

NEWSLETTER

24 SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY
TIME***The importance and Power of Forgiveness***

In Saint Matthew we read. And forgive us our debts as we have forgiven those who are in debt to us; and in Saint Luke: forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive each one who in debt to us. It is the good news of the remission of sins. What a marvel! A movement of our hearts (not easy, it is true, the most difficult perhaps for human nature) suffices for the Father in heaven to pardon the disappointments and wounds we have inflicted on his love. He has pledged it; in his name the Son has promised it to us. It is a fundamental law of the divine economy taught us by the Gospel.

How God loves that we love one another. 'It suffices that we pardon to have the assurance of divine pardon' (Servant of God Marie-Joseph Lagrange, OP). If I truly pardon there is no doubt that I shall be, that I am already, pardoned....

We are here at the heart of the Gospel.....There is no other commentary on the fifth petition {of the Our Father} than the Gospel itself. Immediately after transmitting to us the Lord's Prayer, Saint Mathews Gospel continues: *Yes if you forgive others their failings, your heavenly Father will forgive you yours: but if you do not forgive others your Father will not forgive your failings either....The parallel passage is given in Mark in another place, on the occasion of the parable of the barren fig tree: when you stand in prayer, forgive whatever you have against anybody, so that your Father in heaven may forgive your failings too....It is said in Proverbs in a text taken up by Saint Paul: if your enemy is hungry, give him something eat; if thirsty, something to drink. By this you heap red-hot coals on his head (Pr 25: 21-22; Rm 12:20). Mysterious coals-not of anger certainly, otherwise how could Proverbs add: and the Lord would reward you, and Saint Paul: Resist evil and conquer it with good.* In doing good to our enemies we entrust them to God, we call down on their heads the fire of the divine initiatives and attention.....If they let themselves be won by grace and mend their ways and repent of their sins before God, they will receive the effect of the flames of mercy, in accordance with our wish, and the sins they have committed against us will be forgiven. In forgiving those who have offended us we work in a certain (preparatory) manner that in them evil be overcome by good and that they receive God's pardon; we contribute, to the extent that it is in us, to increase the sum of good on earth and to cause the work of the Prince of Peace to be accomplished there.

Raissa Maritain

Fr. Christopher writes:

As mentioned previously I shall be admitted to Royal London this Saturday morning, to have a Malignant-looking mass in the hepatic flexure. After the operation, I shall be in hospital for a week before the time of convalescence at home. I presume it will take me 3 weeks to be able to work again. During this time the weekend Masses will be covered by Fr. Crescent Iloka, the chaplain at Royal London Hospital, but there will be no morning masses until further notice. Thank you for your prayers and God bless.

MASS INTENTIONS**September 16th, 2023**

6pm - Pro Populo

September 17th, 2023

9am— Joseph Francis Silva
(B'day Anniv)

11 am - Ints of Joseph David
Hoye

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.

**No weekday
morning masses
until further notice.**

**Readings for this
& next Sunday**

1st Reading— Ecclesiasticus
27; 30-28;7

Psalms 102; 1-4, 9-12,
response v 8

2nd Reading -
Romans 14:7-9

Gospel – Matthew 18; 21-35

1st Reading— Isaiah
55: 6-9

Psalms 144; 2-3, 8-9, 17-18
Response v 18

2nd Reading - Philippians
1;20-24, 27

Gospel – Matthew 20; 1-16

The Catechetical Program 2023

Confirmation:

Application forms are on the table. If you are in year 9, and wish to make your Confirmation, the course will start on 4th November at 4pm- every Saturday.

RCIA (The Rite of Christian initiation of adults) the course will start on 17th October, every Tuesday evening. If you are interested to learn more about the Catholic Faith, then hand in your details via email to the parish office ASAP.

First Holy Communions:

Application forms are now available, should you wish to have your child make their First Holy Communion, on the table in the lobby of the Church. Please take form, fill it in and hand one part into the parish office. The part with information for parents should be cut off by you and read properly as contain important information about the course. The course will commence on the 10th December 2023. Please, scroll down to see all dates.

1. 10. December
2. 17. December
3. 14. January
4. 21. Jan
5. 28. Jan
6. 4. February
7. 25. February

First Reconciliation: Saturday 2. March 2024.

1. 3. March
2. 10. March
3. 17. March
4. 24. March
5. 21. April
6. 28. April
7. 12. May

First Holy Communion: Saturday 18. May 2024.

Deadline for applications - Wednesday 1. November 2023.

Compulsory Parents meeting - Wednesday 22. November 2023.

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday, 17 September 2023

Evangelii Gaudium – Preparing for the Jubilee Year in Faith and Prayer

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday calls us to be joyous in proclaiming our faith. “Evangelii Gaudium” is Latin for “Joy of the Gospel”. The day supports the work carried out by the Mission Directorate on behalf of the Bishops’ Conference.

A key focus of work for the next few years is responding to Pope Francis’ calling of a Jubilee Year in 2025 with the theme *Pilgrims of Hope*. The Holy Father has invited the whole Church to prepare for the Jubilee in the two years prior through:

Reflecting on the four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council in 2023.

Deepening our prayer life, with a special focus on the Lord’s Prayer, in 2024.

To support the Church in England and Wales in this important initiative the Mission Directorate has produced a series of videos on the four Constitutions which reflect on the Liturgy, the Word of God, the Church and on its role in the modern world.

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/evangelii-gaudium-sunday>

A range of resources are being prepared for the Year of Prayer in 2024 which include a course on the Lord’s Prayer from small groups for Lent, encouragement to try different ways of praying from the tradition of the Church. The Mission Directorate will be supporting the Jubilee co-ordinator appointed by each diocese.

Please support the Mission Directorate through prayer and giving to the second collection. However much you give, big or small, it will go directly to support this important work to bring the joy of the Gospel to all.

BAPTISMS

Baptisms here at St Edmunds would take place on Saturday’s at 11am or at any Mass. We do recognise, that families need to plan ahead, when they have family and friends attending. Parents are advised to come to see me first and make NO plans until after they have completed the Baptism Course. Then you may contact Katherine at the office to book the date of the baptism. We do emphasize it’s a requirement on completion of the baptism course, that godparent references being completed before the actual baptism. The date of baptism can be booked with Katherine (Parish Office) but it has to be confirmed in writing. It’s a requirement of Cannon Law (Church Law) that each child must have a godparent: should there be a second godparent, one has to be male and the other female.

A godparent is defined as a confirmed practicing Catholic. Should the godparent not be a member of this (St Edmund) we require a reference form his/her parish that they meet the requirement-that they are attending Mass regularly. Although the maximum number of godparents is set at two, families could have additional people whose standing is that of ‘witness to the baptism’. During the baptism, we don’t distinguish between godparents and witnesses, but only the names of the godparents will be inserted in the baptism register and in the baptism certificate.

Equally, baptised Christians from other denominations may participate as witnesses to the baptism, but they cannot participate as godparents. Members of other faiths or none cannot serve as either godparents or as witnesses to the baptism.

Both parents and godparents, as part of the baptism, must make a declaration of faith. Prior to the baptism could we ask that you go through beforehand and ascertain you both can honestly make it? In all probability, if anyone has a problem with any part of it, the problem lies in understanding what is meant rather than with the article of faith itself-do contact me to discuss it well before the baptism. The unpleasant thing you could do is start your child’s relationship with God by affirming in His presence to something you don’t believe.

We don’t charge for baptism but we ask for families to make a contribution to defray the cost by given a donation in the range of £50-100, with others giving more. It doesn’t mean you have to subject yourselves to unnecessary financial stress, but give what you think you can afford.

Please, see the back of the Newsletter for the date of our next course.

Fr. Christopher

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: £490.00 envelopes: £196.00 contactless collection last weekend: £160.00 total: **£846.00**

Standing orders in February - £5706; , in March - £3820, in April £4002, in May - £2533, in June - 3545,
in July - 2758,

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 sent 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 on Monday, 9 October 2023 at 7pm on zoom**. Please, drop an email to the office mill-wall@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.