

NEWSLETTER

**4 SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**

‘decided to divorce her informally’

When I read the Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. I marvel at St Joseph’ continued adherence to the divine plan, even when the situations are mysterious to him.

In my life and yours too, there is always some mystery, perhaps God is pleased to work in a hidden, secret manner or his actions are incomprehensible to us, because of our poor intelligence. I need to trust and have that trust of faith, that confidence to rely on the goodness of God, to convince myself that he always and in all circumstances wants my good and yours and disposes everything to that end. Only this loving trust of St Joseph, to say my yes to the divine will, a humble yes in spite of the difficulties, the problems the darkness of my heart, the mystery, God made use of the angels to make his will known to Joseph; to manifest it to us he has made use of bishops , priests, catechists, parents, who like the angels are his messengers and envoys. You and I are called to obey like St Joseph, sadly I have failed to be obedient to understanding that God can employ any person or situation to make us know and execute his divine will, just as he used Caesar’ edict to bring Joseph to Bethlehem, where the Saviour was born. Caesar had a far different intention, but God utilised this political act to carry out the plan of the Incarnation. This should remind us, that God governs and directs all things towards the fulfilment of his will.

Another characteristic of St. Joseph life was his consecration to the mission entrusted to him by God. Joseph didn’t live for himself and his own interests, but for God whom he served in Jesus and Mary. It’s no wonder he is referred to as the true model of interior souls, of souls who desire to live totally for God and with God, in fulfilling the mission they have received from him.

Let us pray: O dear St. Joseph, we place ourselves, then with confidence under your protection. Teach us to live as you did, in faith and abandonment to God; teach us to live solely for him, by consecrating ourselves entirely to his service. Amen

Fr. Christopher



MASS INTENTIONS

Dec 17th, 2022

6pm - Holy Souls
in Purgatory

Dec 18th, 2022

9am— Pro Populo

11am— Ints of
Sick & Housebound

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.

Carol Service

We are looking for **readers**. If you are attending Carol Service and Midnight Mass and you are willing to read, make yourself known to John Chesson. Thank you.

Midnight 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.



**CHURCH DECORATION
FOR CHRISTMAS**

THIS SUNDAY, AFTER 11 am MASS

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

Readings for this & next Sunday

VIGIL MASS

1st Reading— Isaiah 7; 10-14
Psalm 23; 1-6
response cf 7 ,10
2nd Reading - Romans 1:1-7
Gospel – Mathew 1; 18-24

1st Reading— Isaiah 62; 1-5
Psalm 88; 4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
response cf 2
2nd Reading - Acts 13:16-17,
22-25
Gospel – Mathew 1; 18-24

MIDNIGHT MASS

1st Reading— Isaiah 9; 1-7
Psalm 95; 1-3, 11-13
response Luke 2 ,11
2nd Reading - Titus 2:11-14
Gospel – Luke 2; 1-14

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

1st Reading— Isaiah 52; 7-10
Psalm 97; 1-6 response v3
2nd Reading - Hebrews 1:1-6
Gospel – John 1; 1-18

The whole world waits for Mary's answer

You have heard that you shall conceive and bear a Son; you have heard that you shall conceive, not of man, but of the Holy Spirit. The angel is waiting for your answer: it is time for him to return to God who sent him. We too are waiting, O Lady, for the word of pity, even we who are overwhelmed in wretchedness by the sentence of damnation.

And behold, to you the price of our salvation is offered. If you consent, straightway shall we be freed. In the eternal Word of God were we all made, and lo! We die; by one little word of yours in answer shall we all be made alive. Adam asks this of you, O loving Virgin, poor Adam, exiled as he is from paradise with all his poor wretched children; Abraham begs this of you, and David; this all the holy fathers implore, even your fathers, who themselves are dwelling in the valley of shadow of death; this the whole world is waiting for, kneeling at your feet.

And rightly so, for on your lips is hanging the consolation of the wretched, the redemption of the captive, the speedy deliverance of Adam's children, of all your race.

Answer, O Virgin, answer the angel speedily; rather, through the angel, answer your Lord. Speak the word, and receive the Word; offer what is yours, and conceive and receive the Word; offer what is yours, and conceive what is of God; give what is temporal, and embrace what is eternal.

Why delay? Why tremble? Believe, speak, receive! Let your humility put on boldness, and your modesty be clothed with trust. Not now should your virginal simplicity forget prudence! In this one thing alone, O prudent Virgin, fear not presumption; for although modesty that is silent is pleasing, more needful now is the loving-kindness of your word.

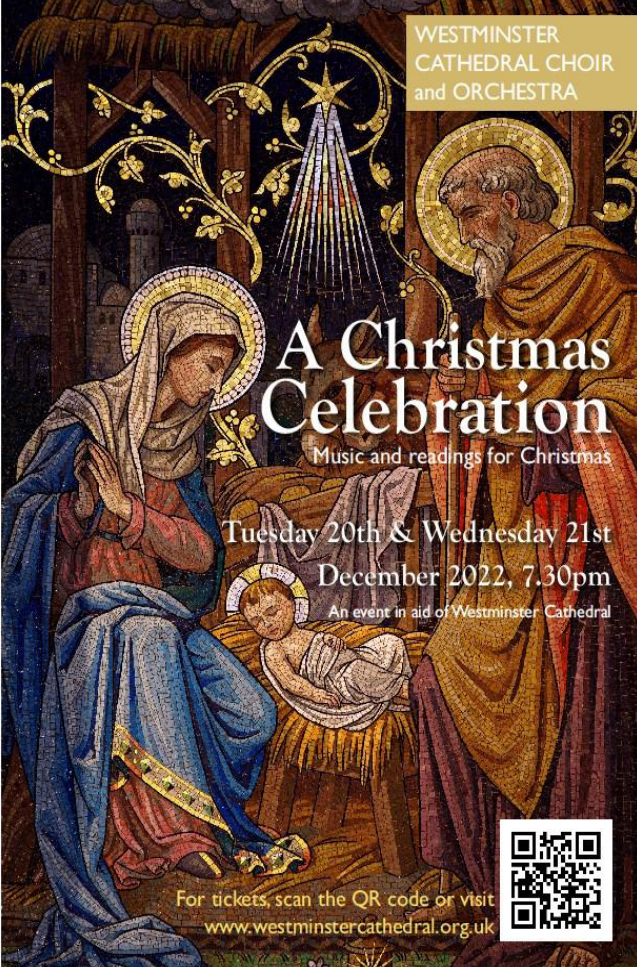
Open, O Blessed Virgin, your heart to faith; open your lips to speak; open your bosom to your Maker. Behold! The Desired of all nations is outside, knocking at your door. Oh! If by your delay he should pass by, and again in sorrow you should have to begin to seek for him whom your soul loves! Arise, then, run and open. Arise by faith, run by the devotion of your heart, open by your word. 'And Mary said: Behold the handmaid of the Lord: be it done to me according to your word'.
St Bernard

Dear friends,

This version of the Our Father was sent to me by a Friend which I share with you:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts
as we forgive our debtors
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Fr Christopher



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

Confirmation course

will start in January 2023.

**Will be held on Saturdays at 4pm
in the Church and you are expected
to attend 6pm Mass with the group;**

Jan 14, 2023 04:00 PM

Jan 21 2023 04:00 PM

Jan 28 2023 04:00 PM

Feb 4, 2023 04:00 PM

Feb 25, 2023 04:00 PM

Mar 4, 2023 04:00 PM

Mar 11, 2023 04:00 PM

Mar 18, 2023 04:00 PM

Mar 25, 2023 04:00 PM

Apr 22, 2023 04:00 PM

Apr 29, 2023 04:00 PM

May 6, 2023 04:00 PM

There will also be a mandatory volunteering at homeless shelter later and the dates will be announced in the new year. Please ensure you make yourself available. Asha

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. Your child cannot start the course without the book.

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 Children's Mass for Christmas
11.30 pm 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: £289.66 envelopes: £211.64 contactless collection last weekend: £637.00 total: **£1138.30**

Standing orders in November; **£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

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.

We have an excellent website full of trustworthy articles and an online shop with all subscribers receiving a 10% discount. Order **your Digital** 4 weeks **FREE introductory offer** by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email:

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 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)

We wish You a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

From Fr Christopher and Katherine

Next Newsletter will be on the 15th January 2023