

## NEWSLETTER

FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF LENT**'Yes Lord, I believe'**

This Sunday's Gospel, we find ourselves in Bethany. The drama unfolds as Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. John emphasises that Jesus loved Lazarus Martha and Mary. This is why he wanted to accomplish the great wonder: 'Our friend Lazarus is resting. I am going to wake him' expressing the view on physical death. God sees it exactly as sleep from which he can waken us. Jesus has shown an absolute power regarding death, seen when he gave life to the widow of Nain's young son (Lk 7: 11-17) and to the twelve-year-old girl (Mk 5: 35-43). He said of her 'This child is not dead, but asleep, attracting the derision of those present. In all honesty the bodily death is a sleep from which God can awaken us at any moment.'

The Lordship over death does not impede Jesus from feeling sincere compassion for the sorrow of detachment. At the sight of Mary's tears, and those of the Jews that followed her, Jesus with a sigh that came from the heart, Jesus wept. Jesus' heart is divine-human; in Jesus God and man meet perfectly, without separation and without confusion. Jesus is the image or rather, the incarnation of God who is love, mercy, paternal, maternal and tenderness, of God who is Life. This why Jesus declared to Martha: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die', and then Jesus adds 'Do you believe this?' It's a question that is asked of each and everyone of us; a question that rises above us, rises above our capacity to understand, it certainly asks us to entrust ourselves to Jesus as he entrusted himself to the Father. Martha's response is desirable: 'Yes Lord,' she said, 'I believe that, you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world'.

Yes, Lord! We also believe, notwithstanding our doubts and darkness; we believe in you, for you have the words of eternal life. We believe in you who gives us a trustworthy hope of life beyond life, of authentic and full life in your kingdom of light and peace.

We entrust this prayer to Mary Most Holy. Mary whose intercession strengthens our faith and hope in Jesus, in moments of great trial and difficulty. We are dead because of our sins, tied up by our weaknesses, decayed and odorous by our pride, kneeling before a screen and pour out our hearts. The conversation between Martha and Jesus is renewed, encouraging us toward a deeper faith and a stronger purpose of amendment.

Jesus is always waiting, patiently, for the next one to enter the tomb of the confessional. Jesus is never too late. A voice filled with compassion he commands: 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' Equally, powerful is, 'I absolve you from your sins'

Lazarus doesn't speak he is overcome with amazement. He was in deep darkness of sin, despair, and death, but now he basks in the light of Christ's merciful love.

Friends, the tomb in today's Gospel is right here in our midst and Jesus is waiting, because we are all Lazarus.

*Fr. Christopher*

**Stations Of The Cross**

Stations of the Cross are held on Fridays of Lent, at 7pm.

Please, join us to pray together.

**MASS INTENTIONS****March 25th, 2023**

6pm - Pro Populo

**March 26th, 2023**

9am— Sym Kiwanuka RIP

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— Ezekiel 37; 12-14

Psalms 129; response v 7

2nd Reading - Romans 8:8-11,

Gospel - John 11; 1-45

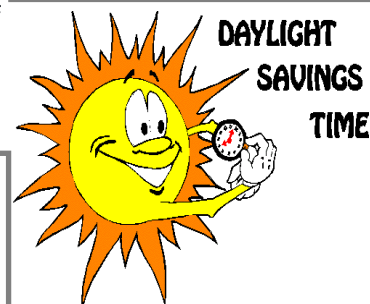
1st Reading— Isaiah 50: 4-7,

Psalms 21; 8-9, 17-20, 23-24

response v 2

2nd Reading - Philippians 2:6-11,

Gospel - Matthew 26; 14-27; 66

**NEW SETS OF DONATION ENVELOPES**

If you have been giving your donations in envelopes, you can find a new set for the next financial year in our Sacristy. Please, approach our Sacristans after/before a mass and they will help you to find your box.

### **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.

**All are invited to join the Diocese of Westminster's annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> 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 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### **Dates for the Pilgrimage diary in 2023:**

- **Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: 19th November to Monday, 27th November 2023**
- **Lourdes Quarterly Reunion Mass on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 6:30pm in the Cathedral Crypt, followed by a social**
- **Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023**
- **Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Shrine at Walsingham: Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023**
- **Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> to Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023**



### Easter services **AT ST EDMUND'S**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY - 6th April at 8pm**

**GOOD FRIDAY - 7th April at 3pm**

**HOLY SATURDAY - 8th April at 8.30 pm**

**EASTER SUNDAY—9th April - 11am**

**No morning Mass on Monday, 10th April & Tuesday, 11th April**

**Since Wednesday, 12th April— all Masses as usual.**

***BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD  
ON SATURDAY, 8th April at 11am***



## 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 Dicastery for the 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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Telephone: 020-7987-4114; Email: [millwall@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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: £227.10 envelopes: £285.00 contactless collection last weekend: £0.00 total: **£512.10**

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:

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

20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:colinmacken@rcdow.org.uk)

**Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony**

**Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 2:30pm.**

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their **5<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (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](mailto: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](mailto:CW_DymphnaD@Safh.org.uk) or phone 07539078072