

# NEWSLETTER

**3 SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY  
TIME**

A message from the Cardinal about Gaza and the West Bank

Dear Father,

You will recall that some time before Christmas – on 14 November, to be precise – I invited you to hold a collection after Christmas in response to the appeal from the Latin Patriarch in Jerusalem for support especially for those in Gaza. I thank all who have been able to respond to this request.

In the last few days I have heard directly, via Zoom, from the Parish Priest of the Church of the Holy Family in Gaza City and from the CEO of the Latin Patriarchate. The situation they face is grave and most demanding. We were told that there are still 600 people sheltering and being cared for in the parish compound, together with over 50 seriously disabled and vulnerable children. Water and food can be bought in the local markets at much inflated prices. With the damage inflicted on this site some time ago now, cooking hot meals is only possible three times a week. The parish is also providing for 200 people in the Orthodox property as well as for local Muslim neighbours.

The situation in the West Bank is also grave with more than 100,000 families losing income because of various factors, as well as the absence of all visitors and pilgrims.

The Patriarchate is able to provide assistance. It can make funding directly available to the parish leadership and is providing food etc to many in the West Bank.

I invite you to consider if a further contribution to the work of the Latin Patriarch might be forthcoming from your parish. If you do make such an appeal, please use my name in doing so, if you wish to do so.

Our Finance Office is ready to facilitate the speedy transfer to the Patriarchate of any such donations along with funds from collections already taken. They will provide further information by separate e-mail on how and when funds will be collected.

I am very aware of other ways in which this support can be offered to the victims of this conflict including Friends of the Holy Land and CAFOD. But I hope we can respond to this direct appeal from the Latin Patriarch and the work which he is able to effect.

*With my thanks and prayers, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster*

In response to the Cardinal's letter. I announce the second collection this and next weekend to help people in Gaza.

The collection will be by cash only; unfortunately you cannot donate by card.

*Fr Christopher*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**January 20th, 2024**

6pm - Pro Populo

**January 21st, 2024**

9am— Ints of Aleksandra

11 am - Maria Adora

Benjamin (Anniv)

**Mon - 22nd January**

9.15 am - Holy Souls

**Wed - 24th January**

9.15 am - For Holy Land

**Friday - 26th January**

9.15 am - Ints of Agnieszka

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

**Wed - 24th January**

**2 pm - Requiem  
Mass for  
Ho Cheung  
Ernest LO**

Please remember him and the family at this time in your prayers.

May he rest in peace.

**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— Jonah 3;10

Psalm 24: 4-9, Response v 4

2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31

Gospel – Mark 1; 14-20

1st Reading— Job 7: 1-4, 6-7

Psalm 146; 1-6 Response v 3

2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23

Gospel – Mark 1; 40-45

# Catholic Medical Ethics

**KING'S**  
*College*  
**LONDON**

A group for current university students of the healthcare professions interested in learning about the Catholic Church's response to difficult ethical questions.

**This semester:** Dr Mehmet Çiftçi of the Anscombe Bioethics Centre, Oxford, alongside other guest professionals, will be leading a seven-week virtual Bioethics lecture series.

It will explore the following topics:

- Catholic Anthropology
- Personhood and the human embryo
- IVF and Reproductive Technology
- Contraception and NFP
- Conscience and conscientious objection
- Organ donation and brain death
- End of life decisions

**When?** Mondays, 7-8pm on MS Teams, starting on the 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

To sign-up for the group, and attend this lecture series exclusive to it, please email Laurence Jasper, Catholic Chaplain of King's College London: Guy's Campus: [laurence.jasper@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:laurence.jasper@kcl.ac.uk) using your university email account.



## 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 27 February at 7pm on Zoom.** 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.

If you are interested in our Digital Subscription Offer or the PRINT EDITION,

call on Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email: [michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk](mailto:michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk)

Prices for Digital are as follows:- 3months Digital Subscription:- £20.00/6 months Digital Subscription:-  
£40.00- or 12-months Digital Subscription:- £80.00

Prices for PRINT EDITION:- 3 months PRINT Subscription:- £42.00- or 12-months PRINT Subscriptions:-  
£140.00

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*

### DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The Lourdes Pilgrimage takes place from 19th to 26th July 2024. Join the pilgrimage as a pilgrim. Serve the pilgrimage by coming as a praying assisted pilgrim. Support assisted pilgrims by sponsoring the sick to join the pilgrimage and praying for them. For more information please, go to

<https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or contact the Pilgrimage Office on 0207 798 9173

**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: £141.64 envelopes: £243 contactless collection last weekend: £285.00 total: **£669.64**

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 all going through difficult pregnancies, we pray for an overwhelming sense of hope and joy to fill their lives, and for increased support to be given by their family, friends, and local communities. 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 "'*