requirement that all Catholics attend Mass on Sundays and on holidays of obligation. While there may be genuine reasons for the occasional absences from Mass. It has been made clear that fortnightly or monthly attendance does not constitute the practice required by Church Law.

Since I've been here I have urged parents to come and see me to establish two things:

Any problems they might have in meeting the requirement to attend Mass every week and How we might establish proof as to what their attendance has been.

Most parents, don't think of the lead times that are involved. If you want your child to enter a new school in September 2022, the applications have to be in, depending on the school, somewhere between March and October 2021. Don't wait until then to speak to me about your problems or to discuss how to get evidence to support your request for weekly Mass attendance. You need to come to me a year prior to that.

Recently a problem has emerged: where families who, because of their situation, think they will not need a reference and so take no action to establish a basis; then circumstances change-they want to change school, and now they find themselves exposed, unable to get a reference that they need. It does not cost you to put a basis for a reference in place: please be prudent.

Thank you, *Fr Christopher*

Dear Friends, I wish to give you an update on the Parish Project.

Recently Alison Smith left the Diocese, and is replaced by Jamie Holyland. I have had a meeting with him, prior to going on my holidays. He has copies of the Architect draft drawings. He has informed me that all funders will fund one project, for this reason he is in the process of compiling a list of all parishes needs and the available funds, so that he can allocate them in the most efficient manner to try an ensure all needs are met. And he is now in the process of allocating funders across the list of parishes and will get in touch me to discuss next steps and meet up with the parish project committee. Could I ask that you continue to pray for our project, Thank you. *Fr Christopher*

**FOODBANK,**

Dear Friends, We are in need of food donations for the food bank. Requests has been made by people who are in need. I thank you for your generosity. Fr Christopher

"As the climate crisis faces an emergency, the parish has committed to help with different actions that may bring awareness on how we can all contribute to slowing the carbon emissions as a collective, no change is small when measured in a year, 5 or 10 years. This is why we are inviting you to join us on this journey, we will start by watching Cardinal Vincent's very eloquent video about how the Diocese wants to proceed with this matter. The video will be played every Sunday after 11 am mass, during the month of October. Let's connect to the God-given gift of nature"

**Sowing Hope: To benefits of Gardening for the Bereaved and Grief Stricken**

Have you lost someone close to you?

Come along to our community garden programme and connect with people in similar situations

With our free 10 week programme you can get active in nature , nurture new friendships and take some time for yourself

The programme shall afford the opportunity to meet likeminded people whilst finding out about the therapeutic benefits that gardening and tending plants can have upon physical, social and mental health

Our programme will be at Trafford Friendship Club , 40 Trafford St, London E14 8LT

For more details , please contact Dymphna; **email [Dymphasdesigns@aol.com](mailto:Dymphasdesigns@aol.com) or calling 07539078072**

**BAPTISMS**

Due to COVID restrictions and until advised. Baptisms here at St Edmunds would take place Saturday's at 11am. We do recognise, that families need to plan ahead, when they have family and friends attending. Parents are advised to come to see me first and make NO plans until after they have completed the Baptism Course. Then you may contact Katherine at the office to book the date of the baptism. We do emphasize it's a requirement on completion of the baptism course, that godparent references being completed before the actual baptism. The date of baptism can be booked with Katherine (Parish Office) but it has to be confirmed in writing. It's a requirement of Cannon Law (Church Law) that each child must have a godparent: should there be a second godparent, one has to be male and the other female.

A godparent is defined as a confirmed practicing Catholic. Should the godparent not be a member of this (St Edmund) we require a reference form his/her parish that they meet the requirement-that they are attending Mass regularly. Although the maximum number of godparents is set at two, families could have additional people whose standing is that of 'witness to the baptism'. During the baptism, we don't distinguish between godparents and witnesses, but only the names of the godparents will be inserted in the baptism register and in the baptism certificate.

Equally, baptised Christians from other denominations may participate as witnesses to the baptism, but they cannot participate as godparents. Members of other faiths or none cannot serve as either godparents or as witnesses to the baptism.

Both parents and godparents, as part of the baptism, must make a declaration of faith. Prior to the baptism could we ask that you go through beforehand and ascertain you both can honestly make it? In all probability, if anyone has a problem with any part of it, the problem lies in understanding what is meant rather than with the article of faith itself- do contact me to discuss it well before the baptism. The unpleasant thing you could do is start your child's relationship with God by affirming in His presence to something you don't believe.

We don't charge for baptism but we ask for families to make a contribution to defray the cost by given a donation in the range of £50-100, with others giving more. It doesn't mean you have to subject yourselves to unnecessary financial stress, but give what you think you can afford.

Please, see the back of the Newsletter for the date of our next course.

Fr. Christopher

**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](mailto: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](mailto:Millwall@rcdow.org.uk) you should have any question. Katherine

### **LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:**

loose: £225.72      envelopes: £254.00      contactless collection last weekend: £176.00      total: **£655.72**

Standing orders in August **£2265.00**

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

### **BAPTISMS can happen now on a Saturday morning or afternoon.**

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 Thursday, 3rd November 2022 from 7pm to 9pm on Zoom**. Please, drop an email to the office [millwall@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:millwall@rcdow.org.uk) asap if you are interested, also 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).

Please, note that we have been experiencing problems with our landlines. If you need to contact us, please, do it by email:

[Millwall@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:Millwall@rcdow.org.uk)