

NEWSLETTER

5 SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME***Willing to Be Salt and Light***

It is one of the more quiet truths of Catholicism that souls at time freely surrender long-guarded secrets as though this self-revelation is the most natural conversation that can take place. The visiting rooms of cloisters and monasteries have always known this, and priests of course know it in confessionals-people never seen before coming to unburden their darkest truths at a first encounter.

Perhaps it happens because God's eyes are strangely felt in the presence of a monk or priest or nun, and this releases the floodgates of dark reminiscence with no thought of caution, only a desire for purging. Indeed, it may be that the first hour of many conversations, sometimes near the end of lives, coincides with this sense of being already well known upon entering into the presence of a man or woman whom God is mysteriously using to disguise his own openhearted embrace.

After our own experience of conversion, we should trust that there is a kind of vulnerability for God in everyone, a spark in the soul ready to flame up towards God at unexpected moments. Often it takes misfortune, a tragedy, a personal loss, and then the vigilance against God suddenly gives way., The crushing moment has become a divine knock at the soul's door. The suffering has become a merciful gesture. We cannot know this by looking from the outside, but we should always respect its possibility. A personal misfortune may mean salvation for a soul, and we should take care to tread gently, not to get in God's way, and yet to be ready to his instrument. *Fr. Donald Haggerty*

Novena to St Joseph

This years Novena to St Joseph falls between 11th -19th March 2023 You are asked to send your petitions, which would be placed at St Joseph's Altar during the Novena to be remembered at all Masses and prayers.

If you would like to have your deceased relatives and friends remembered then make a request by visiting novenamhm@gmail.com

You could ask for booklet. The Novena Masses will be available to view on Zoom, via Mill Hill web-site: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena

MASS INTENTIONS**Feb 4th, 2023**

6pm - Ints of Gerald Hayes

Feb 5th, 20239am— Ints of Gustavo
Puliido

11am— Margaret Dunn 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 58:7-10,
Psalm 111:4-9 response v 4
2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians
2:1-5,
Gospel – Mathew 5; 13-16

1st Reading— Ecclesiasticus
15:15-20
Psalm 118:1-2; 4-5; 17-18, 33-34
response v1
2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians
2:6-10,
Gospel – Mathew 5; 17-37

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 dairy. Thank you & God bless, *Fr. Christopher*

Racial Justice Sunday 2023

Dear Friends,

Racial Justice Sunday this year falls on 5th 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 Sisters and Brothers,

Thank you very much indeed, on the Cardinal's behalf, to all who have responded to his invitation to the Mass for Religious and Consecrated Life this Saturday, 4 February 2023, at 10.30am. The Cardinal much looks forward to welcoming you to the Cathedral.

The Cardinal is mindful that there will be some Sisters and Brothers who might have liked to attend, but are prevented from doing so, for instance by ill-health or reduced mobility. So arrangements have been made for the Mass to be live-streamed via the Cathedral website www.westminstercathedral.org.uk. As with the regular schedule of Masses streamed from the Cathedral, it will be available live, at 10.30am on Saturday, but will not be recorded to view at another time.

Please do let anyone who might be interested know about this. I have copied the parishes into this e-mail too in case they are aware of any Sisters or Brothers who are not on e-mail, but might enjoy the opportunity to join in this lovely celebration via the live stream.

With all good wishes, *Fr Alexander Master, Private Secretary to Cardinal Vincent Nichols*

Archbishop's House | Ambrosden Avenue | London | SW1P 1QJ privatesecretary@rcdow.org.uk

INSIGHT INTO ST EDMUND'S ANNUAL FINANCIAL RETURNS

The annual financial return for the year ended 31 December 2022 of St. Edmund's has been approved on 25 January 2023 by Finance Committee. The parish income increased by 2.4% from prior year with significant movement coming from offertories loose plate and contactless and from specific donations. Total expenditure also increased by 0.5% with significant amount coming from property repairs and renewals. **Year end result is on a deficit position with total expenditure exceeding the total income.**

The parish was able to contribute to different charities through your generosity – Holy Places, Sick & Retired Priests, Priests Training Fund, CAFOD and Spiritan Fathers, Poor & Needy. There were also a number of installation, repairs and maintenance in 2022 which includes new boiler, installation of wifi extension point and router, maintenance works in and around the church, and drawings of hall extension.

The parish needs to be adequately funded to secure the continuity of its missions for the next generation. With the bills being paid every month for the maintenance of the parish, we rely on your donations.

2 Corinthians 9:7 "God loves a cheerful giver"

Thank you from the Finance Committee

JUSTICE & PEACE E-BULLETIN FEBRUARY 2023

Fr Dominic writes:

As we begin a new calendar year, the mission of Justice and Peace around our Diocese is as urgent as ever. In our parishes, chaplaincies and schools the call to action on behalf of the weakest in society is such a vital part of our Catholic life. Faith put into action is the driving force of our communities.

The cost of living crisis demands us to advocate for change in the way we distribute wealth as the poor are getting poorer, the rough sleeping crisis is reaching unmanageable limits, and the class divide is growing ever wider. The migrants seeking sanctuary here challenge us to be a Church which is truly welcoming. Our communities too are being challenged to promote racial justice as at the heart of the Gospel. **We mark Racial Justice Sunday this coming Sunday, 5th February.** The ecological crisis is spurring on many to make practical changes which help preserve the creation God gave us to steward for future generations. Working alongside Caritas Westminster, as Justice and Peace we are striving in our communities to answer Pope Francis' call to be a Church not just with and for but of the poor, conscious we are all in the same boat as fragile human beings in an increasingly fragile world. Further afield, world peace is threatened in so many other parts of the world and, along with CAFOD, we do all we can to keep those places of conflict and war in our minds and hearts and to advocate on behalf of the weakest. Thankfully, we have an excellent network of Parish and Chaplaincy Contacts and we are seeking more in 2023. We recently welcomed Martin Pendergast from St Joseph's, Bunhill Row, as a new member of the Commission and are very grateful for the hard work and wise, energetic leadership of our Co-ordinator, Colette Joyce.

Every year the Agency for Evangelisation prepares a Lent faith-sharing resource for small groups. This year's booklet - 'Enlarging the Space of our Tent' - aims to ground the work of justice and peace around the Diocese in the context of our faith and the Sunday celebration of Mass, built on attentiveness to the scriptures and to prayerful discernment of priorities in the light of the current Synod process. Look out for details of groups running in your parishes or other communities or facilitate one of your own! More coming soon at <https://rcdow.org.uk/evangelisation/mission-and-discipleship/small-communities/>

Many thanks indeed for your faithfulness to the work of Justice and Peace in our Diocese. May the Lord inspire and bless us throughout this coming year.

Fr Dominic Robinson, SJ Chair

DIARY OF EVENTS ORGANISED BY JUSTICE & PEACE

5 February: Racial Justice Sunday – Theme 'All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church: Let us walk together, pray together and work together.' Resources published by the Bishops Conference at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday/>

9 February, 6.30pm: Catholic Union Synod Webinar. Panel discussion with Gavin Ashenden, Christopher Lamb, Anna Rowlands and Sr Gemma Simmonds. [Bookings with Eventbrite](#)

13 February, 12.45-2.00pm: Southern Dioceses Environment Network – Laudato Si' in 2023. Online meeting. Open to all Catholics and our friends for prayer, sharing and networking on the Care of Creation. Attend as a one-off or participate regularly. [More details](#)

16 February, 7.30pm: Friends of the Holy Land Concert. Music from the London Welsh Male Voice Choir and supported by Irish trio "The Priests". Westminster Cathedral. Tickets from £20. www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/westminster-concert2023.

17-20 February: Living Laudato Si' Your Parish and Your Planet Online Retreat - with Boarbank Hall and the Ecological Conversion Group. For new retreatants. Free, but donations welcome if you can afford it. Contact Sr Margaret Atkins margaret@boarbankhall.org.uk

18 February, 10am-4pm: Faith and Frontiers: Christian Responses to the migration Crisis - Online Conference. Insights from the work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Speakers include Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover, Dr Ulrich Schmiedel, University of Edinburgh, and Rev. Dr. Keith Clements, plus groups currently working to meet the needs of asylum seekers and refugees in Calais, Kent, and the North of England. Bookings at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/faith-and-frontiers-christian-responses-to-the-migration-crisis-tickets-352547247307>

20 February, 10am-12noon: Caritas Westminster – Routes out of Homelessness. Part of Dignified Work Stepping Stones Series. Introduction to organisations helping people out of homelessness and hardship. For community volunteers. Online. [Book with Eventbrite](#)

20 February, 12.30-1.30pm: Monthly Prayer Vigil outside the Home Office with Westminster Justice & Peace and London Catholic Worker to pray for migrants seeking safe passage to the UK. Marsham Street, SW1P 4DF. Contact Barbara Kentish (J & P) barbarakentish@talktalk.net

22 February (Ash Wednesday to Easter): CAFOD - The Big Lent Walk. Walk 200 km in 40 days to help fight global poverty. Find out more from CAFOD

**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: £264.99 envelopes: £162.00 contactless collection last weekend: £520.00 total: **£946.99**

Standing orders in December; **£2323.00**

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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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).

Confirmation course 2023.

Is held on Saturdays at 4pm in the Church and you are expected

to attend 6pm Mass with the group.

.First Holy Communion course 2023

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.