

NEWSLETTER

31 SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY
TIME**The Grace of Humility**

When I remember I am dust, I make peace with where I came from. I choose to be what I am in fact while voicing my desire to be more. When Job addresses his Maker with the words, *You modelled me remember, as clay is modelled, he appeals to an original state;* but he straightaway points to a prospect of grace by asking, *and would you reduced me now to dust?* (10:9). Dust though we are, we can never find rest in being nothing but dust, having known the gentle touch of God's fingers.

God formed man in his own image, in the likeness of himself(cf.Gn1:26). He gave him the *breath of life* (Gn2:7). A human being is dust called to glory. To remain within that tension is a challenge. It takes time and strength of purpose to be reconciled to it. To accept that nature is defined by a sense of incompleteness so vast that it cannot be repaired within the order of creation-not by any possession, any accomplishment, any relationship-is to embrace radical poverty. I know that the fulfilment of my being can only come from outside myself, as a gift. I cannot heave myself up to the heights I long to reach. But I can be carried there.

Saint Benedict's image of the weaned child on its mother's breast recalls another verse from Hebrew Bible. At the beginning of Deuteronomy, as Israel stands on the threshold of the Land, after decades in the desert. Moses says to the people: *In the wilderness, too, ... the Lord carried you, as a man carries his child, all along the road you travelled on the way to this place* (1:31).

The hand that shaped me in God's image, that refashioned me when I had lost my likeness to that image, reaches out to me now to raise me and carry me home. Am I humble enough to grasp it? The decision cannot rest on pious sentiment. It engages the depths of my soul and my flesh, where currents are strong. We may have to fight terrible battles with ourselves to conquer the guilelessness of childhood. To return to where we came from may require all our strength. Humility is not a coward's virtue. Its beatitude is found through an abandonment in faith that touches the heroic.

*Bishop Eric Varden***A Prayer after Communion**

Grant O Lord, we pray, that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things. We may be helped by what you give in this present age and prepared for the gifts that are eternal. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

SECOND COLLECTION - SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS

Today's second collection is for the Sick and Retired Priests' Fund. Please, give generously and help ensure our sick and older priests are financially supported, having given us a lifetime of dedicated service. They have baptized us, welcomed us into the church, and offered comfort and prayer at times of sorrow. Now we have a chance to give back and ensure they have peace of mind during their senior years, when they may be facing failing health and declining mobility.

Please, give generously using the envelopes in the church. You can also donate online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations - the envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online. You may also consider to becoming a **Patron** of our Sick & Retired Priests' Fund. If so, please, take a leaflet home today for more information. And please, continue to pray for the wellbeing of all of our clergy; active, retired and ill. Thank you in advance for your kindness.

*Canon Gerard King, Chairman, Sick & Retired Priests' Fund Committee***MASS INTENTIONS****November 4th, 2023**

6pm - Deceased Priests of the Diocese

November 5th, 2023

9am— Holy Souls

11 am - Deceased members of the Silva Family

Tue - 7th November

9.15 am - Holy Souls

Friday - 10th November

9.15 am - Ints of Isabelle Coelho

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— Malachi 1;
14-2: 8-10

Psalm 130

2nd Reading -

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13

Gospel – Matthew 23; 1-12

1st Reading—

Wisdom 6: 12-16

Psalm 62; 2-8, Response v 2

2nd Reading - Thessalonians
4; 13-18

Gospel – Matthew 25; 1-13

On the death of brother Satyrus

It is obvious that death is again and life a penalty. Saint Paul says it: 'For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain'. What does Christ mean to us here if not the death of the body and the breath of life? And so we must die with him in order to live with him. There should be in us a daily habit and disposition towards dying so that our soul may learn to cut away all the carnal desires and take on itself the likeness of death, by seeing things as from the height of heaven, out of reach of the lusts of the world, where they cannot bind it to themselves: so it shall escape the punishment of spiritual death. The law of the flesh, we know, wars against the law of the mind enmeshing it in the law of error. And what remedy have we? 'Who will deliver me from the body of this death? The grace of God through Jesus Christ our Lord!'

Indeed we have a healer, so let us make use of his remedy. Our remedy is Christ's grace and 'the body of death' means our physical nature. Therefore we must exile ourselves from our bodies lest we be exiled from Christ. Even though we are still in the body we should not desire the things of the flesh, and while not denying all natural appetites we should prize the gifts above all.

Why say more? The world has been redeemed by one man's death. Christ need not have died unless he had willed it, yet he did not think a shameful death a thing to be avoided, nor that there was any better way to save us than by dying. So his death is every man's life. We are signed and sealed by his death. It is his death we proclaim when we pray, that we preach when we offer sacrifice. His death is victory and sacraments and, year by year, it is the world's great feast.

What more can be said of his death? We see from his divine example that only death has sought immortality, that death itself has redeemed death. Is it, then, a thing to be mourned when it is the cause of universal salvation? Shall we fly from it when the Son of God did not despise it, did not fly from it?

Certainly, death was not part of nature, but was made a part of it afterwards. God did not ordain death in the beginning of things: but he gave it to us as a remedy when damnable sin brought toil and tears into human life: These sorrows had to be brought to an end so that death might bring back what life had thrown away. Deathlessness is no blessing but only a weariness if grace does not transfigure it.

Our souls must free themselves from the toils of this life and from the stain of fallen human nature. They must fight their way to the heavenly assembly, undeterred by the thought that it belongs to saints to attain it: the saints who sing God's praise as they wake their harps to music. These praises we read in the book of Revelation: 'Great and wonderful are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the ages! Who shall not fear and glorify your name, O Lord! For you alone are holy. All nations shall come and worship you'. Jesus, it is the saints' privilege to witness your espousals, in which the bride is led from an earthly home to her heavenly one-the psalmist says: 'To you all flesh shall come.' She comes accompanied by songs of rejoicing, not subject now to this world but betrothed forever to the Spirit.

This is what holy David desired above everything to see these things with understanding eye. Finally he says: 'One thing have I asked of the Lord, this I will seek after: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, that I may behold the beauty of the Lord.'

St Ambrose

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED

It is a tradition in the Church that November should be a time when we pray particularly for the souls of the faithful departed.

One of the ways we pray for the dead is to prepare a list of all the people special to us who have died and put that list in to the parish, asking everyone to pray for them. The result is that we are all praying for each other's dead friends and relatives.

If you wish to put forward a list of people you would like the community to pray for, write out the list (using, if you wish, the special lavender coloured paper provided) and put it in one of the Holy Souls envelopes you will find in the lobby of the church. If you wish to make an offering, put the money also in the envelope; this money will be used to fund Mass intentions for Holy Souls during the coming year. Either hand the envelope to me, or to our Sacristans, or into the collection basket at Mass.

From the 1st November we will put a special basket in front of the Altar.



A prayer for the souls in purgatory

Lord I come before You with a spirit dedicated to love and service, echoing the themes that govern our lives and the souls we remember in purgatory.

In the silence of my heart, I hold the holy souls dearly, offering my days actions for their spiritual comfort. May the compassion that you have planted within us flourish as we remember those on their purifying journey.

Today, let me be a vessel of your mercy, sharing with others the kindness that can bridge the gap between earth and eternity. Let my deeds reflect the sanctity of service that supports the souls entrusted to Your care.

With every breath, I yearn to embody the virtues that draw us closer to You, Lord. May the love I share alleviate the burdens of those who have passed and light their path to Your divine presence.

This month of remembrance deepens our connection to the communion of saints and the faithful departed. I commit to walking with a heart full of hope, extending my prayers as a beacon of light for the souls still journeying home.

Grant, O Lord, that my intentions and actions today may resonate with the eternal harmony of Your divine plan. May they bring peace to the souls in purgatory, as we all strive to embrace the joy of Your salvation.

In Your mercy hear this prayer, and may the souls of all the faithful departed, through Your boundless love, find rest and everlasting joy. Amen

Our guests this weekend:

We are the **Good Shepherd Company** from the Holy Land (Bethlehem) which is based in Nottingham. Our goal is to support and help the Christian families in the Holy Land, to stay at work as olive wood carves is one of the most important source of income for them, as 90% of the Christians rely on this sale.

So by selling their produce here in their behalf, this will prevent the Christians from leaving the country in search of better work opportunities, as a test survey from the bishops of Jerusalem there is only forty one thousands Christians left in the area.

Thank you very much for all your help and support.



Please, support Christians in the Holy Land by buying the produce from **Good Shepherd Company**.

With many thanks, Fr Christopher

Saying Goodbye, (part of the Mariposa Trust) are coming to London in November with a very special Baby loss remembrance and support service (part of a UK and Ireland chain of events).

The Mariposa Trust's core objective is to support people who have lost babies at any stage of pregnancy, at birth, or in infancy. It was founded in 2012, by Zoe and Andy Clark-Coates, who saw a critical lack of support for people like them, who had gone through baby loss. With over 258,000 babies being lost yearly in the UK alone, the charity needed to be able to offer not only a comprehensive package of befriending and support but also national baby loss remembrance services (called Saying Goodbye Services), for people to join together and remember the children they had lost. 5 years on, over 150 services have taken place at Cathedrals and Minsters across the UK, US, and France, and 2023 will see 21 services across England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

On the 26th November at 3.30pm in Central Hall, Westminster, we will be hosting one of our Saying Goodbye Services and as this is the most local service to you this year we wanted to share this information with you. So who is the service for?

Anyone who has either personally lost a baby at any stage of pregnancy, at birth, or in early years, or who has been affected by family members' or friends' loss. Whether the loss was recent or 80 years ago, everyone is welcome to attend. We have also extended the services, and gladly welcome anyone who is grieving the fact that they haven't had children. This may be due to circumstance, infertility, or for other reasons - but all are welcome. Babies and children are also invited to come with their families, as the Saying Goodbye service is truly a family event for all.

To read more on the charity, please see the Saying Goodbye website, which you can find at: www.sayinggoodbye.org

The Office will be closed for a week from Monday; 6 November till Friday, 10th November. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

Fr Christopher will be available only through emails: Millwall@rcdow.org.uk

There will be no Newsletter next week.

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

Mr John Chesson - Data Protection Parish Officer

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

loose: £359.00 envelopes: £155.00 contactless collection last weekend: £220.00 total: **£734.00**

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

RICHARD HOUSE - London's first children's hospice

Richard House is a children's hospice based in the heart of Newham that has been providing specialised free care services to seriously ill children and their families across East London communities for over 22 years. We are now supporting over 300 families and are asking you to consider supporting Richard House.

Many parents of seriously ill children are unable to work due to complex medical conditions of their children, requiring 24/7 care, We offer free specialised care to these families and hope you can help us to continue to fulfil our mission. We get limited support from local authorities, with three quarters' of the money we need is coming from fundraising alone.

More information you can find on our website at www.richardhouse.org.uk

We hope you will consider supporting Richard House at this time!

Your sincerely, *Charlie Grey*, Community Fundraiser, charlieg@richardhouse.org.uk

CATECHETICAL NOTICES;

Now the registration time for confirmation and first communion course is finished.

1. **CONFIRMATION** course will commence on Saturday 18th November at 4 pm. All participants registered should have received an email from Asha, who will lead the course. If you have not received an email, please, contact the office to find out why.
2. **1st COMMUNION** course - parents are reminded, that, the parents meeting will be on 22nd November at 7 pm. Parents are asked to bring cash to buy a book (£20 for a book, £40 for two books that would cover both parts of the course. The course will commence on 10th December immediately after the 9am Mass.