

NEWSLETTER

**5 SUNDAY
OF LENT**

God's mercy towards the penitent

The heralds of the truth and ministers of divine grace, who have explained to us from the beginning right down to our own time each in his own day the saving will of God, say nothing in so dear and loved by him as when men turn to him with true repentance.

Wishing show that this is by far the most holy thing of all, the Divine Word of God the Father (the supreme and only revelation of infinite goodness) designed to dwell with us in the flesh, humbling himself in a way no words can explain. He said, he did, and he suffered those things which were necessary to reconcile us, while we were yet enemies, with God the Father, and to call us back again to the life of blessedness from which we had been alienated. Not only did he heal our diseases with his miracles, and take away our infirmities by his sufferings, and, though sinless, pay our debt for us by his death like a guilty man. It was also his desire we should aim to become like himself in love of men and in perfect mutual charity, and he taught us this in many ways.

He taught it when he proclaimed. 'I came not to call the righteous but sinners, to repentance'. And again, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick'. He also said that he had come to seek and to save the lost sheep; and on another occasion, that he had been sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. In the same way, in the parable of the lost coin, he referred in a symbolic way to the fact that he had come to restore in men the total likeness which had been lost by the evil smelling filthiness of passions. Likewise, he said: 'Just so I tell you, there is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents'.

He taught when he brought relief, with oil, wine and bandages, to the man who had fallen among thieves and had been stripped of all his clothing and left half-dead from his injuries. Having placed him on his own beast, he entrusted him to the innkeeper; after paying what was needed for his care, he promised that when he came back he would repay whatever more was spent.

He taught it when he said that the prodigal son's all loving father took pity on him and kissing him as he came running back repentant, clothed him once more with the beauty of his glory, and did not reproach him in any way for what he had done.

He taught it when he found the sheep which had strayed from the divine flock of a hundred, wandering over hills and mountains. He did not drive it back or beat it but brought it back to the fold. In his mercy, placing it on his shoulders, he restored it, with compassion, unharmed to the rest of the flock.

He taught it when he cried, 'Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest', and 'Take my yoke upon you', By 'yoke' of course he meant 'commandments' or a life lived according to the principles of the gospel; by 'burden' he meant the labour which repentance seem to involve. 'For my yoke,' he says, 'is easy and my burden light'.

Again teaching divine righteousness and goodness he commanded, 'Be holy, be perfect, be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful', and 'Forgive and it shall be forgiven you' and 'whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them'.

St Maximus the Confessor

MASS INTENTIONS

March 16th, 2024

6pm - Pro Populo

March 17th, 2024

9am— For the Clergy of the Deanery

11 am - Gwendoline Silva RIP

Mon - 18th March

9.15 am - Ints of Fr Christopher

Wed 'day - 20th March

NO MASS

Friday - 22nd March

9.15 am - Ints of Benefactors of Secular Clergy Common Fund

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— Jeremiah 31;31-34;
Psalm 50; 3-4, 12-15

Response Psalm 12

2nd Reading - Hebrews 5: 7-9

John 12; 20-30

1st Reading— ~Isaiah 50;4-7
Psalm 21: 8-9, 17-20, 23-24

Response v2

2nd Reading - Philippians 2: 6-11

Gospel – Mark 14;1-15:47

Your prayers are asked for Andrew Hung Lee who died in hospital last Thursday and his Family at this difficult time. May he rest in peace.

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

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.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The last Station of The Cross will be on Friday 22nd at 7pm. Please, join us in prayer.

Thank you, Fr Christopher

Our Church

Dear Friends, After a few years of pause in spending money on our premises, the Finance Committee with myself, feel that it is time to address some issues. First, we want to exchange lights in Sanctuary as they have started to fall off due to their age. We also need to replace majority of bulbs in the church. Secondly, after 24 years of use, we want to refresh our kitchen and toilets. It will come with a cost of eleven thousand of pounds. As usual, I would like to ask you for a specific donations towards our works as if we got money into this category, all your donations will stay with the parish, while when the money goes into general donations - we have to pay 30% of the total to the Diocese. If you are a Gift Aider, you can gift aid the donation and it will add an extra value.

Donation envelopes are available on the table in the lobby. You can also chose to donate on our digital plate or by bank transfer but doing it - not forget to add; donation for electrical works or for decoration. Thank you for your support. 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 form them. For more information please, go to

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

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



Easter services AT ST EDMUND'S

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 28th March at 8pm

GOOD FRIDAY - 29th March at 3pm

HOLY SATURDAY - 30th March at 8.30 pm

EASTER SUNDAY—31th March - 11am

No morning Mass during a week commencing on Monday, 1st April ,
Since Saturday, 6th April— all Masses as usual.

*BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD
ON SATURDAY, 30th March at
11am*



UPDATE

Dear Friends,

Since I had my Bowel Operation in September last year. I 've had various tests and recently a Pet-Scan, which clearly shows that the Metastases has moved to the liver. Having met with the Oncologist at Bart's, it was agreed that I should have chemo therapy. I shall commence treatment in April, for six months. A review will be held at the end of three months. Please, keep me in your prayers.

Thank you, and May God bless you all. *Fr Christopher*

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

Free events for you this month!

Mary's Daughters

Wed 20th March, 7:30pm , Fri 22nd March, 7:30pm, Sat 23rd March, 3pm, Wed 27th March, 7:30pm

Thu 28th March, 7:30pm & Fri 29th March, 7:30pm

Mary's Daughters tells the story of Mary Wollstonecraft, the 18th Century intellectual radical, and mother of Western feminism, along with her two daughters: the forgotten-by- history, illegitimate love-child Fanny Imlay, and the infinitely more famous, author of Frankenstein, Mary Shelley.

You can read more about it here: <https://space.org.uk/event/marys-daughters/>

If you are interested. Please email Parish Office and Katherine will forward it to Space according to the procedure mentioned underneath.

To book tickets, please simply let me know the names of all those who would like to attend. If they would like to be added to our mailing lists (including this one for Community Seat Fillers) please also provide us with their email address and their tickets will be sent to them directly, otherwise will send on their ticket to this email address. **They will only need to give their names at the door to gain admittance.**

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: £177.34 envelopes: £179.00 contactless collection last weekend: £555.00 total: **£911.34**

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