

NEWSLETTER

FIRST SUNDAY
OF LENT**'If you are the Son of God...'**

Some of you might question the necessity of preaching, once again the ecclesiastical teaching of Lenten penance, when most people are being tested to the limit of self-denial by inflation, increase in mortgage and rents and the strikes that might result in a decrease in real incomes.

Lent affords us the opportunity to look at scripture, when we are encouraged to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' Passion, death and the joy of Easter and the Resurrection that follows.

We have seen haven't we, musician leaving a group to become a solo artist, a athlete who may leave his or her coach to find a new coach who would push him /her to the limits to become sports star. Indeed a politician who is ambitious to become the party leader. Many are they who fall into these categories. But there is only one Jesus, and he is not a superstar; he is the Father's Son.

In the Gospel (Matt4: 1-11) Satan tempts Jesus to doubt the Father and to assert his own power for worldly gain. But Jesus sees the emptiness of these promises, the lie that fleeting worldly glory would satisfy the heart. A lie that we see played out in so many sad stories of famous and successful people. In Psalm 139, verse 16 says, 'Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In you book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed'. We were knitted cell by cell in our mother's womb and God knew us before we were born. In the first reading from Genesis Adam and Eve submitted to temptation which led to their disobedience of God's specific instruction not to eat of the tree of knowledge, resulting in Original Sin which we all inherited. In our second reading St Paul tells us, ' Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned,...Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift'.

One of the many gifts on offer by God to the Church is the *certainty* that he is willing to forgive us our sins, when we come to Him seeking His forgiveness. Pope Francis in *Evangeli Gaudium*; 'God does not hide Himself from those who seek Him with a sincere heart, even though they do so tentatively, in a vague and haphazard way'.

Our Lenten journey of faith is based on the promises we made or made for us by our parents and godparents on our behalf, at our Baptism. We renounced the devil and all his works. Lent gives us the opportunity to renew those promises and the observance of fasting and prayer, giving to those in need, to try an alleviate suffering of others by our awareness as in the conflicts in Ukraine and in other parts of the world, and to show unity with those suffering from natural disasters in Turkey and Syria in recent days. It would be good to reflect on the baptismal promises to help us to focus our minds as a means of preparing to contemplate the Good News in a world that seems more aware of bad news.

The devil is no match for the love between the Father and the Son. We see this first in the desert; we see it culminating on the cross. This love will be offered to us in the Resurrection, and poured out upon us at Pentecost.

Fr. Christopher

MASS INTENTIONS**Feb 25th, 2023**

6pm - Pro Populo

Feb 26th, 2023

9am— Ints of Christians who have been persecuted

11am— Ints of Sick
& Housebound

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— Genesis 2:7-9, 3;1-7
Psalm 50:3-6; 12-14, 17

response cf v3

2nd Reading - Romans 5:12-19,
Gospel – Mathew 4; 1-11

1st Reading— Genesis 12:1-4
Psalm 32:4-5; 18-20; 22

response v 22

2nd Reading - 2 Timothy 1:8-10,
Gospel – Mathew 17; 5

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 indicating which Friday you wish to lead.

Planned Giving Drive; Dear Friends,

As announced our parish' Planned Giving Drive commences this weekend and will run for the next two weekends. We repeat running it every 4th year to remind you about the needs of your church that can be covered by your time or money.

Permit me to start by thanking you all for your continued support and generosity. You have been caring for your church for many years now. The work and ministry here, in our parish is thriving thanks to your generosity and dedication. In our giving, we thank those who have gone before us and in our turn, we hand on the legacy to those who would come after us. In our efforts in building the kingdom of God here at St Edmund.

On the next page of our Newsletter, you will find a summary of payments and receipts, since 2017. You can notice that for the last four years we have been running a deficit. It is understandable that Covid and post Covid reality has been financially difficult for many of us. Here in our church we have also reduced our expenditures to the most urgent and necessary ones. We try to survive this difficult time without any serious/expensive renovation projects. Your money goes into maintenance of the building, heating and electricity, council tax and insurance, minor repairs and maintenance only. We also spend money for liturgical items and running the office. You may notice that a huge chunk of our income goes to the Diocese as Diocesan Assessment. The amount of it is different each year as it is almost 30% of our total assessable income from the previous calendar year. In 2023, we will have to contribute to the Diocese the sum of £21000.00 that we receive through your donations.

Hence, I would ask you to reconsider the amount of your donations bearing in mind your personal circumstances and the wellbeing of our church. You can donate into the basket during mass, or through Contactless Giving, by your credit card or debit card (the digital plate is at the back of our church), through your bank by setting a Standing Order or Direct Debit. You can Gift Aid your donations as long as you pay taxes (from which we have £0.25 more from every pound you give us).

Here, at St Edmund's we, as every one of you, are concern about our finances as our income has not been covering our expenditure for years. We are facing a few big project like; the windows of the church which are single glazing has to be changed, and consider the carbon foot print and the changes that would need to be implemented, (here I look forward to the suggestions the committee at St Edmund' who are currently looking into it). There has been a hiatus vis -a vis the parish project? I can say that its back on track and I am waiting for more details that I will be able to share with you..

I invite you to ask yourself the following:

Treasure: How do I use my treasure for the good of my parish St Edmunds and the community?

Time: How do I use my time in helping St Edmunds and the community?

Talents: How best can I give my talents to St Edmund and the community?

Do remember, that your giving is distinctive: It is giving back to God what he has given us in the first place-which is everything! And be the cheerful giver as it is described in the Bible; for example: 2 Cor 9: 7-8.

May God bless you all,

Fr. Christopher

'Come and see'-Introduction to the Diaconate 2023

Men who may be considering, a vocation as a deacon, or for those wanting to know more about the Permanent Diaconate, are invited to attend one of the Introductory Mornings on:

4th March, 10am-12noon: 'Come and see' 1. At Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street Sw1P 1QN

1st April, 10am-12noon: 'Come and See' 2, at New Southgate Parish Hall-Our Lady of Lourdes,
373 Bowes Road, N11 1AA

20th May, 10am -12noon: 'Come and See' 3, at Greenford Parish Hall- Our Lady of the Visitation,
358 Greenford Road, UB6 9AN

For further information please contact Deacon Colin Macken, email: colinmacken@rcdow.org.uk

Receipts & Payments Summary

	31/12/2022	31/12/2021	31/12/2020	31/12/2019	31/12/2018	31/12/2017
Assessable Income						
Offertories Envelopes	11427.22	12771.19	14204.08	25776.48	29559.88	37595.35
Offertories SOs & Online	28883.36	31048.69	28546.66	28896.4	28534.82	21848.3
Offertories Loose Plate & Contactless	23373.03	10960.6	6870.95	23962.93	20484.63	23645.81
Tax Refunds	11067.28	19159.88	581.32	24489.94	250	16215.59
Total Assessable Income	74750.89	73940.36	50203.01	103125.75	78829.33	99305.05
Non-Assessable Income						
Catechetics	1170	1509	910	1448	1754	1901
Candles, Repository & Papers	1279.71	883.31	896.38	1662.07	1680.49	1861.78
Rents from Functional Properties	2196	2000	400	0	0	0
Christmas/Easter Offerings, Stipends	4460.88	3918.71	2173.89	5366.7	4065.1	4116.3
Parish Activities	996	1070	0	1178.95	1478	2301
Specific Donations	11322.98	6115.06	139.51	11952.21	7348.66	5451.25
Sundry Income	0	5040.32	487.03	0	0	0
Third Party Receipts	2560.89	1977.83	1244.42	6920.2	4091.7	10767.13
Total Non-Assessable Income	23986.46	22514.23	6251.23	28528.13	20417.95	26398.46
Total Receipts	98737.35	96454.59	56454.24	131653.88	99247.28	125703.51
Expenditure						
Clergy Stipends	10686.96	10283	10284	10074.96	10250.04	10050
Non-Clergy Salaries	28958.47	27452.18	28695	27267.28	27274.1	23245.11
Travel Expenses	269.87	0	25.8	582.49	15.75	144.86
Supply Priests	915	0	0	1135	950	2515
Housekeeping	6416.94	6782.61	6162.67	6628.81	5396.82	5904.22
Catechetics	1100.18	1411.89	1497.81	1877.26	3922.03	2210.28
Liturgical Expenses	2160.35	2456.67	1062.12	4377.9	5160.65	2670.44
Candles, Repository & Papers	271.24	330.8	236.68	720.4	821.86	2525.7
Property Repairs and Renewals	24965.1	11051.19	9722.35	22036.49	20649.9	10329.44
Heat, Light & Water	3686.46	3646.4	4479.55	3901.54	4220.45	2643.33
Council Tax, Insurance & Rates	5228.07	2491.77	1035.31	2894.94	2859.69	2820.2
Office & Administration	4241.1	2590.88	3797.75	5170.11	4665.44	6160.04
Parish Activities	2266.47	1018.87	367.47	3476.77	4644.6	4032.29
Donations/Grants	3100	46	0	707	0	1441.23
Miscellaneous Expenses	374.27	282.82	0	495.34	0	0
Purchase of Fixed Assets	0	0	5670	10867.3	4570.74	10432.8
Diocesan Assessment	9261.72	34031.28	23979.96	32770.68	33053.16	23202
Third Party Payments	2554.89	2017.83	1194.42	6940.2	4076.7	10787.13
Total Payments	106457.09	105894.19	98210.89	141924.47	132531.93	121114.07
Total Surplus / Loss	-7719.74	-9439.6	-41756.65	-10270.59	-33284.65	4589.44
Surplus / Loss Percentage	-7.82	-9.79	-73.97	-7.8	-33.54	3.65

**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: £378.87 envelopes: £188.50 contactless collection last weekend: £220.00 total: **£786.87**

Standing orders in January; **£3517.00**

COLLECTION FOR; The Earthquake In Turkey & Syria; £767.00

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

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