

NEWSLETTER

10
DECEMBER



2ND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

God's Handiwork

After the fall of Adam and Eve, the darkness of disobedience - the lonely night of exile-settled upon the earth. But there were intimations of dawn: the smoke of sacrifice rising during the sluggish centuries; hopeful hearts lifted in prayer; holy men, divinely inspired, telling of a better day. Isaiah speaking more like a witness than a prophet when he describes the coming of the Saviour. In his vision was Bethlehem, that obscure village where the gloom of a stable was illuminated by the Light of the world. And the Mother; full of grace, she too was within the circle of what he saw; *the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel*. So long as we remember that Mary is God's handiwork, we can never extol her enough and the encomiums of even the clearest-visioned poets will always be like indistinct echoes of praise that heavens choirs are singing in honour of the Immaculate Virgin...Search your own memories and you may find abundant proof that devotion to the Blessed Virgin leads, devoutly disposed souls into the light of the sun of justice. Little incidents may help us how bountiful is the response of our Mother to those who offer her some gift within their keeping. Once upon a time there lived a man who was deeply impressed by the world around him. Gifted with the power of song he used to write rhymes about the beautiful things he had seen or upon which his mind had dwelt. He was not a Catholic, but someone had told him the exquisite beauty of the Mother of Christ and her spotless soul, of the dignity of her divine maternity; and of her exalted position in God's eternal home. He longed to give expression to what he knew was really inexpressible. His heart had to have its way, so he let it overflow into a poem. These are the opening lines: *Salve Regina! Immaculate Virgin/ Hear me implore and thy pity because/ Wild waves of trouble around me are surging/ Light with thy smile the deep night of my woe/ Queen of saints/ hear my earnest petition/ Mother of Jesus conceived without sin/ Turn me aside from the road to perdition/ Let me the fold of thy love enter in.*

Through his admiration for Mary love did enter in, and light too, for he was later received into the Church of the divine Son of the Immaculate Virgin in whose honour he offered his song.

Monsignor Edward Betowski

The poem quoted above is by the American poet William H. C Hosmer

MASS INTENTIONS

December 9th, 2023

6pm - Pro Populo

December 10th, 2023

9am— Fr John RIP

11 am - Ints of the Holy Land

Tue - 12th December

9.15 am - Ints of the Clergy

Friday - 8th December

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.

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— Isaiah 40;

1-5: 9-11

Psalm 84: 9-14, 56 Resp v 8

2nd Reading -

2 Peter 3:8-14,

Gospel – Mark 1; 1-8

1st Reading—

Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11

Psalm Luke 1;46-50, 53-54

Response Isaiah 61: 10

2nd Reading -

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel – John 1; 6-8, 19-28

Be Generous

May the coming week be filled with love and service.

In place of our selfish instinct to hoard, Jesus tells us to be generous instead of focusing on our own needs, to care for others; to replace a culture of having with a culture of giving.

It doesn't matter whether we can give a little or a lot. What counts is 'how' we give, how much love we put into even a small gesture of kindness for another person.

Chiara Lubich

The Blessings of the Rosary

Sinners are forgiven
 Souls that thirst are refreshed
 Those who are fettered have their bonds broken
 Those who weep find happiness
 Those who are tempted find peace
 Those poor find help
 Religious are reformed
 Those who are arrogant are instructed
 The living learn to overcome pride
 The Holy Souls in Purgatory have their pains eased
 by sufferings

PILGRIMAGE TO WESTPORT, Ireland

In March 2024

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo, 10th March 2024. £899.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry.

Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

More info on the poster in the churches' lobby.

Dear Friends of Jesuit Refugee Service UK

You are warmly invited to join us for this year's JRS UK Advent Service on 15th 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. 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

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>

CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

Saturday, 16th December 2023 – 7pm Parish Community Christmas Carols

Sunday, 24th December 2023 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Masses at 6pm, Saturday & 11am Sunday

Sunday, 24th December 2023 Christmas Eve

6.00pm

Children's Mass for Christmas

11.30 pm

Midnight Mass of Christmas with Carols before

Monday, 25th December 2023 Christmas Day

11am

Mass of Christmas Day

Tuesday, 26th December 2023 St Stephen

Mass at 11am

27th December 2023

No Mass

28th December 2023

No Mass

29th December 2023

No Mass

Sunday, 31st

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Masses at 6pm, Saturday 11am Sunday

Monday, 1st January 2024

Mass at 11am

The Holy Mother of God

2nd January 2024

No Mass

3rd January 2024

No Mass

4th January 2024

No Mass

5th January 2024

9.15 am Mass



Sunday, 7th January 2024

The Epiphany of the Lord

Masses at 6pm, Saturday & 9am & 11am Sunday

We are looking for volunteers who would like to serve mulled wine and mince pies after midnight mass. If you wish to help, please, talk to Fr Christopher or drop an email to millwall@rcdow.org.uk. Thank you.

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: £362.41 envelopes: £246.58 contactless collection last weekend: £356.00 total: **£964.99**

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,**

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 send 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

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