

NEWSLETTER

FOURTH SUNDAY
OF LENT

‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’

This question of Jesus to the man born blind, applies to us as well? ‘Sir,’ the man replies, ‘tell me who he is so that I may believe in him’ Jesus says, ‘You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.’ The man replies, ‘Lord, I believe’

Those of us who been to Lourdes, partaken of the candle light procession, would have heard the refrain, ‘Lord that I might see’. I have been spiritually blind to the love, mercy and forgiveness that God offers, and it has taken me years to come to the realisation, through the prayers and promptings of others. The encouragement of late Sister Louise whose persuasion brought me back to the faith. Life is simple but sadly it is I or we who make it complicated, morose, unhappy. It is I who do it by not accepting the grace of being forgiven., being freed to confess the truth about ourselves because we have been forgiven. I am a happy person because I have been forgiven, I am at ease with myself. But spiritually I still grieve for my sins and for my faults, but each time I confess and avail myself of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, by visiting my Spiritual Director, I move forward, because I have been forgiven.

It has been said, which is rooted in truth, that St Peter, having wept bitterly for denning Our Lord three times, that was instigated by his weakness, wept so much throughout his life that he wept furrows into his cheeks. We know don’t we, Peter didn’t just sit there and weep. He went out and preached and he taught. He went out and preached and he taught. He was a pilgrim going from place to place, he suffered and he died. When I have real contrition, it’s never inert. It’s never something that invites me to melancholy, or despair, but it begets in me and in you a new intention to do and to suffer for Jesus.

In the Gospel, Jesus is giving us an actual happening and letting you and me take for ourselves a spiritual parable of my blindness and yours or sinfulness, which he heals. When we are healed of blindness you and I find new courage. The blind beggar wouldn’t have spoken to the Pharisees the way he did had not been cured by Jesus.

The courage that comes with been forgiven, first dawned on me at Lourdes, when I went to confession and the priest having listened to me said, ‘ now go to the baths, and granted me absolution. As I came out of the water, a whole burden was lifted, and knew I had been forgiven. In the Gospel, the man’s parents were frightened because they hadn’t been forgiven enough or haven’t been forgiven yet.. When we confess our sins, we know that we have been forgiven. If only we understood what sinfulness is, we would hurry forward.. You and I weep in our hearts, but we don’t sit down and weep. We are pilgrims on the move, it will be wonderful in eternity to know just what this blind man did afterwards.

Fr. Christopher

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 is Thursday, 23rd March 2023 @7-9pm on zoom..** Please, drop an email to the office millwall@rcdow.org.uk if you are interested, 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).

MASS INTENTIONSMarch 18th, 2023

6pm - Ints of Dayanathi Pragasam (Sick)

March 19th, 2023

9am— Ints of All Mothers

11am— Ints of All Mothers

March 22nd, 2023No Morning Mass

For weekday mass intentions please, see the notice board on the left hand side of the main door of the church.

M

Confession on Saturday between
5.15-5.45 pm
or by appointment.

Readings for this
& next Sunday

1st Reading— Samuel 16:1, 6-7,
10-13

Psalm 22 response v 1

2nd Reading - Ephesians 5:8-14,
Gospel – John 9; 1-41

1st Reading— Ezekiel 37; 12-14

Psalm 129; response v 7

2nd Reading - Romans 8:8-11,
Gospel – John 11; 1-45

Stations Of The Cross

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

Please, join us to pray together.

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.

We encourage you to support out local choir London Docklands Singers, and to buy a ticket for this seasonal, musical event.

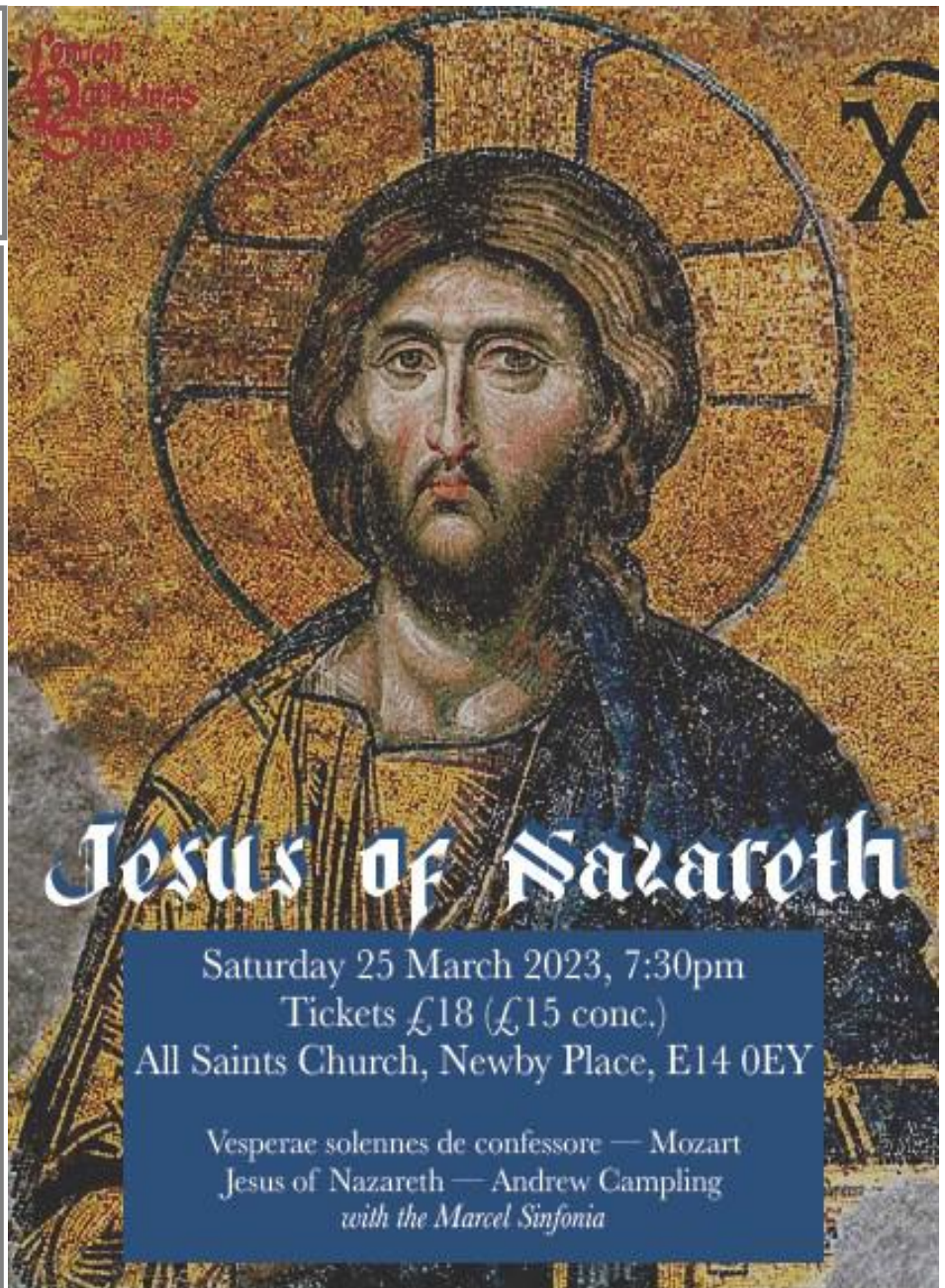
Visit [Ldsingers.org/concerts](https://ldsingers.org/concerts)

All are invited to join the Diocese of Westminster's annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 21st to 28th July 2023, led by HE Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Book now to avoid disappointment as places are limited via the Tangney Tours portal at: <https://www.tangney-tours.com/pilgrimages/lourdes/westminster-lourdes>

If you have previously indicated '**St Frai Pilgrim**' on an Expression of Interest Form, or know of someone with significant medical and mobility needs who intends to come to Lourdes, contact the Pilgrimage Office on 0207 798 9173 **immediately**, so the Medical Team and can look into assisting with requirements and care.

Similarly, all individuals or groups intending to travel independently to join Westminster in Lourdes, by making their own travel and accommodation arrangement, must confirm this in writing to the Pilgrimage Office by 30th April 2023 as well as submit payment towards the Pilgrims' Levy at £35 per pilgrim.

Visit the Lourdes Pilgrimage web page <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or contact Elizabeth at the Pilgrimage Office on 0207 798 9173.



Jesus of Nazareth

Saturday 25 March 2023, 7:30pm
 Tickets £18 (£15 conc.)
 All Saints Church, Newby Place, E14 0EY

Vesperae solennes de confessore — Mozart
 Jesus of Nazareth — Andrew Campling
 with the Marcel Sinfonia

Love the stranger

Catholic Bishops have put out a document titled 'Love the Stranger' in light of the Government's proposed Legislation to prevent migrants from crossing the English Channel and banning them from entering the UK in the future, Bishops have called on the policy makers to uphold the human dignity of migrants and refugees.

They continue, any immigration policy should be based on 'the innate worth of each human person', the document articulates the Christian duty to see the person who has left their homeland in search of a better life, it offers 24 principles based on Catholic Social Teaching and Popes' Magisterium that should guide any immigration policy. Entitled "Love the Stranger" The document was issued on Tuesday 14 March, a few days after Prime Minister Rishi Sunak introduced the illegal Migration Bill which, according to its proponents, aims to discourage migrants from crossing the Channel on small boats (I personally don't think it would resolve the issue).

The bill does raise ethical and legal questions regarding its compliance with international law, such as the European Convention on Human Rights, The Refugee Convention, The Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Global Compact on Refugees, and the Global Compact for Safe Orderly and Regular Migration.

'People are driven to leave their countries, sometimes having to make dangerous journeys or risking exploitation because of conflict, poverty, oppression, or lack of opportunities' 'Looking beyond our own borders we have a duty to help people flourish in their homelands, as well as welcoming those who leave in search of a better life' Bishop Paul McAleenan

'Love the Stranger' points out that measures should be limited 'to circumstances in which they are clearly required to protect the receiving community' and 'controls on migration should be exercised with compassion, giving special attention to people who need to leave their country in order to flourish and live in dignity'

'We recognise that states have a right to control their borders; however, such measures cannot be based on economic factors alone; states have a responsibility to promote the common good of the people within their boundaries, but they also have obligations to the wider world'

Cardinal Vincent Nichols explained that 'Love the Stranger' draws together more than one hundred years of Catholic Social Teaching to guide the response to migration in the country. 'While it does not propose detailed solutions to complex problems, it clearly calls for the procedures which permit safe and controlled access and a fair hearing to those seeking asylum. Present arrangements in this country are dramatically lacking in both of these requirements'

To prevent tragedies such as the number who died trying to cross the Channel, the bishops argue for 'the extension of safe routes, such as resettlement programmes, visa schemes and humanitarian corridors, so people can exercise their right to migrate in a dignified and humane manner'. Such routes the bishops argue would mean migrants would not have to risk their lives at sea, and safe routes would lessen the amount of human trafficking and modern slavery, which 'are exacerbated by a lack of accessible alternatives for migration or seeking sanctuary'.

The document, 'Love the Stranger' calls for the sanctity of life to be prioritized in all border immigration arrangements and reject measures that unnecessarily place people in danger or deny reasonable assistance to those in need; for the government to avoid the use of immigration detention, arbitrary expulsion and other practices which violate human dignity; and for the fulfilment of international obligations protecting migrants and refugees. 'Catholic social teaching recognizes the dilemmas that governments face but emphasizes that the dignity of each and every human person must come first'

'Love the Stranger' has been welcomed, among others, by the Vatican and the European Bishops' Conference as an important step forward towards the promotion and protection of migrants.

Father Fabio Baggio, the Undersecretary of the Vatican for Promoting Integral Human Development, said, 'As we live in times in which the defence of the dignity of each human person may seem under threat, 'Love the Stranger' invites us to not give up on the opportunity to live our catholicity ever more fully, to build more just and equal societies for the benefit of each and every person, and to be open to the contribution that strangers can offer as we care for their integral human development and ours'

'We must not allow the concerns that some communities might have about migration to be exploited for political purposes or allow such concerns to develop into a xenophobic attitude; Christian communities must play their part in providing a genuine welcome to migrants and refugees'

(Adapted from Lisa Zengarini article)

**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: £350.52 envelopes: £253.00 contactless collection last weekend: £0.00 total: **£603.52**

Standing orders in January; **£5706.00**

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

'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:

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

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

FREE 8 week programme for Living A healthy Life

with long term /chronic health conditions.

Self-Management Skills for Heart Disease, Arthritis, Diabetes, Depression, Asthma and other physical and mental health condition

Starting Friday 17th March 2023 ,from 3pm-5pm at Trafford Friendship Hall ,Strafford Street, E14 , Isle of Dogs

To register , email CW_DymphnaD@Safh.org.uk or phone 07539078072