

NEWSLETTER

31 SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**' I must stay in your house today'**

Each time I read this passage of the Gospel of Luke. I am reminded of the trips to the Holy Land, when visiting Jericho, in the centre of the town, you are greeted by the a sycamore tree. Nearby, in the Orthodox Church is a stump encased in glass through carbon dating dates back to the time of Jesus. Zacchaeus, a tax collector, considered a wealthy man, was curious to see who this preacher is? He must have heard about him, his miracles and was curious, that he climbed the sycamore tree in the town square. Curiosity brought him but Jesus calls to him, 'Zacchaeus, come down., Hurry, because I must stay at your home today'.

At one level, we may conclude that Jesus speaks of the home of bricks and mortar, but he is speaking of his heart. To reside in the home of his heart. This is what Jesus meant when he said, 'I must stay in your house today.

Hurry, come down to where? Into the inner most depths of your heart and mine; Having striped of myself, withdrawn myself of self, Jesus wants to dwell in me with the Father, and the Trinity, the Trinity of love. It is living in the tranquillity of the Trinity.

In psalm 84: 1-2; ' how lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God' This should be the attitude of each one of us to enter into the interior court to contemplate and to behold God to be in close contact with him. It is the longing and yearning of this Love, the Trinity that dwells within us. To gaze upon the splendour of his glory-that is, to praise his glory of his perfections.

Fr. Christopher

Sick & Retired Priests' Fund Collection

Dear Friends,

Next weekend 5th & 6th November we will have Second Collection for our Sick & Retired Priests.

There are over 66 sick and retired priests who receive support after a life time service in parishes throughout the Diocese. It is expected by 2025 the number of priest's in retirement to double.

Most priests offer their resignation as parish priests at the age of 75, but many continue to serve in parishes, schools, hospices, and hospitals. At this time they are dependent on the Diocese for their care-like housing, health needs and other essentials.

By giving to the Fund, you can ensure our priests are cared for. You can take a donation envelope from the table or one of the collectors will give out the envelopes as you leave. Please note the envelopes also feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with your phone to give online, to make a donation. Please continue to pray for all our clergy; active , retired or ill and pray for me. Thank you,

Fr. Christopher

MASS INTENTIONS**Oct 29th, 2022**

6pm - Pro Populo

Oct 30th, 2022

9am— Guy de Fontgalland
(sick)

11am— Ints of Maria Pulido

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)

Clocks will be changed back by one hour this Sunday, 30 October 2022, at 4.00 in the morning. Do not forget to adjust your clocks!

Readings for this & next Sunday

1st Reading— Wisdom 11; 22-12;2
Psalm 144:1-2, 8-11 response v 1
2nd Reading -
2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2
Gospel – Luke 19; 1-10

1st Reading—
2 Maccabees 7; 1-2, 9-14
Psalm 16:1, 5-6, 8, 15 response v 15
2nd Reading -
2 Thessalonians 2:: 16-3: 5
Gospel – Luke 20; 27-38

Prayer

We pray often, and in our Scripture readings, we see Moses holding his arms in prayer all seems well but when he didn't hold his arms in prayers there were problems. I think when Moses was holding his arms in prayer it was in anticipation of Jesus Christ holding up his arms in prayer on the Cross winning the battle over evil and sin for us.

In our Gospel from Luke Jesus gives us a parable about the importance of prayer. The widow in the parable in the end received her request because she was persistent and we are called to be persistent in our prayer. The Judge gave into the widow because he says to himself, '...But since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death' Jesus says, 'if an unjust judge could give what the widow asks of him, how much more will God answer our prayers. I can hear you say, very well what about unanswered prayer? This is a mystery which we have to leave in the hands of God because we believe that prayer is always answered although perhaps not in the way we had hoped. However, God sees the overall plan and knows what is best and we have to wait until the next life to see the overall plan and understand that God knew better.

Prayer is important. In Luke's Gospel we see Jesus in Prayer more often than in other Gospels. Obviously, prayer was important in Luke's life but can see that in Luke's teaching prayer was central in the life of Jesus and it ought to be central in our lives too. We see the following instances of Jesus in prayer in Luke's Gospel, Jesus prayed after his baptism (Luke 3: 21); after the curing of the Lepers Jesus went into the wilderness to pray (Luke 5:16); Jesus spent all night in prayer before choosing the Twelve (Luke 6: 12-16); Jesus was praying alone when he asked the disciples 'Who do people say that I am' (Luke 9: 18-22); few days later Jesus took Peter, James and John up a high mountain to pray (Luke 9:28); while in prayer he was transfigured (Luke 9:29); Jesus was at prayer when his disciples asked him to teach them to pray and he taught them the 'Our Father', the Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:1-4); Jesus prayed that Simon's faith would not fail (Luke 22:32); Luke tells us that Jesus prayed for his crucifiers (Luke 23:34) he died commending his spirit to the Father(Luke 23:46). In the Acts of the Apostles, we see the Church in prayer many times. In the Acts we see the disciples doing what Jesus did praying. We see here for Luke, prayer was central to Jesus' life and it ought to be central in our lives too.

How should we pray? In our meditations and Holy Hours, we make good use of Sacred Scripture to feed our prayer, Therefore, in our second reading we are reminded by St Paul 'All Scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy'. St Jerome the patron saint of Scripture study once wrote, 'Ignorance of the Scriptures in ignorance of Christ' and in the Catechism 104 it says, 'in the sacred books the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks to them'. So, then when we use Sacred Scripture to aid our prayer, our Father comes to meet us and talk with us.

When starting our prayer, we should begin by given thanks and praise to the Holy Trinity and the present our prayer. Like the widow in our parable we have to be constant , even to the point of persistence and if the unjust judge answered the widow's request how much more will our heavenly Father answer our prayers.

Fr. Christopher

ONE WORLD DAY

I wish to thank Diane Winship and Social Committee , volunteers, helpers and everyone who make it such a wonderful day. The food you brought to share was delicious and in abundance.

Thank you to all. *Fr Christopher*

Dear Friends,

As we approach, Christmas and planning how to celebrate with your family and friends.

Could I suggest you consider those in need. Today, how many people are without food on their table or having to rely on food banks. Friends, I ask you to think about it this Christmas, it's the Christmas of the Crib. Visit the Crib as you do think about the people who having to go without. Ask yourself, how can I help those in need? Get in touch with various organisations that reaches out to families and children this Christmas and how you could support them.

Try to keep your Crib simple, don't commercialise it as we see in shopping centres. Instead, recall how Jesus was born in a stable the Holy Family had nowhere to go, and he came to live amongst the people to experience their suffering. He knew what it meant to be hungry and the pain of hunger. He showed his unlimited love, and sacrificed his life on the cross

The more I reflect, I conclude that Jesus didn't want his birth to be celebrated the way we are doing today, as It's full of commercialisation which has reduced the true meaning of Christmas. But we Catholic's wouldn't want his birth celebrated in this manner Hence I ask you to reflect on the birth of Jesus and cut out the wasteful decorations and use that money if you can to help the needy and may your giving be done in the name of Jesus, and perhaps buy food for a family who might be struggling this Christmas. So, they might have some joy, and may this Christmas be truly meaningful for all of us, as we prepare through Advent by listen to the readings.

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 13th November 22. The parents meeting will be on Monday 5th 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 13th 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 ASAP .

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

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 Administrator

The office may be contacted by phone:

Monday to Friday 9am-2pm

Closed on Bank Holidays

Mrs Diane Winship

Safeguarding Officer

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: £220.87 envelopes: £206.93 contactless collection last weekend: £253.00 total: **£680.80**

Standing orders in September; **£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 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

WRCDT Charity No: 233699

BAPTISMS can happen now on a Saturday morning.

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, 17th November 2022 from 7pm to 9pm on Zoom.**

Please, drop an email to the office 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