

NEWSLETTER

3 SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIMEMESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
XXXI WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

'Take care of him'
Compassion as a synodal exercise of healing

Dear brothers and sisters!

Illness is part of our human condition. Yet, if illness is experienced in isolation and abandonment, unaccompanied by care and compassion. It can become inhumane.

When we go on a journey with others. It is not unusual for someone to feel sick, to have to stop because of fatigue or of some mishap along the way. It is precisely in such moments that we see how we are walking together; whether we are truly companions on the journey, or merely individuals on the same path, looking after our own interests and leaving others to 'make do'. For this reason, on the thirty-first World Day of the Sick, as the whole Church journeys along the synodal path, I invite all of us to reflect on the fact that it is especially through the experience of vulnerability and illness that we can learn to walk together according to the style of God, which is closeness, compassion, and tenderness.

In the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel, the Lord speaks these words that represent one of the high points of God's Revelation: 'I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down says the Lord God. I seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak [...] I will feed them with justice' (34:15-16).

Experiences of bewilderment, sickness, and weakness are part of the human journey. Far from excluding us from God's people, they bring us to the centre of the Lord's attention, for he is our Father and does not want to lose even one of his children along the way. Let us learn from him, then, how to be a community that truly walks together, capable of resisting the throwaway culture.

The Encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* encourages us to read anew the parable of the Good Samaritan, which I chose in order to illustrate how we can move from the 'dark clouds' of a closed world to 'envisaging and engendering an open world' (cf No 56). There is a profound link between this parable of Jesus and the many ways in which fraternity is denied in today's world. In particular, the fact that the man, beaten and robbed, is abandoned on the side of the road represents the condition in which all too many of our brothers and sisters are left at a time when they most need help. It is no longer easy to distinguish the assaults on human life and dignity that arise from natural causes from those caused by injustice and violence. In fact, increasing levels of inequality and the prevailing interests of the few now affect every human environment to the extent that it is difficult to consider any experience as having solely 'natural' causes. All suffering takes place in the context of a 'culture' and its various contradictions.

Here it is especially important to recognise the condition of loneliness and abandonment. This kind of cruelty can be overcome more easily than any other injustice, because—as the parable tells us—it only takes a moment of our attention, of being moved to compassion within us, in

MASS INTENTIONSJan 21st, 2022

6pm - Pro Populo

Jan 22nd, 2022

9am— Ints of

Ogu Family

11am— Maria Adora &

Darell Benjamin RIP

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 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

1st Reading— Zephaniah 2-3,

3:12-13

Psalm 15:7-10 response

Mathew 5:3

2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians

1:26-31,

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

in order to eliminate it. Two travellers, considered pious and religious, see the wounded man, yet fail to stop. The third passer-by, however, a Samaritan, a second foreigner, is moved with compassion and takes care of the stranger on the road, treating him as a brother. In doing so, without even thinking about it, he makes a difference, he makes the world more fraternal.

Brothers and sisters, we are rarely prepared for illness. Oftentimes, we fail even to admit that we are getting older. Our vulnerability frightens us and the pervasive culture of efficiency pushes us to sweep it under the carpet, leaving no room for our human frailty. In this way, when evil bursts onto the scene and wounds us, we are left stunned. Moreover, others might abandon us at such times. Or, in our own moments of weakness, we may feel that we should abandon others in order to avoid becoming a burden. This how loneliness sets in, and we can become poisoned by a bitter sense of injustice, as if God himself had abandon us. Indeed, we may find it hard to remain at peace with the Lord when our relationship with others and with ourselves is damaged. It is crucial, then, even in the midst of illness, that the whole Church measure herself against the Gospel example of the Good Samaritan, in order that she may become a true 'field hospital', for her mission is manifested in acts of care, particularly in the historical circumstances of our time. We are all fragile and vulnerable, and need that compassion which knows how to pause, approach, heal, and raise up. Thus, the plight of the sick is a call that cuts through indifference and slows the pace of those who on their way as if they had no sisters and brothers.

The World Day for the Sick calls for prayer and closeness towards those who suffer. Yet it also aims to raise the awareness of God's people, health care institutions and civil society with regard to a new way of moving forward together. The above -quoted prophecy of Ezekiel judges harshly the priorities of those who wield economic, cultural, and political power over others: 'You eat the fat, you clothe yourself with the wool, you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not bound up the injured you have not brought back the strayed, you have not sought the lost, but with force and harshness you have ruled them' (34;3-4). God's word is always illuminating and timely; not only in what it denounces, but also in what it proposes. Indeed, the conclusion of the parable of the Good Samaritan suggests how the exercise of fraternity; which began as a face-to-face encounter, can be expanded into organized care. The elements of the inn, the innkeeper, the money and the promise to remain informed of the situation (cf. Lk 10;34-35) all point to the commitment of healthcare and social workers, family members and volunteers, through whom good stands up in the face of evil day, in every part of the world.

These past year of the pandemic have increased our sense of gratitude for those who work each day in the fields of healthcare and research. Covid-19 has strained the great networks of expertise and solidarity, and has exposed the structural limits of existing public welfare system. Gratitude, then, needs to be matched by actively seeking, in every country, strategies and resources in order to guarantee each person's fundamental right to basic and decent healthcare.

The Samaritan calls the innkeeper to "take care of him" (Lk 10:35). Jesus addresses the same call to each of us. He exhorts us to "go and do likewise" (Lk 10:37). As I noted in *Fratelli Tutti*, "The parable shows us how a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbours, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good" (No. 67). Indeed, "we were created for a fulfilment that can only be found in love. We cannot be indifferent to suffering" (No. 68).

On 11 February 2023, let us turn thoughts to the Shrine of Lourdes, a prophetic lesson entrusted to the Church for our modern times. It is not only what functions well or those who are productive that matter. Sick people, in fact, are at the centre of God's people, and the Church advances together with them as a sign of a humanity in which everyone is precious and no one should be discarded or left behind.

To the intercession of Mary, Health of the Sick, I entrust all of you who are ill, you who care for them in your families, or through your work, research and volunteer service; and those of you who are committed to weaving personal, ecclesial, and civic bonds of fraternity. To all, I impart my heartfelt blessing;

FRANCIS

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 10 January 2023

World Day of The Sick

Dear Friends, The World Day of the Sick, this, year falls on the weekend of 11th /12th of February 23
At the 11am Mass, we here at St. Edmund's, will have the Anointing of the Sick. If you know of anyone in your area who would benefit from the Anointing; please bring them along with you. Please put this date in your diary. Thank you & God bless, *Fr. Christopher*

Dear Friends,

Could I ask you to remember our Christian brothers and sisters, throughout the world who are being persecuted for their faith.
Just a few days ago, a Catholic priest was burned alive and another seriously injured by bandits in Nigeria. They are witnessing to the faith in serving Our Lord. Do please pray for our Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world. Thank you, *Fr Christopher*

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

**Dear
Friends
We wish our
Chinese and
Vietnamese
friends
A Happy
New Year
Chuc mung
nam moi

Kong Hei Fat
Choy
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: £349.42 envelopes: £228.00 contactless collection last weekend: £210.00 total: **£787.42**
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.

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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 Saturday morning or during any Mass (if number of guests are limited).

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)