

NEWSLETTER

**15 SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY
TIME**

Conformed to the Master

The One so good and so great desires you to embrace him and is waiting to embrace you. He inclines towards you the flower of his head, pierced with many thorns, and calls you to receive the kiss of peace, as if saying: See how I was disfigured, transfixed, and beaten in order that I might place you upon my shoulder; my straying sheep, and bring you back to the paradise of heavenly pastures. Do something now yourself: be moved with pity for my wounds; and such as you see me; *Set me like a seal on your heart, like a seal on your arm* (Sg 8:6); so that, in every motion of your heart, in every deed of your hands, you may resemble me who am wearing the seals you behold. In forming you, I conformed myself to the likeness of my divinity; to re-form you, I conformed myself to the likeness of your humanity. You, who did not keep the imprint of my divinity stamped on you when you were made, keep at least the imprint of your own humanity stamped on me when you were re-formed. If you did not stay as I created you, stay at least as I re-created you. If you fail to understand how great were the powers I granted you in creating you, understand at least how great were the miseries I accepted for you in your humanity, in re-creating you, and in re-forming you for joys much greater than those for which I had originally formed you. I became human and visible so that you might see me and so love me, since, unseen and invisible in my divinity. I had not been properly loved. As a price for my incarnation and passion, give me yourself, for whom I became flesh and for whom I suffered. I gave myself to you, now give yourself to me.

O most sweet and good Jesus, *Father of all light, from whom proceeds all that is good, everything that is perfect* (Jas1: 17)-, look down mercifully upon us who humbly confess you and truly know that we can do nothing without your help. You gave yourself in payment for us; grant that, although we are little worthy of such a price, we may be so completely and fully restored to your favour that, conforming to the image of your passion; we may also be re-formed to the image of your divinity.

St. Bonaventure

The Brown Scapular

In the year 1251, in the town of Aylesford in England, Our Lady appeared to St. Simon Stock a Carmelite. She handed him a brown woollen scapular and said, 'This shall be a privilege for you and all Carmelites, that anyone dying in this habit shall not suffer eternal fire' in time the Church extended this magnificent privilege to all laity who are willing to be invested in the Brown Scapular of the Carmelites and who perpetually wear it.

St Don Bosco used to wear the Brown Scapular, even many priests. I too wear one and it protected me during my time in the hospital. I encourage all of to wear one and be protected by Our Blessed Mother. Amen.

Dear Friends

The weekend of 22nd /23rd July, will be the final News Letter, until we all re-gather in September.

During the month of August here at St. Edmunds' Mass times will be : 6pm on Saturdays and 10am on Sundays.

Those of you who are travelling for your holidays, have a splendid break and do stay safe. See you back in September. God bless you all, Fr Christopher

MASS INTENTIONS

July 15th, 2023

6pm - Charles Starkie RIP

July 16th, 2023

9am— Pro Populo

11 am - Fr Mark Leenane 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.

During next week
we will have two
morning masses:
on Wednesday
& Friday
at 9.15 am

Readings for this & next Sunday

1st Reading— Isaiah

55: 10-11

Psalm 64; 10-14,

Response Luke 8;8

2nd Reading - Romans 8;18-23

Gospel – Matthew 13; 1-23

1st Reading— Wisdom

12; 13, 16-19

Psalm 85;5-6, 9-10, 15-16

response v 6

2nd Reading -

Romans 8:26-27

Gospel – Matthew 13; 24-43

Keep God's commandments in true loving comradeship

See, dear friends, what a great and wondrous thing love is. Its perfection is beyond all words. Who is fit to be called its possessor, but those whom God deems worthy? Let us beg and implore of his mercy that we may be purged of all earthly preferences for this man or that, and be found faultless in love. Though every generation from Adam to the present day has passed from the earth, yet such of them as by God's grace were perfected in love have their place now in the courts of the godly, and at that visitation of Christ's kingdom they will be openly revealed. For it is written, 'Go into your secret chambers for a very little while, till my rage and my fury pass away; and then I will remember a day of gladness, and raise you out of your graves'.

My friends, if we keep God's commandments in a true loving comradeship together, so that our sins may be forgiven for that love's sake, we are blessed indeed. It is written, 'Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and over whose sins a veal is drawn; blessed is the man of whose sins the Lord takes no account, and on whose lips there is no deceit' And this blessing was theirs who were chosen by God through Jesus Christ our Lord. To him be glory for ever and ever, amen.

So let us beg forgiveness for all our misdoings, and the wrongs which our Adversary's intervention has moved us to commit. Those who have taken the lead in promoting faction and discord should bethink themselves of that hope which is common to us all. If men are really living in the fear and love of God, they would sooner endure affliction themselves than see their neighbours suffer, and would prefer reproach to fall on them rather than on the tradition of peaceful harmony which has been so proudly and loyally handed down to us. It is better for a man to admit his faults frankly than to harden his heart.

Is there any man of noble mind among you? A man who is compassionate? A man overflowing with love? Then let such a one say, 'If it is I who am the cause of any disorder, friction, or division among you, I will remove myself. I will go away, anywhere you wish, and I will do anything the congregation says; only let there be peace between Christ's flock and their appointed clergy'. Anyone who does this will earn a great name for himself in Christ, and be sure of a welcome anywhere (for the earth and everything in it is the Lord's). Men who were truly citizens of heaven-that citizenship that brings no regrets-have done such things in the past, and they will still do so today.

Pope St Clement I

Mary conceived in her soul before she conceived in her body

A royal virgin of the race of David is chosen to bear the holy child, the divine and human son whom she conceived in her soul before she conceived him in her body. And lest she might be afraid when something so unexpected came to pass, not knowing the divine plan, she was shown in her conversation with the angel that what was to be accomplished in her would be the work of the Holy Spirit; she would soon be the Mother of God without loss of virginity. For why should she lack hope because of the utter novelty of such a conception, when it was promised that it would be brought about by power of the Most High? Her trusting faith was confirmed by a miracle already accomplished. Elizabeth was given unhopd for fertility, so that there would be no doubt that he who granted conception to the sterile could grant it also to a virgin.

And therefore the Word of God, God, the Son of God, who in the beginning was with God and through whom all things were made and without whom was not anything made, became man to liberate man from eternal death. Without any diminution of his majesty he stooped to take on our lowliness, so that, remaining what he always was and taking to himself what he was not, he might unite the genuine state of a slave to that state in which he was equal to God the Father. By such a bond did he link both natures that this exaltation might not consume the lesser, nor the taking of humanity lessen the higher.

Each nature, then, retains all that was proper to it, yet comes together in one person. And so lowliness is assumed by majesty, weakness by power, morality by eternity. To pay the debt of our fallen nature, a nature beyond all suffering was united to our suffering nature; and true God and true man are joined into the unity of the Lord. This was so that, as was need for our healing, one and the same mediator between God and men might, through the one nature, die and , through the other, rise again. Rightly then was virgin integrity in no way marred by giving birth to our salvation, for the birth of Truth was the safeguard of chastity. Such a birth, dearly beloved, befitted Christ, the power of God and the wisdom of God, for by it he would be joined to our humanity yet remain far above us in his divinity. Unless he were true God, he could bring us no aid; unless he were true man, he could offer us no example.

The angels therefore exult at the birth of the Lord: they sing; 'Glory to God in high heaven'; they announce, 'Peace on earth for men on whom his favour rests'. For they behold the heavenly Jerusalem being constructed from out of all the peoples on earth. How greatly ought mere men to rejoice at this mysterious undertaking of divine love, when angels on high thrill so much at it!

Pope St Leo the Great

NEWS FROM CARITAS

Cost of Living Corner!

Our monthly slot with tips for those supporting parishioners struggling with the rising cost of living.

We are working with some other organisations to provide expert online training sessions and support for people in parishes, schools, SVP Conferences and projects, who are assisting those who are struggling financially. At the moment you can sign up for:

Budget Coach training – either in July or September. For volunteers and staff in parishes, schools and projects who want to help people who are struggling to manage their money

For more details and to register

July: <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/building-up-firm-foundations-budget-coach-training-1513.php>

Sept: <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/building-up-firm-foundations-budget-coach-training-1512.php>

Loan Shark Awareness: This session is designed to help you to understand exactly what a loan shark is, help you spot the signs that somebody you know may be the victim of a loan shark and how you can help them by working with the experts.

<https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/loan-shark-awareness-training-1514.php>

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 23 July

The Pope's message for this day can be found here: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/nonni/documents/20230531-messaggio-nonni-anziani.html>

Last week, Caritas Westminster and the Irish Chaplaincy, held a meeting discussing loneliness and isolation felt by older people, and heard from a speaker from [Time to Talk Befriending](#).

Church groups are in a wonderful position to reach out to older people who are housebound, hidden from sight, and without family and friends. The hospitality and community in the venue of the local parish, can nurture great friendships of mutual company and support.

If anyone from your parish (perhaps a member of an SVP group?) would like to join our Seniors network and hear about future events (also see below) where ideas for supporting older people can be shared, they should sign up for our newsletter and click the "Seniors Network" box. Sign up here <http://eepurl.com/caQmNb>.

Caritas Deaf Service Summer timetable

Our regular events over the summer are different to the rest of the year. This is our timetable for Masses over the next couple months:

Deaf Community Mass celebrated by Fr Willie Skehan – Sunday 6th August at 4:30p.m. Westminster Cathedral Hall.

Tuesday 15th August, 12:30p.m. Mass in Westminster Cathedral will be interpreted for the Feast of the Assumption.

Deaf Community Mass celebrated by Canon Shaun Lennard – Sunday 3rd September at 4:30p.m. Westminster Cathedral Hall

Saturday 16th September, Signed Mass, 12 noon SS Mary and Joseph Poplar – Mass to celebrated 40th anniversary of ordination for Fr Keith Stoakes.

Sunday 17th September, interpreted Mass 12 noon Our Lady and St Joseph, Kingsland, (Mass is being organised by St Joseph's outreach team)

The regular bible study in September (Tuesday 12th at 11am) will be online due to meeting rooms in Vaughan House being refurbished.

Routes out of Homelessness - Dignified Work Series – introducing *Beam*

Friday 21st July 2023, 10:00 - 12:00, online

For anyone involved in outreach projects for those experiencing homelessness – this is a chance to find out about Beam, a charity which supports people into jobs and homes that lift them out of homelessness for good. Find out more and sign up here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/routes-out-of-homelessness-stepping-stones-dignified-work-series-tickets-479859752437>

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: £296.02 envelopes: £112.00 contactless collection last weekend: £115.00 total: **£496.02**

Standing orders in February - **in March - £3820, in April £4002, in May - £2533, in June - 3545**

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

Altar Servers

Those of our young people who made their First Holy Communion on 20th May 23; You are now eligible to become an Altar Server.

If interested, Give your details into the parish office, and we will arrange training for you. This would take place after the 11am Mass on Sunday. Thank you, *Fr Christopher*

Attention all parents who wish to baptise a child.

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 announced soon**. 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).

BAPTISMS can happen now on Saturday morning or during any Mass (if number of guests are limited).

Dear Friends, In light of the recent Audit carried out here at St Edmunds. We are looking for Volunteers who would be willing to count the collection immediately after the 11am Mass.

If interested please give your details via email to the parish office. You will be given training and you would be on a Rota.

Dear Friends, A gentle reminder to those with young children attending 6 pm & 9am Masses. We have a sound system in our hall that enables you to listen to mass, should your child play up in the church. Thanks for your understanding.