

NEWSLETTER

7 SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**Lent. Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday.**

I ask the question, is change be possible? Can My situation change? Can we as a community change? Can our world change?

John the Baptist proclaims. 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near' These words of John the Baptist is echoed by Jesus when he says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near' The word 'repent' is translated form the Greek, metanoia . Meaning to change ones mind, purpose or inner self.

Jesus believed in change. He called us to change, to Repent, for the kingdom heaven has come near.. The Spirit is near-God is on the move.

So, in this time let us surrender all that we have within ourselves. Lent is way that leads us to the face of the Father, the face of God. We cannot be heavy burdened-we were born naked, and when we die we will come before the Father naked. Jesus died naked. So, we mustn't carry anything. We will take before God our Father only that which we have given away.

But we are not dead yet! In the meanwhile , let things drop, really drop. Then we will enter Lent with a great joy. For when ever we drop anything pertaining to the wrong type of self - fulfilment, or to the adoration of self, or to all the things that clutter up our life, a sense of great joy will come to us and through us.

Seven weeks of each year is set aside for us to let go of the old and enter into the new, because God is merciful. Now we can pass over from the old that we led before Lent into the new life. This 'pass-over' is a daily occurrence; it is not only during Lent. But Lent enhances it and makes us think. It concentrates us. To bring us into the heart of God. Lent is all of us like St John the beloved disciple, putting our heads on the bosom of Jesus and hearing the heartbeat of God (John 13: 21-25). When we hear the heart beat of God, we change. We try to listen to those heartbeats, this Lent, but that we may not only repent and make our peace with God, but forgive all who have hurt us.

Let us open our hearts to God and allow him to wash us clean, allow him to fill us with a hunger for him, and a thirst for him. Allow him make us his own, so that when we come to Easter our joy will be complete.

Fr. Christopher

The Earth Quake In Turkey & Syria

Dear Friends, We having seen the images of devastation caused by two powerful earth quakes in Turkey and Syria.

A vast number made homeless and in need of help and those injured need medical help. Here in St Edmund's, **last weekend (11th/12th)and this weekend (18th /19th) there is a Second Collection to help the victims of the earthquake.** Your donations will be sent to CAFOD who will send them to their partners on the ground. I thank you for your generosity, and May God bless you all. *Fr Christopher*

MASS INTENTIONS**Feb 18th, 2023**

6pm - Ints of Earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria

Feb 19th, 2023

9am— Pro Populo

11am— Ints of Earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria

Ash Wed 22th, 2023

9.15 am—Ints of Earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria

8.00 pm— Fr David Wilson 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— Leviticus

19:1-2, 17-18

Psalms 102:1-4; 8; 10, 12-13

response v 8

2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 3:16-23,

Gospel - Mathew 5; 38-48

1st Reading— Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

Psalms 50:3-6; 12-14, 17

response cf v3

2nd Reading - Romans 5:12-19,

Gospel - Mathew 4; 1-11

Stations Of The Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held on Fridays of Lent, commencing on Friday 3rd March at 7pm.

Those who are interested in leading the Stations, please give your details to the Parish Office, and indicate which Friday you wish to lead.

'You have learnt how it was said...'

It seems rather curious that Jesus, who came into the world to destroy evil, is telling us that we should cultivate a kind of surrender to it. It may at first that we are cooperating with evil. Haven't we heard, for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing? Lets face it we like to bash evil in the head? The problem is when we try to engage in brute force to right a wrong as soon as we encounter it, no matter what the cost is? We cecum to our need to right a wrong and gain some notoriety for ourselves in our constant battle against evil. Our nature being what it is, we can easily get locked into a cycle of evil, sometimes surrendering ourselves to evil by trying to fight evil with evil. St Paul in our second reading reminds us when he says, 'wisdom of this world is foolishness to God' What seems wise to us based on our all -too-often utilitarian calculations is not wise at all, and Jesus' words in the Gospel tells us why.. In the Gospel Jesus' Sacred Heart is open to the greater possibility of compassion-the truth that we can surprise our adversary with our compassion, if we dare to offer it. Offering compassion to those who hurt us, offering a hand of forgiveness, is the greater act of generosity, because it can open a way not just to reconciliation, but to repentance. If we offer our adversary both cheeks to strike, he would have only two before he runs out of targets, perhaps then he would stop, he would even feel remorse and penitence.

This shows the basic difference between the evils of vengeance and the beauty of compassion. The fury and rage of evil and sin may burn hot, but like all fires, it will eventually burn out and die. The compassion which is the love of Jesus' Sacred Heart, and it is now ours by grace, is limitless. In our first reading from Leviticus, the Lord tells the people to love their neighbours as themselves, and this is not just a commandment, but a commandment made wonderful through grace. The beauty of charity is that we can love as Jesus loves, and our human capacity for love finds a new impetus and a proper direction.

This suggests to us the interior change that is needed in our lives. It is not that we are to love everyone and thinking to ourselves how marvellous and free from evil and sin, nor our we think of ourselves in those terms. Our task is to love and to actively perform works of love towards our neighbour without applying some kind of criteria, good or bad, that is foreign to the l0ve to the love of Jesus' own heart. Should we try to love in that way, It is safe to say that such an action isn't animated by charity.

What is needed of us is a fundamental change, a internal change in the soul, which gives us a clarity of vision. Next weekend is beginning of Lent, a journey towards the celebration of Jesus' Paschal Mystery, and we can hold on to those wonderful words in the Gospel, 'love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven...,' There is no better sign of the power of the Love, and compassion than His Cross which transfigures the rage and fury born of sin into an act of thanks giving. Jesus' own Heart, can become our heart through grace, is able to absorb all of the hatred of the world, and open for us the way to compassion and repentance.

Fr. Christopher

Parish Planned Giving Drive

After much soul searching and discussion the Parish Finance Committee has decided to launch the Planned Giving Drive. It would take place on the following weekends:

25th & 26th February 23

4th & 5th of March 23

11th & 12th March 23

Members of the Finance Committee would be speaking after the Gospel at these weekends.

Thank you for your support and generosity.

Fr Christopher

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL 2023

Funds raised this year will be shared between the four pillars of the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal: Marriage & Family Life; Youth & Evangelisation; The Education Service and Caritas Westminster. The effects of the pandemic, followed by the cost of living crisis, are still making daily life harder for all. Price rises last year meant many families faced an impossible choice: HEAT or EAT? And this crisis is far from over. The Church continues to respond, with thousands of people putting their faith into action by serving those in need. Cardinal Nichols has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. And for those who can't give financially, your time is a priceless commodity – please see the posters on how you can volunteer in the diocese and help those in need. Please take a donation envelope today, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

Dear Friends,

Our hearts go out to the people of Türkiye and Syria, many of whom have already endured years of violence, their lives now devastated by the earthquake and aftershocks. Literally overnight, tens of thousands of peoples' lives have been changed forever, and those who survived have been plunged into grinding poverty and hopelessness.

The Missio National Director in Syria – Monsignor Mounir Saccal – has been in touch: *'Today we bury our dead, and we understand the extent of this disaster, realising that we are unable to meet the economic needs to repair the damage on our own.'*

'During the day some people stay in the Parish Centre, but most go out looking for family and friends... In the evening, the Parish in Aleppo is sheltering around 250 people, providing mattresses and food... It is cold: -5C... Please pray, pray that we have the strength to give comfort to our people, so that they can find faith and hope for better days.'

We can add to this the suffering of innocent people in Ukraine and in dozens of other places of violent conflict throughout the world. As the Holy Father, Pope Francis, said during his recent visit to South Sudan, 'the world seems to be at war with itself'.

Soon we will begin the forty days of Lent, a time of restrained joy, as we quietly focus our prayers on those in need; as we sacrifice something in solidarity with those who have nothing; and as we offer what we can to help those in greatest need.

Lent is a season of repentance that invites us to acknowledge our humility, symbolised by the receiving of Ashes, and to turn to God in trust and hope. Humility is the admission to ourselves and others that as hard as we may try (and we should try hard), we cannot control everything in our own lives, let alone solve the problems of the world! We need the help, guidance, and grace from God to bring about a change of hearts and minds across the world, as God's Kingdom inexorably bursts in upon us.

At Missio, we nurture and develop a missionary spirit through prayer, sacrifice, and giving. And as a supporter of Missio you are already making a difference, as one diocese in South Africa wrote to me:

'Thank you for coming to our rescue'

Pope Francis wrote in his Message for World Mission Sunday this year:

'The Lord is greater than all our problems, above all if we encounter them in our mission of proclaiming the Gospel to the world. For in the end, this mission is his and we are nothing more than his humble co-workers.'

I wish you a very joyful and fruitful Lent, please join me in keeping those suffering in Türkiye, Syria, Ukraine, and all those who are troubled, in prayer.

Father Anthony

Missio National Director, England & Wales



**Diocese of Westminster
Roman Catholic Parish of St Edmund of Abingdon, Millwall**

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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: £317.64 envelopes: £236.50 contactless collection last weekend: £178.00 total: **£732.14**

Standing orders in January; **£3517.00**

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 on Thursday, 23rd March 2023 @7-9pm 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).

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony

Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 13th May 2023 at 2:30pm.

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their **5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2023. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

Details of attendees are sent to family@rcdow.org.uk