

## NEWSLETTER

32 SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**Trusting in the God of the living**

It is three months since I uttered the cry of anguish that you heard, O my God, and did not grant the deepest prayer from my battered heart, or rather, you answered it differently and better. All that, I so ardently desired for my beloved sister, all joys, health, and love that I hoped for her and all the life that I prayed for, even her final happiness, all these you have given to her in taking her to yourself. I cannot believe that my constant ardent prayers, and those of others for her, and all the sacrifices offered and so much suffering accepted could all be useless. I do not believe that all her sufferings and grief, ended by a holy death, could be without fruit. If she was denied earthly happiness, if she knew bitter and sad separations, and if in the end she was taken from us, it is because a better life awaited her on the other side. The God of love prepared for her a joy beyond her suffering, and God wanted her to enjoy all good and beauty and to give her his light; God purified her and so she could approach the holiness of God. My God, you wished, no doubt, to purify us also and to transform us through suffering. I can only say to you with all my being, which is yours, the words: 'My God, I suffer, I adore, and I pray'

I adore because I believe, because I have seen and tasted the depth of suffering because my soul is forever rooted in you, my God. I adore because you are goodness, beauty, light, and life; because you are a Father full of love and compassion; because you are my friend and my only consoler; O Jesus Christ! But I suffer because she whom you took was my true friend and the gentle confidant of my faith and thoughts; because I spent some of the best hours of my life with her; because I loved her like a sister and like a beloved child at the same time; because we prayed, suffered, and loved together; and because her affection belonged to my life, my happiness, my heart. Now, humanly speaking, my life is shattered part of my heart has gone with my dear sister to live in you. May we one day be reunited where there are no tears, no grief, and no separation.

*Servant of God Elisabeth Leseur*

**This weekend is our second Collection for our Sick & Retired Priests Fund.**

By giving a gift to the Sick and Retired Priests Fund, you will help all our sick and retired priests are cared for at their time of need, after years of service to God and their parishioners. The fund will be used to meet essential costs, such as making a flat accessible to a disabled priest. It would ensure a priest has regular visits from a carer after surgery. The Diocese works closely with the NHS, local councils and social services, but there will be gaps in funding and we need to ensure our priests have peace of mind in their advancing years. If you have taken a donation envelope last weekend, please hand it in with the collection. If you don't have an envelope, there are some available on the table in the lobby. The envelopes and posters feature a QR Code that you can scan with your phone to give on line. If you are able, please would you consider filling out a standing order form, to become a Patron and make a regular gift to support our sick and retired priests. Thank you for your generosity and remember our clergy, in active ministry, retired or ill, in your prayers and pray for me. God bless you all.

*Fr Christopher*

**Readings for this & next Sunday**

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

1st Reading— Malachi 3; 19-20  
Psalm 97;5 response cf v 9  
2nd Reading - 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12  
Gospel - Luke 21; 5-19

**MASS INTENTIONS****Nov 5th, 2022**

6pm - Ints of Mark Silva

**Nov 6th, 2022**

9am— Pro Populo

11am— Holy Souls

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)*

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](mailto:millwall@rcdow.org.uk) asap if you are interested. 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).

"Come and join us for our Eco-Social Sunday after 11 am mass. Let's have a cup of tea or coffee while we enjoy the screening of Cardinal Vincent Nichols's message around the road to carbon neutral life"  
*Dymphna*

### ***We must die with Christ if we wish to live with him***

It is obvious that death is a gain and life a penalty. Saint Paul says it: 'For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain'. What does Christ mean to us here if not the death of the body and the breath of life? And so we must die with him in order to live with him. There should be in us a daily habit and disposition towards dying so that our soul may learn to cut away all carnal desires and take on itself the likeness of death, by seeing things as from the height of heaven, out of reach of the lusts of the world, where they cannot bind it to themselves: so it shall escape the punishment of spiritual death. The law of the flesh, we know, wars against the law of the mind enmeshing it in the law of error. And what remedy have we? 'Who will deliver me from the body of this death? The grace of God through Jesus Christ our Lord!'

Indeed we have a healer, so let us make use of his remedy. Our remedy is Christ's grace and 'the body of death' means our physical nature. Therefore we must exile ourselves from our bodies lest we be exiled from Christ. Even though we are still in the body we should not desire the things of the flesh, and while not denying all natural appetites we should prize the gifts of grace above all.

We say more? The world has been redeemed by one man's death. Christ need not have died unless he had willed it, yet he did not think a shameful death a thing to be avoided, nor that there was any better way to save us than by dying. So his death is every man's life. E are signed and sealed by his death. It is his death we proclaim when we pray, that we preach when we offer sacrifice. His death is victory and sacrament and, year by year, it is the world's great feast. What more can be said of his death? We see from his divine example that only death has sought immortality, that death itself has redeemed death. Is it, then, a thing to be mourned when the Son of God did not despise it, did not fly from it?

Certainly, death was no part of nature, but was made a part of it afterwards. God did not ordain death in the beginning of things: but he gave it to us as a remedy when damnable sin brought toil and tears into human life. These sorrows had to be brought to an end and so that death might bring back what life had thrown away. Deathlessness is no blessing but only a weariness if grace does not transfigure it.

Our souls must free themselves from the toils of this life and from the stain of fallen human nature. They must fight their way to the heavenly assembly, undeterred by the thought that it belongs to saints to attain it: the saints who sing God's praises as they wake their harps to music. Those praises we read in the book of Revelation: 'Great and wonderful are your deeds, O Lord God Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the ages! Who shall not fear and glorify your name, O Lord? For you alone are holy. All nations shall come and worship you' Jesus, it is the saints privilege to witness your espousals, in which the bride is led from an earthly home to her heavenly one, the psalmist says: 'To you all flesh shall come' She comes accompanied by songs of rejoicing, not subject now to the world but betrothed forever to the Spirit.

This is what holy David desired above everything: to see these things with understanding eye. Finally he says: 'One thing have I asked of the Lord, this I will seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, that I may behold the beauty of the Lord'.

*St. Ambrose on the death of his brother Satyrus*



LDS 30th Anniversary  
Concert - Handel's Messiah

Saturday 19th November  
7.30pm

### **London Docklands Singers**

### **30th Anniversary Concert -**

### **Handel's Messiah**

St Paul's Church Covent Garden welcomes back our beloved The London Docklands Singers as it celebrates its 30th Anniversary with a performance of Handel's Messiah. You can buy your ticket her:

<https://www.londondocklandssingers.org/concerts/>



Diocese of Westminster  
Lourdes Pilgrimage

Visit  
Our Lady  
of Lourdes  
in 2023

Led by  
His Eminence  
Cardinal Vincent Nichols  
Archbishop of Westminster  
Friday 21st July - Friday 28th July 2023



Contact the Diocesan Pilgrimage Office for more information

Tel 0207 798 9173

Email [lourdes@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@rcdow.org.uk)

Web [www.rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes)



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 Catholics 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 — FINAL WEEK FOR REGISTRATION!!**

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](mailto: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](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**

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

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

loose: £427.16      envelopes: £534.83      contactless collection last weekend: £234.00      total: **£1195.99**

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](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)