

NEWSLETTER

**33 SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY
TIME**

Recognising the Goodness of God

Everything begins with a great good. It has been calculated that a single talent was equivalent to the income of some twenty years work it was of enormous value, and would be sufficient for a lifetime. For us too, everything began with the grace of God-everything always begins with grace, not with our own efforts-with the grace of God who is a Father and has given us so many good things.

We need to remember this. All too often, when we look at our lives we see only the things we lack, and we complain about what we lack. We then yield to the temptations to say: 'If only..!' If only I had that job, If only I had that home, If only I had money and success, If only I didn't have that or that problem, If only I had better people around me! But those illusory words-If only-prevent us from seeing the good all around us. They make us forget the talents we possess. You may not have that, but you do have this, and the 'if only' makes us forget this...in a word, the Lord asks us to make the most of the present moment, not yearning for the past, but waiting industriously for his return. How ugly is that nostalgia, which is like a black mood poisoning our soul and making us always look backwards, always at others, but never at our own hands or at the opportunities for work that the Lord has given us.

This brings us to the centre of the parable, the works of the servants, which is service. Service is our work too, it makes our talents bear fruit and it gives meaning to our lives. Those who do not live to serve, serve for little in this life. We must repeat this, and repeat it often: those who do not live to serve, serve for little in this life. How many people spend their lives simply accumulating possessions, concerned only about the good life and not the good they can do. Yet how empty is a life centred on our needs and blind to the needs of others. The reason we have gifts is so that we can be gifts for others. And here, brothers and sisters, we should ask ourselves the question do I follow my own needs, or am I able to look to the needs of others, to whomever is in need? Are my hands open, or are they closed?

At the end of our lives, then,, the truth will be revealed. The pretence of this world will fade, with its notion that success, power, and money give life meaning. Whereas love-the love we have given-will be revealed as true riches. Saint John Chrysostom wrote: 'As for this life, when death comes and the theatre is deserted, when all remove their masks of wealth or of poverty and depart hence, judged only by their works, they will be seen for what they are: some truly rich, others poor'.

Pope Francis

MASS INTENTIONS

November 18th, 2023

6pm - Holy Souls

November 19th, 2023

9am— Pro Populo

11 am - Sandra Lashmar RIP

Tue - 21st November

9.15 am - Ints of Isabelle Coelho

Friday - 24th November

9.15 am - Ints of Fr Christopher

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.

We also remember today
Mrs Catherine Obi RIP,
our parishioner for many years.
Let's pray together with the family
for the repose of her soul .

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

Readings for this & next Sunday

1st Reading—
Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31

Psalms 127; 1-5, Response v 1

2nd Reading - Thessalonians
5; 1-6

Gospel – Matthew 25; 14-30

1st Reading— Ezekiel 34;
11-12: 15-17

Psalms 22: 1-3, 56 Resp v1

2nd Reading -
1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Gospel – Matthew 25; 31-46



IN LOVING MEMORY
Mrs Catherine 'Chinyelugo' Obi

25 November 1936 - 21 October 2023

Please join us as we say goodbye
to our loving mother, grandmother, aunty, sister and
friend.

Sunday mass remembrance service
SUNDAY 19TH OF NOVEMBER 2023
11 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING
ST. EDMUNDS RC CHURCH, 297 WESTFERRY RD
E14 3RS

St Edmund of Abingdon

16th November - The Patronal Memorial of our Parish and the Diocese, was on this day.

Unfortunately, due my recovery we couldn't mark the occasion. Edmund Rich was born in 1180 in Abingdon, Oxfordshire. He studied in the then new Universities of Oxford and Paris. He returned to Oxford in 1214 and became Professor of Philosophy. He was a pioneer of Scholasticism, and in addition a significant biblical scholar. St Edmund Hall, Oxford, is named after him.

In 1233, after some 11 years as Treasurer at Salisbury, he was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury. He undertook a considerable programme of reform during his time as Archbishop, asserting the authority of the bishop within the Church and the independence of the Church from the state.

His work aroused opposition, not least from the King. It was while on a journey to Rome on appeal against the King that Edmund died, at Solssy on November 16th, 1240.

He was buried at Pontigny, and was canonised, only 6 years later in 1246.

St Edmund, pray for us.



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 breadth, 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

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.



BAPTISMS

Parents who wish to have their child baptised, are advised to come to see me first and make no plans until after they have completed the Baptism Course. They need to make an appointment by contacting Katherine at the office on mill-wall@rcdow.org.uk. Once I recognize them as practising Catholics, they need to buy a baptismal pack (£10/casj). The next step would be to complete the baptism course that we run every other month.

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 godparents; one has to be male and the other female.

A godparent is defined as a confirmed practicing Catholic. That is why we require a reference form his/her parish priest 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 families to make a contribution to defray the cost by given a donation in the range of £50-100, with others giving more.

Baptisms here at St Edmunds would take place on Saturday's at 11am or at any Mass.

The next Baptismal Course for parents who want to baptised the child will be on Wednesday, 29th November at 7pm on Zoom. If you are interested - start the process by emailing the office now.

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

St Edmund's church cordially invite you to their Community Christmas Carol service.

This is to bring community together and to celebrate Christmas, especially for people who might be travelling over the festive period. Please invite your friends and your neighbours and let us sing some traditional carols together.

Saturday 16th of December 2023 at 7pm.

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: £305.00 envelopes: £185.00 contactless collection last weekend: £295.00 total: **£785.00**

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, in October- 2805,
Sick & Retired Priest Collection - £304.00

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 sent your donation by bank. Parish account is on Parish Web.

Thank you for your Generosity

WRCDT 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. **1 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.
3. No more applications will be accepted.