

## NEWSLETTER

**1 SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT****First Sunday of Advent**

When Advent arrives, we think of Christmas celebrating the birth of Jesus. We live between the first coming of Jesus when he was born at Bethlehem and his Second Coming at the end of time, when he will come as Judge of all. During Advent we reflect on the Second Coming of Jesus: Meaning the two comings of Jesus-our preparation for the celebrating of Jesus' birth and preparing for his Second Coming. In the third Eucharistic prayer, we profess our faith in Jesus' Second Coming:

*Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of thanksgiving Passion of your Son, his wondrous Resurrection and Ascension into heaven, and as we look forward to his second coming, we offer you thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice*

*And in the Creed we say;*

*He will come again in glory*

*to judge the living and the dead*

*and his kingdom will have no end.*

In the early part of Advent until the (16<sup>th</sup>) the Church asks us to reflect on the Second Coming of Jesus, and not just to reflect but to prepare for it. In our first reading from Isaiah we are reminded about this Coming of Jesus and in the Gospel Jesus tells us, 'Therefore you too must be ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect'.

On this first Sunday of Advent we are invited to watch for the Second Coming of Jesus, and the readings of the Second Sunday of Advent we are called to prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus and we listen to the Gospel passage where John the Baptist asks us to prepare the way of the Lord. On the Third Sunday of Advent, we are reminded to be patient for His Second Coming.

The Church encourages us to long for and prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus. We might ask, How do we prepare for it? We prepare for it by placing God first in our lives and love our neighbour as ourselves. We cleanse our hearts from sin. The first three Sundays of Advent each year has much encouragement to prepare our hearts and lives as we await the Second Coming.

*Fr. Christopher*

**COLLECTION FOR SICK AND RETIRED PRIESTS**

IN TOTAL, WE HAVE COLLECTED **£ 825.00.**

*THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY*

Readings for this & next Sunday

1st Reading— Isaiah 2; 1-5

Psalm 121;1-2, 4-5, 6-9 response cf v 1

2nd Reading - Romans 13:11-14

Gospel – Mathew 24; 37-44

1st Reading— Isaiah 11; 1-10

Psalm 71;1-2, 7-8, 12-13 response cf v 7

2nd Reading - Romans 15:4-9

Gospel – Luke 3; 4, 6

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Nov 26th, 2022**

6pm - Holy Souls

**Nov 27th, 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)*

**Remembering our  
Faithful Departed**

During the month of November we remember the souls of the faithful departed.

If you wish to put forward a list of your loved ones to be remembered write out a list (using the lavender paper provided and put it in the Holy Souls envelopes) which you can find on the table in the lobby of the church. If you wish to make a contribution, place your donation in the envelope; place your envelope in the basket at the altar; the money will be used to fund Mass intentions for the Holy Souls during the coming year. Alternatively, you could place the envelope in collection basket or hand it in to either John or Paul or put through the letter box. Thank you,

*Fr Christopher*

## Advent

Advent call us to be vigilant. There are numerous Scripture passages that call us to be vigilant, in the anticipation of the Lord's coming; Being vigilant means, that we are prepared. We are not caught off guard. As we prepare we are mindful of those who would be struggling at this time. We ask ourselves, how can we help those in need? If they have nothing this Christmas, It would be a bleak one as well as for many around the world. We can get in touch with various organisations that help those who are having it tough this Christmas. As we try to prepare ourselves as best we can for His Second Coming. Jesus will come again, in splendour and in glory, to judge the living and the dead. We profess it Sunday after Sunday in saying the Creed. Though Advent is a time for the preparation of the celebration of the first coming of Jesus in the flesh, it is also a time to acknowledge that His first coming is ultimately fulfilled in His final glorious coming.

As Advent begins, let us reflect on how ready we are for Jesus' coming. Are we preparing for it with the same fervour that we prepare for Christmas through shopping, cooking, decorating? Are we looking forward to that day when He will return? Are we preparing for the spiritual celebration of His birth, through reading Scripture and going to confession? Are we awake and attentive to the numerous ways that God speaks to us on a daily basis?

If we find that we are not prepared for His return in glory as we would like to be, let's make this Advent a time when we get our hearts ready, by committing ourselves to prayer, spiritual exercises, and attentive to His gentle voice.

*Lord, as Advent begins, help us to focus our eyes on you. Help us to open our ears to Your voice. Help us to open our heart to Your glorious presence. May we be attentive to you in every way. You desire to come to us. Jesus, we trust in You.*

*Fr. Christopher*

Dear Fathers, Sisters and Colleagues,

It is now just nine months until the next World Youth Day celebration in Lisbon. As many of you know, World Youth Day takes place roughly every three years and brings together millions of young Catholics from all over the world with the Holy Father, to be inspired in their faith and experience a deeper sense of the great communion that is the Church.

As usual, Westminster Youth Ministry is really excited to be taking a group of young people from our diocese.

The two-week pilgrimage will include "days in the diocese" in Porto before travelling to Fatima and Lisbon.

Please find below and attached some more specifics but we would be hugely grateful if you could promote this within your parish and encourage young people to take this once in a lifetime opportunity.


We are only offering 50 spaces so we really encourage early sign up and preferably by 16 December 2022 when we will close applications. This is mainly because of significant further rises in fees and cost from January 2023

Find more information and booking forms here: <https://dowym.com/events/world-youth-day-lisbon/>

**Andrzej Wdowiak**, Director

**Diocese of Westminster Youth Ministry**

Speak to the world about My mercy; let all mankind recognize My unfathomable mercy  
(Diary of St Faustina, 848)



**Divine Mercy  
Advent Retreat**

Led by Marian Fathers  
**Sunday**  
**11th December 2022**  
2:15 pm - 4:30 pm  
Immaculate Heart of Mary  
Catholic Church,  
Stafford Road, Kilburn West,  
London, NW6 5RS


**JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU**

**Advent Retreat Devotional Programme:**


2:15 pm	Worship & Enthronement of the image of Merciful Jesus
2:30 pm	Talk on Mercy by Rev Dr Jacek Rygielski, MIC
3:00 pm	Hour of Mercy
3:30 pm	Holy Mass
4:15 pm	Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus
4:30 pm	Depart

Further information: DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE, MARIAN FATHERS  
1 Courtfield Gardens, London W13 0EY | Tel: 020 8998 0925  
E-mail: [info@divinemercy.org.uk](mailto:info@divinemercy.org.uk) | [www.divinemercyapostolate.co.uk](http://www.divinemercyapostolate.co.uk); Registered Charity No: 1075608

**All welcome - Bring your family & friends to the Merciful Jesus**



**DIOCESE OF  
WESTMINSTER  
YOUTH MINISTRY**



**World Youth Day  
LISBON**



Tuesday 25th July to Wednesday 9th August 2023

**ARE YOU:**

- Aged 18 - 35
- Looking to deepen your faith and relationship with Jesus
- Part of the Westminster Diocese
- Up for discovering cultures different to your own
- Ready to meet other Catholics from all around the world

**WHAT WE ARE OFFERING YOU:**  
Two weeks in Fatima/Porto from Tuesday 25th July to Wednesday 9th August 2023 to celebrate World Youth Day with 2 million other young people! All transport, accommodation and food is included.

**WHAT WE ASK OF YOU:**  
To pay a deposit of £100 upon booking, to cover the full cost of £1,700.  
To attend WYD ready to dive fully into the experience.

WESTMINSTER  
CATHEDRAL CHOIR  
and ORCHESTRA

# A Christmas Celebration

Music and readings for Christmas

Tuesday 20th & Wednesday 21st  
December 2022, 7.30pm

An event in aid of Westminster Cathedral

For tickets, scan the QR code or visit  
[www.westminstercathedral.org.uk](http://www.westminstercathedral.org.uk)

### Impact film

I am writing to share a film that was produced to show our supporters and partners the impact of our social justice work across the Diocese.

I hope you will enjoy watching it yourself, as it is really a celebration of what we have achieved together across the Diocese.

I invite you to share it with your parishioners by sharing this link below or by showing it for parishioners, e.g. after Mass.

This is the link: <https://youtu.be/Vqxivakd-8Ug>

It lasts just less than 25 minutes, and there are six parts: the first and last show examples of work happening and the difference made in our parishes and schools respectively. *John Coleby*

*Director Caritas Westminster*

### 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*

### Can you help in some market research?

This year is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Caritas Westminster, the social action arm of the Diocese. We are inviting anyone who would be interested to be part of a focus group happening in the coming fortnight to get in touch. There are three Zoom focus groups to choose from: Thursday 1, Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 December from 6.30-7.45pm. Your opinion would be very helpful. If you would like to take part, please email Julie Christie-Webb, Caritas Fundraising Manager, to register, at [juliechristiewebb@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:juliechristiewebb@rcdow.org.uk)

### RICHARD HOUSE

#### London's first children's hospice

Richard House is a children's hospice based in the heart of Newham that has been providing specialised free care services to seriously ill children and their families across East London communities for over 22 years. We are now supporting over 300 families and are asking you to consider supporting Richard House.

Many parents of seriously ill children are unable to work as their child due to complex medical conditions, requires 24/7 care, We offer free specialised care to these families and hope you can help us to continue to fulfil our mission. We get limited support from local authorities, with three quarters' of the money we need is coming from fundraising alone.

More information you can find on our website at [www.richardhouse.org.uk](http://www.richardhouse.org.uk)

We hope you will consider supporting Richard House this Christmas season and beyond!

Your sincerely, *Charlie Grey*, Community Fundraiser, [charlieg@richardhouse.org.uk](mailto:charlieg@richardhouse.org.uk)

**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 Representative

**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: £401.00 envelopes: £197.00 contactless collection last weekend: £260.00 total: **£858.00**

Standing orders in October; **£2255.00**

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 send your donation by bank. Parish account is on Parish Web.

**Thank you for your Generosity**

WRCDDT 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 26 January 2023 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)

**FREE TEA AND COFFEE**

There is free tea and coffee after 11 am Mass every Sunday. This makes a good time to meet your fellow parishioners. Come and join us.

*Kingsley Nnaji*

