

NEWSLETTER

**2 SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY
TIME**

The harmony of unity

Now, since Jesus Christ has given such glory to you, it is only right that you should give glory to him; and this, if sanctification is to be yours in full measure, means uniting in a common act of submission and acknowledging the authority of your bishop and clergy.

Not that this is an order I am issuing I were someone of importance. It is true that I am a prisoner for the name's sake, but I am by no means perfect in Jesus Christ as yet; I am only a beginner in discipleship, and I am speaking to you as fellow scholars with myself. In fact, it is you who ought really to have given me lessons-lessons in faith and admonishment and patience and toleration. All the same, where you are concerned love will not suffer me to hold my peace; and that is why I venture to recommend an action that reflects that mind of God. For we can have no life apart from Jesus Christ; and as he represents the mind of the Father, so our bishops even those who are stationed in the remotest parts of the world, represents the mind of Jesus Christ.

That is why it is proper for your conduct and your practices to correspond closely with the mind of the bishop. And this, indeed, they are doing; your justly respected clergy, who are a credit to God, are attuned to their bishop like the strings of a harp, and the result is a hymn of praise to Jesus Christ from minds that are in unison, and affections that are in harmony. Pray, then, come and join this choir, every one of you; let there be a whole symphony of minds in concert; take the tone all together from God, and sing aloud to the Father with one voice through Jesus Christ, so that he may hear you and know by your good works that you are indeed members of his Son's Body. A completely united front will help to keep you in constant communion with God.

If I myself reached such intimacy with your bishop in a brief space of time-and intimacy that was less of this world than of the Spirit-how much more fortunate must I count you, who are as inseparably one with him as the Church is with Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ with the Father; so constituting one single harmonious unity throughout. Let no one be under any illusion; a man who excludes himself from the sanctuary is depriving himself of the bread of God, for if the prayer of one or two individuals, has such efficacy, how much more powerful is that of the bishop together with his whole church.

*St Ignatius of Antioch
to the Ephesians*

MASS INTENTIONS

January 13th, 2024

6pm - For Holy Land

January 14th, 2024

9am— Pro Populo

11 am - Ints of Helen

Mon - 15th January

9.15 am - Holy Souls

Wed - 17th January

9.15 am - Holy Souls

Friday - 19th January

9.15 am - Holy Souls

Confession on Saturday between
5.15-5.45 pm
or by appointment.

A Big Thank You
Dear Friends,
I thank you , for your
gifts and well wishes
over the Christmas.
May this New Year
2024 be filled with
joy and blessings for
you and all your dear
ones, and may God
bless you.

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— Samuel 3: 3-10, 19

Psalm 39:2, 4, 7-10

Response vv 8,9

2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20

Gospel – John 1; 35-42

1st Reading— Jonah 3;10

Psalm 24: 4-9, Response v 4

2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31

Gospel – Mark 1; 14-20

'Come and see'

In faith, Christ is not simply the one in whom we believe, the supreme manifestation of God's love; he is also the one with whom we are united precisely in order to believe. Faith does not merely gaze at Jesus, but sees things as Jesus himself sees them, with his own eyes it is a participation in his way of seeing. In many areas in our lives we trust others who know more than we do. We trust the architect who builds our home, the pharmacist who gives us medicine for healing, the lawyer who defends us in court. We also need someone trustworthy and knowledgeable where God is concerned. Jesus, the Son of God, is the one who makes God known to us. Christ's life, his way of knowing the Father and living in complete and constant relationship with him, opens up new and inviting vistas for human experience. Saint John brings out the importance of a personal relationship with Jesus for our faith by using various forms of the verb *to believe*. In addition to believing that what Jesus, tells us is true, John also speaks of believing Jesus and believing in Jesus. We believe Jesus when we accept his word, his testimony, because he is truthful. We believe in Jesus when we personally welcome him into our lives and journey towards him, clinging to him in love and following in his footsteps along the way.

To enable us to know, accept, and follow him, the Son of God took on our flesh...Christian faith is faith in the Incarnation of the Word and his bodily resurrection; it is faith in a God who is so close to us that he entered our human history. Far from divorcing us from reality, our faith in the Son of God made man in Jesus of Nazareth enables us to grasp the reality's deepest meaning and to see how much God loves the world and is constantly guiding it towards himself. This leads us as Christians, to live our lives in this world with ever greater commitment and intensity.

Pope Francis

Answer Pope Francis' Call: Pray for Nicaragua

Dear friends of The Pontifical Mission Societies USA, In these challenging times, the power of prayer brings us closer, strengthens our faith, and ignites hope in our hearts. Responding to Pope Francis' heartfelt call, The Pontifical Mission Societies and Aid to the Church in Need warmly invite you to participate in our Novena to the Immaculate Conception, dedicated to the people in Nicaragua. **The Novena will begin on Sunday, January 14th.**

Why Nicaragua? Recent events in Nicaragua have deeply concerned the global Catholic community. Our brothers and sisters there are in need of our spiritual support as they face significant challenges.

"I have been following with deep concern what is happening in Nicaragua, where Bishops and priests have been deprived of their freedom," Pope Francis said on January 1st. "I express to them, to their families and to the entire Church in the country my closeness in prayer. I also invite all the People of God to pray insistently. Let us pray for Nicaragua today."

What is Novena? A novena is a traditional Catholic practice of prayer over nine days, seeking intercession and guidance. Our focus is on invoking the Immaculate Conception and the brave missionaries serving them.

When and How to Participate: The Novena starts on January 14(Sunday) and concludes on January the 22nd. Each day, we will share with you a special prayer and reflection via email, and also on our social media platforms. We encourage you to join us from wherever you are, uniting in prayer for this noble cause.

Your participation in this Novena is not just an act of faith, but a beacon of hope for those in need. Together, let's uplift the spirit of our Nicaraguan brothers and sisters and support the tireless work of missionaries.

May this Novena bring blessing to you and to all those in our prayers. Thank you for standing in solidarity with missionaries and the Church in need.

In Faith and Hope,

The Pontifical Mission Societies USA & Aid to the Church in Need.

The link to Novena;

[A Novena to the Immaculate Virgin Mary for Nicaragua - The Pontifical Mission Societies \(onefamilyinmission.org\)](http://onefamilyinmission.org)

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 in February at 7pm on Zoom. (exact date will be provided soon) If you are interested - start the process by emailing the office now.

Fr. Christopher

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

Fr. Victor Camilleri OFM

Fr. Victor has served the Maltese Community here in the Diocese for over 50 years, and was an enormous help to the priests in the Deanery. He supplied here at St Edmunds over the years, and well known to most of you. He has now retired from ministry due to ill health. We here at St Edmunds would be always grateful for his support and his presence. Please remember him in your prayers. Thank you

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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: £133.48 envelopes: £245. contactless collection last weekend: £175.00 total: **£553.48**

Standing orders in , , **in June - 3545, in July - 2758, in August - 5713, in September- 2832, in October- 2805, in November- 2588, in December - £3335**

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

WRCDDT Charity No: 233699

Right To Life UK has launched a tool that enables members of the public to easily contact their MPs to ask them to oppose the two extreme abortion up to birth amendments and sign Early Day Motion 131, which calls on the Government to reinstate in-person medical appointments before abortion pills may be prescribed, in order to determine the gestational age of a baby and to ensure women seeking abortion are not facing coercion.

If you could attach the message below in your church newsletter, website or social media pages, that will help us to get the word out on this important issue.

Stop two extreme abortion amendments

Pro-abortion MPs, Stella Creasy and Diana Johnson, have tabled two extreme abortion amendments in an attempt to hijack the Criminal Justice Bill.

Right To Life UK has launched a tool on its website that makes it easy for you to email your MP to ask them to oppose the two extreme abortion up to birth amendments and sign Early Day Motion 131 to stop abortion pills being sent out without an in-person medical appointment. Please visit <https://righttolife.org.uk/abortionamendments> to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds

This week "We pray for the families and friends of pregnant women. That they would recognise their responsibility to care for the mother and child, and that they would shower them with love and support through the journey of pregnancy and beyond. Lord hear us".

Poster found in a Church in France...(translated)

'When you enter the Church it may be possible that you hear 'the call of God'. However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send Him a text while driving "'