

NEWSLETTER

**2 SUNDAY
OF LENT**

'This is my Son, the beloved. Listen to him'

When we encounter Jesus Christ, we encounter ourselves-ourselves, that is, not as we are but as we are to become. Jesus, in revealing his own glory, reveals also the glory that is ours...

The apostles, privileged to witness the Transfiguration, certainly knew our Lord better as a result. The human veil over his divinity was for a moment lifted, and they beheld the heavenly splendour.....They also beheld the 'upward call' of every Christian.....Saint Augustine says that the transfigured Christ reveals what his Body is to become. We are to be transfigured as well. The purpose of everything in our faith-of all doctrines and sacraments-is to make us *brighter and brighter*(2Co3:L18).....We are to hear the words of the Father applied to ourselves: *This is my Son the Beloved*...The entire Christian life can be understood as the progressive knowing of ourselves as the Father's beloved children. The project of the Christian life is to train our ears to hear these words and our hearts to accept them.

We can take *Listen to him* in the broadest sense: we ought to heed Jesus' every word. But the context of the Transfiguration this command refers to our Lord's Passion. The journey up the mountain had followed Jesus' first prophecy of his Passion....Jesus then spoke about the need to follow him in the suffering. *If any one wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it, but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it*.....Now, at the Transfiguration, the Father's voice resounds to confirm what the Son has said: *Listen to him*. Peter, who wants so much to remain on the mountain, must first learn the path of the Passion. It is a command to believe Jesus' words not only about his own death and Resurrection but also about our need to follow him.

Jesus is transfigured to reveal the final goal; glory. The Father's voice is heard to highlight the means to that end the cross. The Passion is the path to glory.

To encounter Christ is to encounter ourselves. When we beheld his glory, we learn our lofty *calling and goal*. When we listen to his words, we learn the path to such glory.
Fr. Paul Scalia

Parish Office will be closed since Friday, 23rd February until Friday, 8th March.

There will be no Newsletter during this time.

We are sorry for any inconvenience caused.

Fr Christopher will be available through the email Millwall@rcdow.og.uk

MASS INTENTIONS

February 24th, 2024

6pm - Pro Populo

February 25th, 2024

9am— For those who are preparing for their exams

11 am - Ints of Fr F Wahle

Mon - 26th February

9.15 am - Ints of M.Samselski

Wed 'day - 28th February

9.15 am - Ints of Fr Christopher

Friday - 1st March

9.15 am - Ints of Benefactors of Secular Clergy Common Fund

Confession on Saturday between 5.15-5.45 pm

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 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

1st Reading— Exodus 20;1-17

Psalm 18: 8-11, Response John 6;68

2nd Reading - 1 Corinthians 1: 22-25

Gospel – John 2;13-25

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, 29th 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 as soon as possible. Thank you , 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.

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

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.

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 25th May 2024 at 2:30pm.

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their **5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent commencing on Friday 16th 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

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 or Deacon Adrian Cullen, Director Permanent Diaconate at: adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk or call 07961 594725.

An Appeal

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

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 23 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

Our neighbour The SPACE has added us to their Community Seat Fillers list, to let us know by email each time they have free tickets to shows available (as they want to make sure that the quieter shows still have a good audience, and are also aware that plenty of people may not be able to pay for a theatre ticket but would like to attend).

If you would like to be informed personally by email about the opportunity to attend any performance for free, please, email me with The Space in the title. Katherine



the SPACE
Bethany Sharp
Creative Producer

020 7515 7799 269 Westferry Road
Bethany@space.org.uk London
www.space.org.uk E14 3RS

I know it is a last minute announcement but use it if you can, as we have been offered free tickets to The Duchess of Padua this Saturday performance at 7:30pm.

Full information on the opera can be found here: <https://space.org.uk/event/the-duchess-of-padua/> This time, contact Bethany directly, please.

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: £231.94 envelopes: £161.00 contactless collection last weekend: £232.00 total: **£624.94**

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

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.

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 all considering abortion. We pray that the love and kindness of those around them would support pregnant women everywhere to continue with their pregnancy and find peace and joy in what the future holds. Lord hear us".

Ask your MP to support the abortion time limit reduction amendment

Support an amendment to reduce our abortion time limit from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Research indicates that a significant number of babies born at 22 or 23 weeks can now survive outside the womb, leaving a contradiction in our abortion law.

Take action: Collect a postcard today from the back of the church and post it to your MP urgently in support of this amendment!

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 22 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