

NEWSLETTER

3 SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**'Are you the one to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?'**

Reading the Gospel from Matthew, I was reminded of my friend who sent a birthday card to his girlfriend. On the outside it read, 'Sweetheart, you are the answer to my prayers!' then on the inside, it read, 'You are not what I prayed for exactly, but you are the answer'

In asking the question 'Are you the one who is to come or have we got to wait for someone else? John the Baptist it seems his hopes has not yet been fulfilled. He is in prison for preaching the word of God; the truth about marriage and life-long fidelity to one's spouse. We too can understand his question, because at times we seem to be caught between the a rock and the hard place. Through no fault of our own, we find ourselves in some difficulty and we ask where are you Jesus or like John we would like to send messengers to ask are you the Messiah? Would you help me or would I have to go to someone else, or leave helpless?

Jesus sends to John this reply: 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see, the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me'.

This is Jesus' message to us as well. Despite the difficulties we might be facing, we are called to look around and see the presence of God. A former parishioner of mine who was suffering from a form of cancer, wrote to me to say that she and her best friend had attended a weekend retreat, where the priest leading the retreat laying hands on her and prayed. She went on to say that she felt as though a current had gone through her, she and her friend returned home, next day she visited the doctor who took another X-Ray, a few days later he rang her to say she is cured no trace of the cancer. I have heard many cases such as this! Where priests have prayed over someone who have found themselves cured.

When we hear of such events it should give us courage, remember that last line: 'happy the man who does not lose faith in me'. When we are going through difficulties we can be consumed by it and cannot see the light and like John caught between the rock and the hard place. We are called to pray and not lose our faith in Jesus, to pray, hope and don't worry. Continue to pray and it will be answered somehow, somewhere, even if not how we expected. Keep trusting in God. He will answer and he will not let us down.

When late Cardinal Hume, visited St Therese's cell in Carmen in Lisieux he says, by the door of her cell, scratched into the wood, she had written, 'Jesus is my only love'

That was not written in exaltation but in despair. She was crying out to her Beloved that even when she experienced nothing but absence, emptiness, darkness, she clung to the assurance of being loved and carried in his arms. That is the faith at a heroic level-that is trust, clinging to God when everything in our experience would seem to contradict his very existence, or at least his love for us.

The following was found written on a cellar wall in Cologne after World War II:

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining

I believe in love even when I feel it not

I believe in God even when he is silent

Happy the person stuck between a rock and hard place who does not lose faith in Jesus.

Happy are we who does not lose faith in Jesus.

Fr. Christopher

**MASS INTENTIONS****Dec 10th, 2022**

6pm - Jan Bednarczyk
(Anniv)

Dec 11th, 2022

9am— Pro Populo

11am— Ints of

Cardinal Vincent

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)

**Readings for this & next
Sunday**

1st Reading— Isaiah 35; 1-6, 10

Psalms 145; 6-10

response of Isaiah 35:4

2nd Reading - James 5:7-10

Gospel - Mathew 11; 2-11

1st Reading— Isaiah 7; 10-14

Psalms 23; 1-6

response of 7, 10

2nd Reading - Romans 1:1-7

Gospel - Mathew 1; 18-24

The Immaculate Conception

From the Church tradition: the Immaculate Conception is a dogma originating from sound Christian Tradition. Monks in Palestinian monasteries started celebrating the feast of the Conception of Our Lady by the end of the 7th century. The feast spread as the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in Italy in the 9th century, in England 11th century, and in France 12th century. Pope Leo VI propagated the celebration, and Pope Sixtus IV approved it as a Feast. In 1854, Pope Pius IX declared the Immaculate Conception to be a dogma of Faith. In 1858 Mary Appearing to Bernadette in Lourdes, said, ' I am the Immaculate Conception'

In Sacred Scripture: we read, God purified prophet Jeremiah in the womb of his mother (Jer1:5' Before I formed you in the womb of your mother I knew you and before you were born, I consecrated you'). And God anointed John the Baptist with the Holy Spirit before John's birth as John's mother attests, (Lk 1:43-44' how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy'. It is reasonable that God kept the mother of His Son free from all sin from the first moment of her origin.

The angel saluted Mary as 'full of grace'. The greeting means that Mary was never, even for a moment, a slave of sin and the devil. In Gen 3:15-'I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and hers; He will strike at your head while you strike at His heel'. 'The woman' stands for Mary and the promise would not be true if Mary had original sin.

If we are allowed to select our mother, we would select the most beautiful, healthy and saintly lady.. God cannot be born from a woman who was a slave of the devil, even for a moment in her life

Every mother wants her children to inherit or acquire all her good qualities. Our Immaculate Mother wants us to be her holy and pure children. Lets honour her by practicing her virtues of Faith and obedience, and let's respond to God's grace by using it to do good to others.



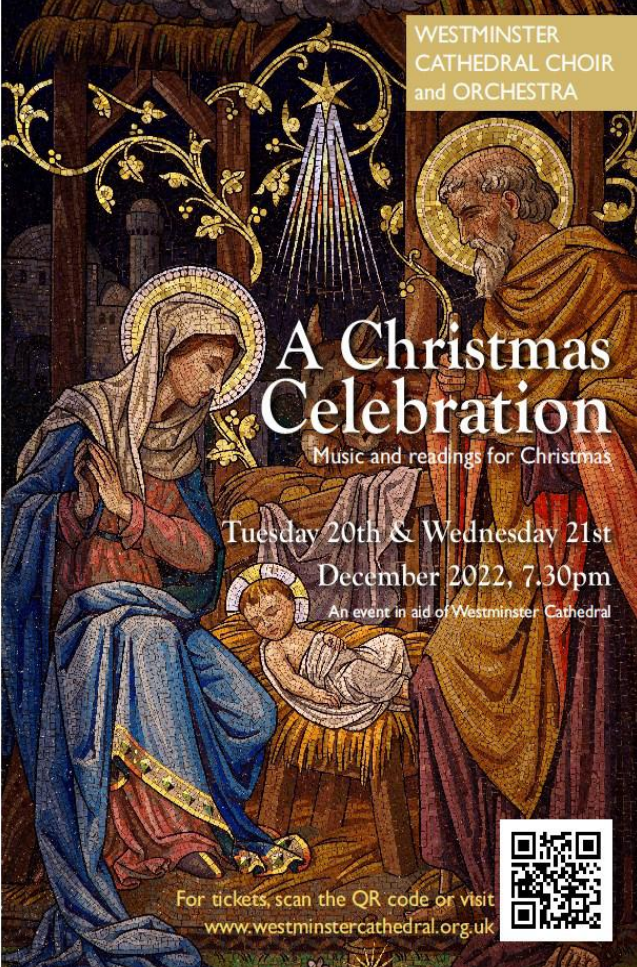
**CHURCH DECORATION
FOR CHRISTMAS
NEXT SUNDAY,
AFTER 11 am MASS**

We ask you to stay to help to decorate the church and set up the Crib.

Mid Night Mass

We are looking for volunteers who could give out Mulled Wine and Mince pies after the Midnight Mass. If you can help then do give your details to the parish office.

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




**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.

First Holy Communion

Those parents who missed the parents Meeting on 5th December at 7pm are asked to contact Katherine at the office to purchase your books before Christmas. Your child will need two book; priced at £20 pounds each. You need to pay cash at the office.

each.

Here are the dates for the 2023 course:

First Part:

1. January 8, 2023; 2. January 15; 3. January 22; 4. January 29; 5. February 5; 6. February 26.
7. March 5.

First Reconciliation: Saturday 11. March 2023

Second Part:

1. March 12; 2. March 19; 3. March 26; 4. April 2; 5. April 23; 6. May 7; 7. May 14.

First Holy Communion: Saturday 20. May 2023

Attending 9am mass is compulsory for children who are on the course—course finishes at 10.50am

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

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

Your sincerely, *Charlie Grey*,
Community Fundraiser, charlieg@richardhouse.org.uk



CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

Sunday, 18th December 2022 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Masses at 6pm, Saturday & 9am & 11am Sunday
Confession on Saturday - 5pm – 5.45 pm

Saturday, 24th December 2022 *Christmas Eve*

6.00pm
11.30 pm

Children's Mass for Christmas
Midnight Mass of Christmas with Carols before

Sunday, 25th December 2022 *Christmas Day*

11am

Mass of Christmas Day

Monday, 26th December 2022 *St Stephen*

Mass at 11am

27th December 2022

No Mass

28th December 2022

No Mass

29th December 2022

11 am Mass with Altar Servers Renewal of Promises

Friday, 30th December 2022 *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph* 11 am Mass

Saturday, 31st December 2022 6.00pm

Sunday, 1st January 2023 *The Holy Mother of God*

Mass at 9am & 11am

Monday, 2nd January 2023

Mass at 11am

3rd January 2023

No Mass

4th January 2023

No Mass

5th January 2023

No Mass

Friday, 6th January 2023

The Epiphany of the Lord

9.15am & 8pm Mass



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 Representative

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

loose: £286.37 envelopes: £220.64 contactless collection last weekend: £584.00 total: **£1091.901**
Standing orders in October; **£2066.00**

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

WRCDT Charity No: 233699

The Universe Catholic Weekly

Is true to its mission of being "a light to guide the world, and a mirror to reflect it" Keeping Catholics informed about their faith, and bringing them ever closer to God. In order to keep our high standard going and maintain a strong weekly Catholic voice at a time when it is much needed in the world, please consider taking out a subscription.

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michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

We invite you to submit articles/news and celebrations about your local parish activities

Please see link below for this week's Universe Catholic Weekly.

<https://universecatholicweekly.co.uk/universe-weekly-newsletters/december-2022/UNIVERSE-09-DECEMBER-2022.pdf>

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 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).

FRIENDS OF HISTORY TRUST - 2023 CALENDARS FOR SALE—£6

AVAILABLE FROM JOHN CHESSON (BEFORE OR AFTER MASS)

FREE TEA AND COFFEE

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

Kingsley Nnaji

