

## NEWSLETTER

2 SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**Assisted Suicide**

Dear Friends,

The House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee has launched an inquiry into assisted suicide and is inviting individual members of the public and interested organisations to comment, and to suggest what actions might be helpful for the debate. Suggested Options are a 'Citizens Assembly', further research, or a referendum.

Assisted suicide presents profound dangers to public safety and the common good, and it's imperative as many of you as possible engage with the Parliamentary Inquiry and oppose the introduction of assisted suicide into UK law. It's equally important that those of you who respond should oppose the idea of a 'Citizens' Assembly or referendum on this issue, since these could be abused to legalise assisted suicide.

Pope Francis has taught against assisted suicide, euphemistically called, 'assisted dying', as have previous pontiffs.

'All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect' (*Pope Francis, Message to Catholics participating in Day for Life in Britain and Ireland, July 28 2013*) 'Physician assisted suicide is part of a 'throwaway culture' that offers a 'false compassion' and treats a human person as problem... True compassion does not marginalise anyone, nor does it humiliate and exclude-much less considers the death of a person as a good thing' (*Pope Francis, Address to Directors of the Orders of Physicians of Spain and Latin America, June 2016*)

'More and more lonely elderly people exist in big cities, even in situations of serious illness and close to death. In such situations, the pressure of euthanasia is felt, especially when a utilitarian vision of the person creeps in. In this regard, I take this opportunity to reaffirm once again the firm and constant ethical condemnation of every form of direct euthanasia, in accordance with the Church's centuries-old teaching' (*Pope Benedict XVI, February 25 2008*)

'As believers, how can we fail to see that abortion, euthanasia and assisted suicide are a terrible rejection of God's gift of life and love? And as believers, how can we fail to feel the duty to surround the sick and those in distress with the warmth of our affection and the support that will help them always to embrace life?' (*St. Pope John Paul II*)

The Catholic Church is clear that we can never assist in taking the life of another, even if they request it. All life is sacred from conception until natural death, and we reiterate our call for investment in high quality palliative care. Our call is one for assistance in living and not assistance in committing suicide. (*Statements of the Bishops*)

Links that would be helpful:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/category/cbcew/life-issues/assisted-dying/>

The Anscombe Centre can also help with your response. They have produced a statement and resources about this Inquiry: <https://bioethics.org.uk/news-events/news-from-the-centre/anscombe-centre-statement-on-commons-hsc-committee-inquiry-into-assisted-suicide/>

The time frame to respond to the consultation is short. Your submissions must be in by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January but the format of the inquiry is simple and is not time-consuming-just six questions. Should you have further questions then contact Anscombe Centre at

[admin@bioethics.co.uk](mailto:admin@bioethics.co.uk)

Thank you. Fr Christopher

(the above was adapted for the news letter from the letter to All Clergy by Bishop John Sherrington)

**MASS INTENTIONS****Jan 14th, 2022**

6pm - Ints of Neil O'Brien

**Jan 15th, 2022**

9am— Cardinal George  
Pell RIP

11am— Ints of  
Ogu Family

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.

**Readings for this  
& next Sunday**

1st Reading— Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

Psalm 39:2, 4, 7-10

response w 8, 9

2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Gospel - John 1: 29-34

1st Reading— Isaiah 8; 23-9:3

Psalm 26; 1, 4, 13-14 response v1

2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians

1:10-13, 17

Gospel - Mathew 4; 12-23

**The next baptismal courses for parents will be on 26 January 2023 from 7pm to 9pm on Zoom. See the last page for details.**

## Baptised into the Holy Spirit

When a Church is consecrated to God it's set apart for him alone. Great art works are used in it's construction; and after it's magnificently ornamented it's offered to God, to be his forever. Scriptures tell us that we are temples of the Holy Spirit St Paul reminds us: *Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you.?*

On the day of our baptism we were consecrated to be temples of the Holy Spirit. Before the regenerating water is poured, the catechumen is freed from the empire of Satan and made to renounce satanic works, Then, when his will is confirmed in consecration to God, he is baptised, and the Holy Spirit takes possession of his temple.

We as Christians are the temples of the Holy Spirit; we are consecrated to him. Nothing else may be done in that temple in which God dwells except that which gives glory to him. St Paul has stated that even the most mundane of actions of the Christian should be done to this end: *Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God.* Isn't this the ratification of the baptismal offering, the renewal of the promises made at the time, the free and loving acceptance of the life that God infused in our souls when the Church received us into her maternal bosom? True devotion to the Holy Spirit is not something distinct from the Christian life-It is the life thoroughly understood, seriously practised, and deeply enjoyed. To be devotee of the Holy Spirit is to comprehend the august dignity of the Christian-the holy mission and arduous duties that are sweetened by love. It is to establish ourselves in the truth, to be faithful to the sacred promises of baptism, to be what we ought to be, and then strive for that perfection to which we all as Christian should aspire....,

True devotion to the Holy Spirit, therefore, is not something superficial and intermittent, but something profound and constant, like the Christian life itself. It is the love of the soul that corresponds to the love of God, the gift of the creature who strives to be grateful for the divine Gift, our human cooperation that receives the loving and efficacious action of God. As divine love is eternal and its action constant, it's our part to have our heart always open to love, ready to receive the unspeakable gift.

*Archbishop Luis Maria Martinaz*

### **Confirmation course will starts 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

**THANK YOU**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all  
your gifts and well  
wishes during  
Christmas tide.  
May God bless  
you all.

Fr. Christopher

## **'Look, there is the lamb of God'**

In our Gospel, John says, 'he who sent me to baptise with water said to me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit' Those such as the Pharisees listening to John did not recognise Jesus as the Messiah, so John tells them, 'Look there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world'.

This Jesus whom we couldn't pick out from the crowd, was the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world and to whom we could understand the Father speaking the words we read in our First reading, ' You are my servant Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'

When Jesus comes he doesn't throw his weight around so we might miss his coming if we were expecting great things. I think Jesus comes in a similar way today, as a humble lamb. One of the documents of the II Vatican Council says, Jesus comes in the word of God in the readings, in the Eucharist, in the congregation and in the priest (Sacrosanctum Concilium 7).

When the readings are proclaimed God is speaking to us. If a line from the text strikes you, we normally understand this as God speaking to us.

In Holy Communion, Jesus comes to us in the fullness of his body, blood, soul and divinity.

Jesus is present in the congregation because where two or three are gathered in his name he is present in our midst.

Jesus is present in the priest who offers Jesus to the Father just as Jesus offered himself to the Father on the cross.

Jesus comes to us in four ways when we gather here for our Sunday Mass in the word of God, in the Eucharist, in the congregation and in the priest.

In which one of these four ways would we find it difficult to see Jesus present Is it in the Word of God in the readings because they are from a culture so different to ours; in Holy communion because Jesus still looks like bread after the consecration because we know the faults and weaknesses of some people present; or in the priest because we wonder about his sincerity and because we can see his faults and weaknesses?

When Jesus comes now in these four ways, in a certain sense, you would not pick him out and he has to be pointed out. This how I would point out the presence of God in these four ways.

It requires faith to believe that, after the consecration, the bread is no longer bread but Jesus although still looking like bread. Jesus is present and the Eucharistic miracles confirm this on many occasions when the bread or wine physically changed at the consecration to also look like flesh and blood.

If we find it difficult to love someone in the congregation this of Jesus

He had no form or charm to attract us

No beauty to win our hearts;

He was despised the lowest of men (Isa 53:2).

If we find it difficult to see Jesus in the priest, perhaps what we read in the letter to the Hebrews about Jesus the High Priest might help:

Since all children shared the same human nature, it was essential that Jesus too shared in it., It was essential that Jesus should in this way be made completely like his brothers so that he could become a compassionate and trustworthy high priest (Heb 2: 14-17).

*Fr. Christopher*

## **First Holy Communion**

Those parents who have registered their child for preparation for First Holy Communion, are reminded that the candidates have to attend 9 am Mass on Sunday and the course after. The unauthorized absence will exclude the child from the course. When your child cannot attend a session, you need to drop an email to Hajni or to the Parish Office.

**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**

Course finishes at 10.50am

**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: £238.51 envelopes: £420.10 contactless collection last weekend: £167.00 total: **£825.61**  
Standing orders in December; **£2323.00**

**CHRISTMAS' COLLECTIONS:**

loose: £754.93 envelopes: £290.00 contactless collection : £130.00 total: **£1174.93**

**NEW YEAR'S COLLECTIONS:**

loose: £456.77 envelopes: £161.37 contactless collection : £380.00 total: **£998.14**

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](mailto: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)**