

# NEWSLETTER

**FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER**

*Safe in the Hands of the Good Shepherd*

I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full (Jn 10:10). It is within the context of the passage about the good shepherd that Jesus shared this reason for his presence among us. He is the Good Shepherd, who knows his sheep, and his sheep recognise his voice, which calls them to good pasture. Jesus acknowledged that others break into the sheepfold, thieves and robbers, with intention to destroy, *but the sheep that belong to me listen to my voice...they will never be lost and no one will ever steal them from me (Jn 10: 27-28).*

The sheepfold of this life is shown as a vulnerable place. Thieves break in to destroy and hirelings flee when danger arrives, abandoning the sheep when the wolf comes. More than anyone, Jesus understands the anger that may result from this broken trust. It is a natural reaction, and we can be angry at God, the person who hurt us, and ourselves for how we handled what was difficult. Rather than inflicting punishment in the moment, or taking revenge ( which is what justice seems to demand). Jesus goes beyond. Instead of *an eye for an eye*, the Lord says, *love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you (Mt5:44)*. He did not come to destroy, but proclaimed, *I lay down my life for my sheep.*

The Good Shepherd shows the sheep their worth. This is the one trait that Jesus points out for us to distinguish him by: he has given his life in the fight for yours. Whatever harm we experience will not go unanswered. His mercy is always leading us to the ultimate pasture where there are no hirelings or thieves. In the wake of choices-whether they be our own or those of others-that had destructive consequences, we may come to know, more clearly the difference between the voice calling us to good pasture and the voice that leads to death...Listen to his voice, we come to know, *I know my own and my own know me*. This laying down of his life for me opens the gate to the eternal pasture where he has *prepared a banquet for me (Ps 22:5)*. Despite feelings of abandonment in this life, Jesus' promise remains: *I am with you always (Mt 28:20)*.

Sister Faustina Maria Pia

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**April 20th, 2024**

6pm - Ints of Maria Charles

**April 21st, 2024**

9am— Pro Populo

11 am - **No Mass due to Marathon**

**Friday - 25th March**

9.15 am - Ints of

Kathy Thompson (sick)

Confession on Saturday between 5.15-5.45 pm

or by appointment.

*At present there is only one weekly mass on Friday morning.*

**Good Shepherd Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> April**

As previously announced, due to the London Marathon this weekend, and not having a 11am Mass. We will instead have the Second Collection on the weekend of **27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> April at all Masses.**

There are 13 students at Allen Hall who are studying for the priesthood for this Diocese. We also have students at English College Rome, Beda College Rome, and Valladolid in Spain. Do collect a donation envelope from the table in the lobby of the church, and you will find Allen Hall news and prayer cards for Vocations, which you can use to pray for vocations. Looking back at my ministry in the Lord's vineyard, it has been rewarding and serving you here at St Edmund's has been a joy, and long may it continue. Please pray for our Seminarians and for our priests and me. May God bless you all and thank you for your generosity.

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— Acts 9;26-31  
Psalm 21: 26-28, 30-32 Response v26  
2nd Reading - 1 John 3: 18-24  
  
Gospel – John 15;1-8

1st Reading— Acts 10;25-26, 34-35, 44-48  
Psalm 97; 1-4, Response v 2  
2nd Reading - 1 John 4;7-10  
  
John 15; 9-17

***Let us sing to the Lord a song of love***

We are told to sing to the Lord a new song. A new man knows a new song. A song is a thing of joy and, if we think carefully about it, a thing of love. So the man who has learned to love a new life has learned to sing a new song. Therefore we need to be told the nature of the new life, for the sake of the song. For a new man, a new song and the new treatment all belong to the same kingdom. So the new man will sing a new song and belong to the new testament.

Everybody loves: the question is, what does he love? Consequently we are not told not to love, but to choose what to love. But how can we choose, unless we are first chosen? We cannot love unless we are first loved. Listen to the words of John the apostle: 'We love, because he first loved us'. If you search for the reason why a man loves God you will find no other reason at all, save that God first loved him. He gave us himself as the object of our love, and he gave us the source of our love, you can find a clearer explanation in the words of the apostle Paul: 'The love of God is poured out in our hearts. 'Where does it come from? From our selves? No,. Where then? 'Through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us?'

Since, then, we have such an assurance, let us love God by the gift of God. As St John himself expresses it more clearly: 'God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.' It is not enough to say: 'Love comes from God'. Which of us dare to say what St John said: 'God is love'? He knew what he was saying, for experienced this love himself.

God offers himself to us; there is no need to offer us more. He calls out to us: 'Love me and you will possess me, because you cannot love me unless you possess me.'

My brothers, my sons, children of the Catholic Church holy seeds of heaven, you who have been born again in Christ, born from above, listen to me, or rather, through me: 'Sing to the Lord a new song', 'But I do sing', you may reply, You sing, of course you sing, I can hear you; but make sure that your life sings the same tune as your mouth.

Sing with your voices, sing with your hearts, sing with your lips, sing with your lives. 'Sing to the Lord a new song'. Do you ask what you should sing about the one you love? Of course you want to sing about the one you love. Do you ask what you should sing in praise of him? Listen: 'Sing to the Lord a new song.' Are you looking for praise to sing? 'His praise is in the assembly of the saints'. The singer himself is the praise continued in the song.

Do you want to speak the praise of God? Be yourselves what you speak. If you live good lives, you are praise.

*St Augustine*

**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 have started with lights exchange in Sanctuary as they have started to fall off due to their age. We have also replaced majority of bulbs in the church and the hall. Secondly, after 24 years of use, we want to refresh our kitchen and toilets. The kitchen has its new image already and you can see it while having your tea or coffee.

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 - do not forget to add; donation for electrical works or for decoration.

It all will come with a cost of eleven thousand pounds. We have collected so far **£2715** towards our works.

Thank you for your support and generosity. Fr Christopher

**UPDATE; Dear Friends,**

**Not long ago I informed you that I was diagnosed with the Metastases in the liver, and advised to have chemo therapy. I have started my treatment already and it will continue for at least three moths. I am feeling good at the moment. Thank you for all your concerns and prayers. May God bless you all. Fr Christopher**

### Annual Parish BBQ

Our annual parish BBQ, will be on **9<sup>th</sup> June 24**, after the 11am Mass. Tickets and other information to follow nearer the time. Please put this date in your diary.

Also, we are looking for volunteers to tidy the garden and yard in preparation for the BBQ on the Saturday **11 May from 10 am onwards..** If you are able to help, do give your name and details to the parish office. Remember, many hands make light work. Thank you, Fr Christopher



*Congratulations to our RCIA candidates who were received and confirmed at the Easter Vigil.*

*At the same time we thank Asha & Andrew for preparing them for their reception into the Church.*





**Diocese of Westminster  
Roman Catholic Parish of St Edmund of Abingdon, Millwall**

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**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: £243.00 envelopes: £165.00 contactless collection last weekend: £741.00      total: **£1149.**

Standing orders in    **in January- £3286, in February - £2589, in March - £2715,**

**HOLY PLACES COLLECTION - 215.92**

**CHURCH PROJECT (electrical works and refurbishment of the kitchen and toilets) - £2657**

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*

**Evangelisation and Faith**

**CAFOD Pilgrimage**

CAFOD is organising a pilgrimage for young adults aged between 18- 40 from **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July**, in a special way in this year of prayer and lead up to the year of Jubilee. Re-connecting with their faith through worship, prayer and journeying as a pilgrim together. The pilgrimage will include a two-night residential stay at the Frontier Centre, Irthlingborough, NN9 5UH. On the Saturday we will then be walking from Our Lady Help of Christians & St Lawrence, Olney to The Church of the Holy Child in Bedford, a distance of approximately 13.5 miles.

**For more information:** [Young Adults Residential Pilgrimage \(cafod.org.uk\)](https://www.cafod.org.uk)

**Sign-up link:** [Young Adults Pilgrimage July 24 - Formstack](https://www.cafod.org.uk)

**CAFOD A Year of Encounter**

With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. A *Year of Encounter* is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see [cafod.org.uk/encounter](https://www.cafod.org.uk/encounter) for more information, including online sessions on Thursday 25th April and Saturday 4th May to learn more.