

## NEWSLETTER

4 SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**Blessed are you..**

Without hesitation the Lord makes the leap for the disciples who are listening to him from the generality of 'the poor', 'the mournful', 'the weak' to you (Mt 5: 11). So thoroughly does the incarnate Word of God have his effect that he can enjoin on them the necessity of becoming what they are hearing. This is what it means to be made. *his children by the message of truth* (Jn 1: 18). This is what Isaiah means when he says that Word that proceeds from God's mouth does not return to him fruitless, without succeeding in the task he gave it (Is 55:10). As rain and snow drench the earth, *making it blossom and bear fruit*, so does God's Word penetrate the heart of man, communicating to him, in the words of the hymn, *the sober inebriation of the Spirit*, as we witness at the first Pentecost. The Beatitudes, we may say, are that potent divine liquor that inebriates men with God's folly of love.

The Lord does not demand the kind of heroism represented by the Beatitudes on the basis of an abstract ideology or as attest of the spiritual and moral prowess of which an individual is capable... Just as Jesus passes suddenly from the generic sanctity ('the poor', and so forth) to you-who-are-listening-to-me, so too he transforms the whole rationale for such sanctity from categorical moral injunction to commitment through personal relationship with himself. He passes from *IN THE CAUSE OF RIGHT (Mt.5:10)*. To my account(Mt5:11)... If the prophets have been persecuted until now because of their burning devotion to truth, justice, and holiness, the disciples will know scorn and persecution because of the incarnate Word, the very one who is uttering the Beatitudes...When he preaches the Beatitudes, Christ is providing an intimate commentary on who he himself is, and the disciples are to be fortunate and blessed in the precise way in which the Son of God is fortunate and blessed, 'Be this and do this and that because of me, that is, for the love of me, because this what I am and a lover always wants to be where his beloved is, to be where his beloved is, to be what his beloved is and thus be united with him beyond separation, united with him in the essence and nature of his being and not exteriorly.

Does not 'union of hearts imply that two persons love the same thing and that this love makes them one? Is this not what the disciples were looking for at the very beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, when he sat down and his disciples joined him? The presence of the living Christ brackets the whole proclamation of the Beatitudes. It is impossible to be holy apart from him. *Erasmus Levia-Merikakis*

**MASS INTENTIONS****Jan 28th, 2023**

6pm - Ints of Sick  
& Housebound

**Jan 29th, 2023**

9am— Pro Populo  
11am— Hazel Donaldson  
(Anniv)

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— Zephaniah 2-3,  
3:12-13  
Psalm 145:7-10 response  
*Mathew 5:3*  
2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians  
1:26-31,  
Gospel – Mathew 5; 1-12

1st Reading— Isaiah 58:7-10,  
Psalm 111:4-9 response v 4  
2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians  
2:1-5,  
Gospel – John 8; 12

**World Day of The Sick**

Dear Friends, The World Day of the Sick, this, year falls on the weekend of 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> 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*

*For the love of Christ, Paul endured all things*

It was Saint Paul more than anyone else who showed what man is and how great is the nobility of our nature, as well as what capacity for virtue this human animal has. Every day he advanced in stature, every day he fought with ever-renewed keenness against the dangers threatening him; he showed this when he said, 'I forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead'. When he was expecting to die he summoned others to share his joy, saying, 'You also should be glad and rejoice with me'. Again he actually leaped with joy at the dangers and insults and every dishonour which pressed on him, as he wrote to the Corinthians, 'I am content with weaknesses, insults, persecutions.' He called these the weapons of righteousness, showing that from them the greatest benefits are reaped.

Therefore he was always undefeated by his enemies. Everywhere he was beaten, insulted, and reviled. He treated it all as though it were a triumphal procession setting up trophies of victory everywhere on earth, glorying in them, giving thanks to God, saying, 'Thanks be to God who in Christ always lead us to triumph.' So he sought dishonour and insults in his preaching of the gospel more readily than we seek honours. He sought death more than we seek life, and poverty more than we seek riches; and he looked for work to do more than others look for rest. It was not simply that he looked for more, he looked for much more.

There was one thing, and one thing only that he feared and shunned, and that was to give offence to God. Just as there was one thing he longed for, to please God.

He was rich with the love of Christ which was the greatest of all things to him. While he said this, he reckoned himself the most blessed of men. Without it he had no wish to be numbered among princes and rulers and powers. Possessing love he wished to be among the lowliest of men, among those being chastised, rather than without love to be among the loftiest and honoured. There was one torment for him, to fall away from this love. That for him was hell, that was damnation. That was the sum of all evils.

Even so to find this love was joy. This to him was life, it was the whole world, his angel, things present, things to come, the kingdom and the promise. This was the sum of all blessings. Anything else which was not concerned with this he regarded neither as painful nor as pleasant. Things visible he considered of no more worth than withered grass. Tyrants or peoples breathing fury seemed to him like gnats. Death, torture, and a thousand torments he thought of as child's play, provided only he could endure something for Christ's sake.

*St John Chrysostom*

## **Racial Justice Sunday 2023**

Dear Friends,

Racial Justice Sunday this year falls on 5<sup>th</sup> February: Theme for this year is, 'All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church'. *Let us walk together, pray together and work together* This was inspired by observations made by Pope Francis during his visit to Canada last year when he spoke about looking towards a future of 'justice, healing and reconciliation' and by conversations following RJS 2022.

Could I urge our Catechists for First Holy Communion, Baptism and Confirmation to visit the link <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday>

To use in your sessions.

Let us pray; God of our past, present and future,

You created each one of us in your image and likeness.

Help us to recognise you in each person as we pray for an end to suffering caused by racism.

Lead us this day to walk with one another, pray with one another, and work together

so that we will create a future based on justice and healing

and fulfil the hope you have for all peoples.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

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*

### **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 due to complex medical conditions of their children, requiring 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 at this time!

### **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 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 a homeless shelter later and the dates will be announced.

### **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:

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: £231.61 envelopes: £209.12 contactless collection last weekend: £185.00 total: **£625.72**  
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 date of the **next baptismal courses will be given soon**. Please, drop an email to the office mill-wall@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)**