

NEWSLETTER

28 SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY
TIME***That the Hall May Be Filled***

When it describes the king coming into his banquet hall, eager to take delight in his guests, our text is evoking one of the 4 most central and moving of biblical themes: God's search for man, in particular for the face of man. We are perhaps more accustomed to expressions of man's impassioned search for God. But we often forget that our instinct for God was put in us by God himself in the beginning, desirous as he was for our love.. We would not be looking for God, as Saint Augustine superbly exclaims, unless God had already found us! His desire for us incessantly generous ours for him. This is why our love will never be disappointed, since its very existence already contains a promise of fulfilment.

Truly, if our heart is ardently seeking the face the face of God, the watermark we will discern under the text of every page of Scripture is these words of the divine Bridegroom as he in turn searches for our countenance, which, unaccountably, seems to enthral him.

My dove, hiding in the clefts of the rock, in the coverts of the cliff, show me your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet and your face is beautiful (Sg 2:14). In us, reclining at his wedding banquet, the Father comes looking for the face of his eternal Word that he etched into our souls at the creation, the Christ-likeness that we put on like a garment at our baptism-that is, when we accepted the king's invitation to share in the joy of his festal table. He comes looking for the image of his beloved Son on our faces in order to contemplate in a fresh location, so to speak, the beauty that so enchants his heart in yet another incarnation, yet another variation; that will confirm him once again, in the never-ending yet ever-new experience of his Son's inexhaustible loveliness, splendour, and humble grandeur....In the most real and emphatic way, we Christians are called by the Father to *impersonate* Christ, that is, to allow the full reality of the Person of the Word, along with all his virtues, to promote and vivify every cell of our being so that at length our hearts become the heart of Christ, perceiving, thinking, and loving with all wisdom, strength, and magnificence of Christ. Only such 'impersonation' of the divine lover (because it is most intimate communion with the Source of our being) will, paradoxically, bring out our own deepest, most original, and genuine selves.

Erasmo Leiva-Merikakis. (Now known as Fr. Simeon)

Diocesan Feast of St Edward the Confessor

Son of Ethelred the Unready, Edward spent his early years in exile, because of the occupation of the throne of England by the Scandinavian kings Sweyn and Canute. He returned to England at the age of 40 and was proclaimed king in 1042. As a monarch he is judged by some to have been weak and by others to have been both tenacious and cunning maintaining England's independence despite the efforts of Danish and Norman powerbrokers to gain power.

He enjoyed a reputation as a religious man and a just ruler, establishing a good relationship between himself as king and the great council of the nation.

While in exile he had made a vow that should his fortunes be restored he would go on pilgrimage to Rome. The likelihood of invasion or civil war if the king were to fulfil that vow caused a national assembly to suggest that he should seek the advice of Pope Leo IX as to how best to proceed. The Pope suggested that the vow be dispensed on condition of the King's giving to the poor the money that would have been spent on the pilgrimage and endowing a monastery in honour of St Peter. Edward rebuilt a monastery at Thorney in London. The Abbey came to be called West Minster to distinguish it from the Cathedral of St Paul's in the east of the city.

Edward died in 1066 a week after the consecration of the new Abbey church. He was buried in the Abbey. In 1102 the body was discovered to be incorrupt and was translated to a shrine on 13th October 1163, two years after Edward's canonisation. His shrine has remained a place of Catholic devotion from that time to this. *St Edward the Confessor pray for us.*

MASS INTENTIONS**October 14th, 2023**

6pm - Ints of Fr Christopher

October 15th, 2023

9am— Pro Populo

11 am - Owen Dunn

(B'day Anniv)

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.

**Weekday morning
mass next week -
Friday, 20 October -
9.15am**

**Readings for this
& next Sunday**

1st Reading— Isaiah

25; 6-10

Psalm 22; response v 6

2nd Reading -

Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Gospel – Matthew 22; 1-14

1st Reading— Isaiah

45: 1,4-6

Psalm 95; 1, 3-5, 7-10

Response v 7

2nd Reading - Thessalonians

1;1-5

Gospel – Matthew 22; 15-21

World Mission Sunday on 22 October 2023

The Holy Father has tasked Missio to coordinate the celebration of the World Mission Sunday which will take place on the same day all over the world. All the faithful are called to take part in whatever way they can. Their prayers and donations will help to transform communities in faith, and enable the Church to reach out to those most in need through the world.

Therefore **Second Collection next weekend** - for Missio

Donation envelopes are already on the table and you can take them and post to Missio directly or place them in collection basket next Sunday or any Sunday after.

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. **Deadline for applications - Wednesday 1 November.**

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.

The Universe Catholic Weekly Online and PRINT EDITION Newspaper

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. We have an excellent website full of trustworthy articles and an online shop with all subscribers receiving a 10% discount.

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Below is the link to the latest edition of the Universe Catholic Weekly:

<https://universecatholicweekly.co.uk/universe-weekly-newsletters/september-2023/UNIVERSE-22-SEPTEMBER%20v3.pdf>

“There is always a need for us Catholics to be able to know what is going on, especially in that key relationship between our faith and our world.”
Quote by Archbishop Vincent Nichols

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.

Fr. Christopher

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; <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

Mr John Chesson - Data Protection Parish Officer

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

loose: £293.00 envelopes: £213.00 contactless collection last weekend: £91.00 total: **£597.00**

Standing orders in **February - £5706; , in March - £3820, in April £4002, in May - £2533, in June - 3545,**
in July - 2758, in August - 5713, in September- 2832,

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

WRCDDT 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*

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.

School applications.

Fr Chris will be singing school application on Tuesday, 17 October between 10.30am and 2pm.

If you cannot make it during this time, please, contact the office to book an individual appointment.