

## NEWSLETTER

**OUR LORD  
JESUS CHRIST,  
KING OF THE  
UNIVERS**

*The Grace to be Ready for the Kingdom*

While inaugurating the kingdom of God, Jesus taught the people. His voice is clear, not ambiguous; it is a voice of love and not of condemnation, of hope and not of desperation, of invitation to repentance and not of rejection of the sinner: this is everything *Jesus had done and taught from the beginning* (Ac1:1). He lost no opportunity to teach the people: at the banks of the Sea of Galilee, in the synagogues, on the mountain, in the boat and from the boat, in the temple, during journeys, while working miracles, during dinners, at the unjust proceeding before Pontius Pilate, and even from the cross. To the apostles, he delivered personal teaching right up to the moment of his Ascension back into heaven.

Jesus *taught them with authority, and not like their own scribes* (Mt 7:29). The voice of the Church should be the voice of Jesus that resounds in our times. Like the voice of John the Baptist, the voice of the Church should prepare for the Lord the people who are awaiting his arrival. Sometimes this voice will sound as a voice that cries out in the wilderness to people distracted by the things of this world. Many people in the modern world see Jesus as a Saviour, Friend and Brother. All of that is true. But Jesus is also Lord, King, and, at the end of time, also Judge. 'He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead' (Nicene Creed).

Jesus who took on himself the pain and sorrows of humanity, especially on the cross, loves us with a love that culminates in the offering of his life for us. '*Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden and, and I will give you rest*' The kingdom of Christ is a kingdom of love, humanity, respect for the rights of others, and forgiveness.

Saint Paul exhorted Timothy to fulfil his ministry faithfully: '*Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood correct error, call to obedience-but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching* (2Tim4:1-2). There is need for courage the gift of fortitude that comes from the Holy Spirit, to proclaim well the Gospel, especially in situations of injustice.. Holy Scripture and tradition, interpreted and handed on by the Magisterium, offer us security in the truth, without equivocation. What the surgeon does could make the patient suffer for the moment, but the hope is for healing and consequent joy.

*Cardinal Francis Arinze*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**November 25th, 2023**

6pm - Holy Souls

**November 26th, 2023**

9am— Pro Populo

11 am - Ints of Simeon Ian  
Benjamin (sick)

**Tue - 28th November**

9.15 am - Holy Souls

**Friday - 1st December**

9.15 am - Holy Souls

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.

**St Edmund's church  
cordially invites 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.**

**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— Ezekiel 34;  
11-12: 15-17

Psalm 22: 1-3, 56 Resp v1

2nd Reading -

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Gospel - Matthew 25; 31-46

1st Reading—  
Isaiah 63: 16-17, 64:1, 3-8

Psalm 79: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Response v 4

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel - Mark 13; 33-37

### ***A House of Prayer***

If you ask what my favourite prayers are, in all sincerity I would say I love the short and simple prayers of the Gospel: *They have no wine..(Jn 2: 3), Magnificat (Lk 1: 46-55), Father forgive them(Lk 23: 34). Into your hands..(Lk 23:46), May they all be one..Jn17:21). God be merciful to me a sinner..(Lk 18: 13), Remember me when you come into your kingdom (Lk23: 42).* I also love to pray with the whole of God's Word, with the liturgical prayers, the psalms, the canticles. I greatly love Gregorian chant, which in large part I recall from memory. Thanks to my seminary formation, these liturgical songs entered deep into my heart! Then there are the prayers of my native language, so moving, that my whole family prayed together every evening in our chapel, which reminds me of my childhood. Above all, there are the three Hail Marys and the alternative that my mother taught me to recite morning and evening.

I spent nine years in solitary confinement, having contact with two guards. To avoid illness like arthritis-a danger because I was never allowed to leave my cell-I would walk back and forth all day, massage my muscles, do physical exercises, while praying with songs like the *Miserere. Te Deum, Veni Creator, and the hymns of the martyrs. Sanctorum Meritus.* These hymns of the Church, inspired by God's Word, provided me with a great deal of courage to follow Jesus. To come to truly value these beautiful prayers it was necessary to experience the obscurity of prison and to become aware that our sufferings can be offered for the Church's Fidelity.

The simple prayer of a Communist ( yes a Communist) comes to my mind. At first the man was sent to spy on me but later he became my friend. Before his liberation he said, 'My house is three kilometres from the shrine of the Madonna of La Vang. I promise to go there to pray for you.' I believed in his friendship, but I certainly doubted that a Communist would pray to the Madonna. Then one day, perhaps six years later, while I was in solitary confinement, I received a letter from him! He wrote: 'Dear friend, I promised you that I would go to pray for you at the shrine of Our Lady of La Vang. I do so every Sunday if it isn't raining. When I hear the Church bells ringing, I ride my bicycle there. I pray for you like this: 'Madonna I am not a Christian; I do not know how to pray, but I ask you to give Mr. Thun what he desires.' I was moved to the very depths of my heart and thought that the Madonna would certainly answer him.

*Cardinal Nguyen Van Thuan*

### **Memoria of Andrew Dung-Lac and companions, martyrs**

The beginning of the sixteenth century saw the first sowing of the Gospel of Christ among the Vietnamese people, and this seed grew through the blood of martyrs and the spiritual joy of the newly baptized faithful. During the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, particularly during the reign of the Emperor Minh-Mang (1820-1840), many Christians received the martyrs crown: these included bishops, priests, men and women religious, and members of the laity. All these suffered torments of various kinds for their Christian faith and fidelity to the cross of Christ and bore witness to Christ's Church and true religion. Some were decapitated, others hanged, others burned or whipped to death, others died during their imprisonment.

Of these many martyrs of Vietnam Pope John Paul II on 19<sup>th</sup> June 1988 declared one hundred and seventeen to be among the ranks of the saints.

Andrew Dung-Lac and companions pray for us. Amen

### **Dear Dear Friends of Jesuit Refugee Service UK**

You are warmly invited to join us for this year's JRS UK Advent Service on 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm at Farm Street church in London. The Advent Service is a highlight of the JRS year, an opportunity for refugee friends, volunteers and supporters to come together in community and celebration.

This year's service will include carols, readings, and performances from our drama group. We will also have poems written by our very own refugee friends.

After the service we'll come together for a reception of mulled wine, mince pies and other nibbles.

We would love to see you and your loved ones there. If you're unable to join us in person, do please join us via the livestream.

We will share the link to the livestream closer to the day on our web page: <https://www.jrsuk.net/news/advent-service-2023/>

Feel free also to pass this invitation on to anyone who you think might be interested.

To help us better prepare our welcome, please RSVP by replying to this email or by emailing Loddan, Communications and Events Assistant, at [loddan.othman@jrs.net](mailto:loddan.othman@jrs.net). If you have any allergies or accessibility requirements we should be aware of, do let us know.

Thank you, as always, for your support. Victoria Firth

Senior Communications & Engagement Officer,

tel 020 7488 7310 [www.jrsuk.net](http://www.jrsuk.net)

Westminster Cathedral the mother Church of our diocese has improved the lighting of its main sanctuary. The previous aged and inefficient system had to be replaced as spare parts were no longer available. The improved lighting is of great benefit on major occasions particularly if they are being broadcast or live streamed. The improvements are being funded by the Friends of Westminster Cathedral. They are asking for our help by supporting their Big Give Campaign with online donations. For donations made from 12.00 noon on Tuesday 28 November and before 12.00 noon on Tuesday 5 December every £1 given is worth £2 with matched funding and £2.25 if you can tick the Gift Aid box. The link to the donation site is <https://bit.ly/FriendsBG23>

## 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 millwall@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 Canon 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

## 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 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

**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](mailto: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: £281.00 envelopes: £200.00 contactless collection last weekend: £220.00 total: **£701.00**

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](http://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](mailto:charlieg@richardhouse.org.uk)

**Are you interested in adopting a piano??**

Parish Office receive an email:

**"I'm a Widower, I am looking to give away my late husband's Yamaha baby grand piano to a passionate instrument lover, so let me know if you will take it or have someone who will care for it.**

If you are interested, please, contact [Millwall@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:Millwall@rcdow.org.uk) to start the adoption process.