

# NEWSLETTER

**1 SUNDAY  
OF LENT**

**REPENT**

Let us fix our thoughts on the blood of Christ; and reflect how precious that blood is in God's eyes, in as much as its outpouring for our salvation has opened the grace of repentance to all mankind. For we have only to survey the generations of the past to see that in every one of them the Lord has offered the chance of repentance to any who were willing to turn to him. When Noah preached repentance those who gave heed to him were saved. When, after Jonah had proclaimed destruction to the people of Niniveh, they repented of their sins and made atonement to God with prayers and supplications, they obtained their salvation, not with standing that they were strangers and aliens to him.

All those who were ministers of the grace of God have spoken, through the Holy Spirit, of repentance. The very Lord of all himself has spoken of it, and even with an oath: By my life, the Lord declares, it is not the sinner's death that I desire, so much as his repentance; and he adds this gracious pronouncement, Repent, O house of Israel, and turn from your wickedness. Say to the children of my people, Though your sins may stretch from earth to heaven, and though they may be redder than scarlet and blacker than sackcloth, yet if you turn wholeheartedly to me and say 'Father', I will listen to you as I would to a people that was holy.

Thus, by his own almighty will, he has confirmed his desire that repentance should be open to every one of his beloved. Let us bow, then, to that sovereign and glorious will, let us entreat his mercy and goodness, casting ourselves upon his compassion and wasting no more energy in quarrels and a rivalry which only ends in death.

My brothers, do let us have a little humility; let us forget our self-assertion and braggadocio and stupid quarrelling, and what the Bible tells us instead. The Holy Spirit says, The wise man is not to brag of his wisdom, nor the strong man of his strength, nor the rich man of his wealth; if a man must boast, he should boast of the Lord, seeking him out and acting with justice and uprightness. Most particularly, let us remember what the Lord Jesus Christ said in one of his lessons on mildness and forbearance. Be merciful, he told us, that you may obtain mercy; forgive, that you may be forgiven. What you do yourself, will be done to you; what you give, will be given to you; as you judge, so you will be judged; as you show kindness, so it will be shown to you. Your portion will be weighed out for you in your own scales. May this precept, and these commands, strengthen our resolve to live obedience to his sacred words, and in humility of mind; for the holy word says, Whom shall I look upon, but him that is gentle and peaceable, and trembles at my saying?

Thus there exists a vast heritage of glorious achievements for us to share in. Let us then make haste and get back to the state of tranquillity which was set before us in the beginning as the mark for us to aim at. Let us turn our eyes to the Father and Creator of the universe, and when we consider how precious and peerless are his gifts of peace, let us embrace them eagerly for ourselves.

*Pope St Clement I, To the Corinthians*

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**February 17th, 2024**

6pm - Pro Populo

**February 18th, 2024**

9am— Thomas Madden RIP  
11 am - For Sick & Housebound

**Mon - 19th February**

9.15 am - Ernest Lo RIP

**Wed 'day - 21st February**

9.15 am - Holy Souls

**Friday - 23rd February**

9.15 am - Holy Souls

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

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

Then say this prayer

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

*St Theresa of Kolkata*

**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— Genesis 9;8-15  
Psalm 24: 4-9, Response cf v 10  
2nd Reading - Peter 3: 18-22  
Gospel – Mark 1;12-15

1st Reading— Genesis 22;1-2, 9-13; 15-18  
Psalm 115; 10, 1 5-19  
Response Psalm 114;9  
2nd Reading - Romans 8: 31-34  
Gospel – Mark 9;2-10

Dear Friends, May these forty days be reflective and fruitful as you prepare for Easter. Consider the Great Commandment: To love God and our neighbour.

Do my actions, words, & deeds reflect my love for God and neighbour

Also, read St John's Gospel Chapters 13-17. I wish all of you a Happy Lent. Fr Christopher

### Towards October 2024

'The Lord will guide us and help us to be a more synodal and missionary Church, a Church that adores God and serves the women and men of our times, going forth to bring everyone the consoling joy of the Gospel'

(Pope Francis, Homily at the Closing Mass of the Synod, 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023)

I should have put this earlier in the News Letter, but due to various things completely forgot. My sincere apologise. Given the time constraints, I ask you all to consider the following questions:

1 How do we witness as a Parish and proclaim our faith

Those who have ceased walking with Christ

Those with whom we worship Christ, here at St Edmund's

2. How should we organise ourselves as a Parish to do this more effectively?

3. What concrete steps would help us begin to witness and proclaim our faith more effectively?

4. What structures may we need to change? How might we need to develop the way we are organised currently?

Could I ask that you consider these four questions, and submit via email your suggestions and thoughts to,

[millwall@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:millwall@rcdow.org.uk) as soon as possible. Thank you , Fr Christopher

### 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](mailto:millwall@rcdow.org.uk). Once I recognize them as practising Catholics, they need to buy a baptismal pack (£10/cash). 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 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

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent commencing on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm we will be having the Stations of the Cross. We are looking for volunteers who would be willing to lead. If your interested please give your name and the Friday you wish to lead to Paul Marlow on a Friday evening. Thank you, Fr Christopher

### WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS AND CALENDARS FOR LENT

We are at the beginning of Lent season. To help us to go through this time we offer a WALK with ME, A Journey of Prayer booklet for adults and for children. We also encourage parents to take a Calendar for children. All is free of charge and you can find it on the table in the lobby. Fr Christopher

### Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2024

If you can, please show your support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. All funds raised go towards projects across our Diocese. Each year, the Diocese uses donations made to support the work of our services, such as Marriage & Family Life; Youth Ministry, and Education. Funds are also used to support the work of Caritas Westminster, who work for and with some of the most vulnerable people in our Diocese. His Eminence, Cardinal Nichols, has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. So, please take a donation envelope today, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

*Marriage is a natural vocation created by God. It is being lived across our diocese in a myriad of ways by couples, who promise to build a lifelong, intimate and sacramental partnership of love and life. They do so by the art of remembering, remembering to make those promises a reality, by learning the art of saying 'thank you' and 'I'm Sorry' and above all by making small acts of kindness each day.*

### Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 2:30pm.

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).

Details of attendees are sent to [family@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:family@rcdow.org.uk)

### 1st Communion Course,

We remind all parents that First Confession/Reconciliation service will be held at St Edmund's Catholic Church at 10.30am on Saturday, 2nd March 2024. Please, put the date into your diary.

### 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

### VOCATION DAYS; "Come and See"

Men who are interested in exploring vocations to the priesthood or the permanent diaconate are invited to come along to the Vocations Team's "Come & See" Vocation Morning on one of the following days;

- Saturday 16th March, 10am -2pm at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, London SW1P 1QN
- Saturday 20th April, 10am-2pm at Our Lady and St Vincent Church Hall, 243 Mutton Lane, Potters Bar EN6 2AT
- Saturday 1st June, 10am - 2pm at Our Lady's Hall (the undercroft) at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Rothamsted Avenue, Harpenden AL5 2DB. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided.

To find out more and to register attendance at one of the days, please, contact: Canon Roger Taylor, Vocations Promotor, at: [roger-taylor@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:roger-taylor@rcdow.org.uk) or Deacon Adrian Cullen, Director Permanent Diaconate at: [adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk) or call 07961 594725.

**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**

**LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:**

loose: £257.26 envelopes: £291.00 contactless collection last weekend: £10.00      total: **£558.26**

**GAZA COLLECTION - £548.00**

Standing orders in **in January - £3286,**

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***

WRCDT 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

***Today "We pray for our society. That we would promote a culture that values life, and that we would seek the protection of all humans from conception to natural death. Lord hear us".***

Dear Friends, You will see on the table in the lobby cards of two children who were born 22 weeks and five days.

You will notice that the current 24 weeks is not in line with the majority of countries in the European Union, where the common time limit for abortion on demand or broad social grounds is 12 weeks gestation.

Majority of the British population support reducing the time limit. Polling has shown that 70% of women favour a reduction in the time limit from 24 weeks to 20 weeks or below.

Please speak and vote in support of the amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill to lower the abortion time limit to 22 weeks.

*Thank you, Fr Christopher*