

# NEWSLETTER

**4 SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY  
TIME**

*The devout life takes many forms*

At the creation God commanded the plants to bear fruit each according to its kind and be likewise commands Christians, the living branches of the vine, to bear fruit by practising devotion according to their state in life.

The practise of devotion must differ for the gentleman and the artisan, the servant and the prince, for widow, young girl or wife. Further, it must be adapted to their particular strength, circumstances and duties.

Is the solitary life of a Carthusian suited to a bishop? Should those who are married practise the poverty of a Capuchin? If workmen spent as much time in church as religious, if religious were exposed to the same pastoral calls as a bishop, such devotion would be ridiculous and cause intolerable disorder.

Yet this foolish mistake is often made. True devotion never causes harm, but rather perfects everything we do; a devotion which conflicts with anyone's state of life is undoubtedly false.

The bee sucks the honey from the flowers without injuring them, leaving them as whole and fresh as when it found them. Devotions goes further, not only is it unharmed to any state of life, it adorns and beautifies it. Precious stones of all kinds when steeped in honey become more brilliant thereby, each one according to its colour, so every one becomes more lovable and more perfect in his vocation if he combines it with devotion.

It makes the care of family peaceful, the love of husband and wife more sincere, the service of one's king more faithful, and every task more pleasant and a joy.

It is not only erroneous, but a heresy, to hold that life in the army, the workshop, the court, or the home is incompatible with devotion. Purely contemplative, monastic or religious devotion cannot be practised in these callings; yet, these are not the only kinds of devotion; there are many others suitable for those who live in the world and capable of leading them to perfection.

Wherever we find ourselves we not only may, but should seek perfection.

*St. Francis de Sales*

Dear Friends, If you are facing difficulties or problems, and its all getting stressful.

Then say this prayer

**Mary Mother of God, Please be a Mother to me now.**

*St Theresa of Kolkata*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**January 27th, 2024**

6pm - For those who are suffering

**January 28th, 2024**

9am— Pro Populo

11 am - Ints of Fr F Wahle

**Mon - 29th January**

9.15 am - Holy Souls

**Wed - 31st January**

9.15 am - For the Parish

**Friday - 2nd February**

9.15 am - Holy Souls

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

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

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

**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— Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

Psalm 94; 1-2, 6-9 Response v 9

2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 7: 32-35

Gospel – Mathew 11; 25

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; 29-39

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*

## 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 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 from 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

# Catholic Medical Ethics

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.

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



## *The Small Seed of Christian Love*

Pope Paul VI [said that] love is the core value that the world awaits from the Church today. If this is true, and it is true, to respond to the needs of the Church and to the demands of our world we need to be love made concrete...All things have value if they are inspired and carried out by love, while without love nothing has value, at least not in life's final analysis. If this is our focus, we will be able to say of each of our actions, 'this will remain'. This holds true for our work, as it does for our relaxation, for educating our children, for our conversation with others, our travels, our way of dressing, our manner of eating, and for any other smallest of actions. It holds true for all the unexpected things that each day brings, the surprises God has in store for us. It even holds true-and this is very consoling-if an illness forces us to inactivity and confines us to bed with no apparent end in sight.

It is a truth often mentioned but equally forgotten that what matters is not so much what we do or are capable of doing (even in apostolic endeavours) but how we do it. The more our actions are animated by love, the more fruitful they will be....So, if we Christians do not want to be behind the times, we must put love into everything we do. And we need to be especially vigilant that we are not lacking in love when life proves most difficult and painful.

Yes, everything passes: people, health, beauty, possession, God alone remains. Misfortune can mark the time for us to choose God anew as the one and all of our life, and thus to live the way he commands: to love. When you love you understand many things, and you will see how the golden thread of your life, apparently interrupted, continues to shine as brightly and even more so than before. In our lives we might experience all kinds of disruption, but the life of God is always alive, and so it is in those who have grafted themselves over and over onto him.

### 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

The Anointing of the sick  
will take place here in our Parish  
on Sunday, 11 February 2024 at 11 am.

*Servant of God Chiara Lubich*

**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: £280.13 envelopes: £151.00 contactless collection last weekend: £218.00      total: **£649.13**

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 weekly donations. We will be grateful for your financial support. Your New offertory envelopes will be available at the end of March for collection after Mass or from the parish office. If you wish to have an offertory envelope, then give your details to the parish office, where a new box of envelopes will be made available to you. Alternatively, you could make your donation via bank transfer. The parish account is on our website.

WRCDT CHARITY NO: 233699

***Thank you for your Generosity***

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; "We pray for our Government, that their ability to support pregnant women would increase and that they would anchor themselves in the desire to protect all human life. Lord hear us".*

***An Appeal***

*A family in the parish has to vacate their rented property. If you know of any properties in the area for two adults and three children, could you let me know and I can pass it on to them. Thank you, Fr Christopher*