

NEWSLETTER

**OUR LORD
JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE
UNIVERSE**

The Kingdom of Mercy

It is God, *who is mercy*, whom Jesus Christ has revealed to us as Father. It is his very Son who, in himself, has manifested him and made him known to us. I wrote this at the beginning of my encyclical *Dives in Misericordia* to show that Christ is the revelation and Incarnation of the Father's mercy. Salvation consists in believing and accepting the mystery of the Father and of his love, made manifest and freely given in Jesus through the Spirit. In this way the kingdom of God comes to be fulfilled: the Kingdom prepared for in the Old Testament, brought about by Christ and in Christ, and proclaimed to all peoples by the Church....

Jesus of Nazareth brings God's plan to fulfilment. After receiving the Holy Spirit at Baptism, Jesus makes clear his messianic calling: he goes about Galilee preaching the Gospel of God and saying: '*The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel*'. The proclamation and establishment of God's kingdom and the purpose of his mission: *that is what I was sent to do*(Lk4:43). But that is not all. Jesus himself is the Good News, as he declares at the very beginning of his mission in the synagogue at Nazareth, when he applies to himself the words of Isaiah about the Anointed One sent by the Spirit of the Lord(Lk4: 14-21). Since the Good News is Christ, there is an Identity between the message and the messenger, between saying doing and being and being. His power, the secret of the effectiveness of his actions, lies in his total identification with the message he announces; he proclaims the Good News not just by what he says or does, but by what he is....

The kingdom that Jesus inaugurates is the kingdom of God. Jesus himself reveals who this God is, the One whom he addresses by the intimate term *Abba, Father*. God, as revealed above all in the parables, is sensitive to the needs and sufferings of every human being: he is a Father filled with love and compassion, who grants forgiveness and freely bestows the favours asked of him. Saint John tells us that God is *love*. Every person therefore is invited to *repent and believe* in God's merciful love. The kingdom will grow insofar as every person learns to turn to God in the intimacy of prayer as to a Father, and strive to do his will.

Saint John Paul II

Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel

Dear Saint Michael, I thank you for your unending protection in my life and the Immense love you have shown me.

Keep me always connected to the divine currents that flow only from our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Light up my life and dispel the darkness that threatens to consume us. Today I declare that I am a child of God and I will call upon his name. I acknowledge Christ as the true source of all power and happiness in my life. I call upon the Holy Spirit to fill me with fire and purpose, that I may spread His love and deeds to those that I encounter.

I pray that you may help me put energy into my work and appreciate that work is worship to God.

May I never be in the dark but always rely on God as my protector, saviour and guide.

Saint Michael the Archangel, pray for us. Amen.

Saint Benedict

MASS INTENTIONS

November 23th, 2024

6pm - All Souls

November 24th, 2024

9 am — All Souls

11 am - Ints of Fr Christopher (Birthday)

For weekday mass intentions please, see the notice board on the left hand side of the main door of the church.

Confession on Saturday between 5.15-5.45 pm

or by appointment.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come, O Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

O God, to whom every heart is open, every desire known and from whom no secrets are hidden; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the help of your Holy Spirit, that we may faithfully serve you, perfectly love you, and worthily praise your Holy Name. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen

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— Daniel 7; 13-14, Psalm 92;1-2, 5 Response v 1
2nd Reading - Apocalypse 1;5-8

Gospel - ~John 18; 33-37

1st Reading— Jeremiah 33;14-16,
Psalm 25(24);4-5b,8-9, 10, 14 R. 1b
2nd Reading - 1Theessalonians 3: 12-4:2
Gospel – Luke 21; 25-28, 34-36

Warmest wishes to **Fr Christopher** who is celebrating his birthday today.

Wishing you a happy birthday and a year that's blessed.

SECOND COLLECTION - SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND

Thank you for so generously supporting the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund collection last weekend. Our priest give us years of dedicated service and it is only right, that, together, we ensure they live out their days with dignity and the care they need. If you didn't get the chance to donate, it's not too late. Envelopes are still available at the back of the church or from the parish office. You can make a one-off donation or set up a regular donation and become a **Patron** by completing section 4 on the envelope form. You can also donate online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations - the envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online.

Thank you again. Please keep or sick and retired priests in your prayers.

We at St Edmund's have collected so far **£549.14**.

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/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 happen when we have at least two couples who are interested. If you ARE interested - start the process by emailing the office asap.

Fr. Christopher

PARISH MISSION 'A Celebration of our Faith'

Our Mission is from 2nd -6th December 24 led by Fr. Peter Morris & Fr, Royston Price.

Please remember the Parish Mission in your prayers and if you know of anyone who would benefit from the Mission then encourage them to come along with you. Thank you,

Fr Christopher

Parish Mission Prayer

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you do I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen

Bring and Share.

Dear Friends, To celebrate, the end of our Parish Mission from 2nd -5th December. Our Social Committee has suggested a Bring & Share of food on **Sunday 8th December 24**, after the 11 am Mass. It is indeed an excellent opportunity for us to meet one another and catch up with those we know. Please, put this date in your diary. I look forward to welcoming you on the day. God bless you all.

The Catechetical Program 2024

First Holy Communions:

Parents Meeting with book purchasing (£20 per book) every child will need two.

Wednesday 4th December 2024 6pm.

Be compassionate

A statement of the Catholic Bishops of England, Wales and Scotland

As Catholic Bishops in England and Wales, and in Scotland, we believe that genuine compassion is under threat because of the attempts in Parliament to legalise assisted suicide. 'Compassion' means to enter into and share the suffering of another person. It means never giving up on anyone or abandoning them. It means loving them to the natural end of their life, even if and when they struggle to find meaning and purpose. Compassion means accompanying people, especially during sickness, disability, and old age. This kind of genuine compassion is witnessed through the care and respect we show to people with terminal illness as they complete their journey in this life.

We appeal to those who share our Catholic belief in human dignity and sanctity of life, including fellow Christians, other religious people, and people of reason and good will, to join with us in defending the weakest and most vulnerable who are at risk through this proposed legislation.

Life is a gift to be protected, especially when threatened by sickness and death. Palliative care, with expert pain relief, and good human, spiritual, and pastoral support, is the right and best way to care for people towards the end of life. More adequate funding and resources for hospices and palliative care teams authentically serve and honour our shared human dignity. In the discussion around assisted suicide, so much is made of freedom of choice and autonomy; but autonomy is not absolute and must always be placed within the context of the common good of society as a whole. People who are suffering need to know they are loved and valued. They need compassionate care, not assistance to end their lives.

Assisted suicide raises serious issues of principle. The time given for Parliament to consider the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, which will permit assisted suicide is woefully inadequate. Although the Bill indicates safeguards will be in place, the experience of other countries where assisted suicide has been introduced shows that such promised safeguards are soon forgotten. In Belgium, the Netherlands, Canada, and parts of the USA, the criteria for assisted suicide have been expanded significantly, in law or in practice, often to include people with mental illness and others who have no terminal diagnosis. It is not always easy to predict the length of time a person with a terminal illness has to live, making this Bill unworkable.

We are alarmed by the impact that legalisation will have on the most vulnerable members of our society. The option to end life can quickly, and subtly, be experienced as a duty to die. Some may well feel their continued existence is a burden to others, and, implicitly or explicitly, be pressured into assisted suicide. This includes people who are elderly, infirm, and living with disabilities. The protection of such people is the foundation of civilised society. It is at the heart of good government.

We are also concerned that this Bill will fundamentally damage the relationship between medical practitioners and their patients. It will potentially lead to pressure on medical staff to recommend or facilitate such procedures. Will the right to conscientious objection for individuals and institutions be guaranteed? The impact on hospices, care homes, and those who work in social and community care cannot be underestimated. It will radically alter the ethos of trust and support which underpins our service to those in need and their families.

We urge all people of good will to oppose this legislation and, instead, to advocate for better funded palliative care which is consistently available to everyone in need in England, Wales, and Scotland. Please inform yourself and others about this issue and contact your Member of Parliament to make your opposition known, asking him or her to oppose or not support the Bill.

As Catholic Bishops, we call upon all Catholics, and invite all those who share our Christian faith, to turn in prayer to God our Father. Please pray that the dignity of human life will be protected and defended. On the cross, Christ united Himself to every form of human suffering and every person who suffers. In Him, life is changed, not ended. He shows us, in His own crucified and risen body, that love is always stronger than death.

14 November 2024

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 Tomasz Daszkiewicz - Data Protection

Parish Officer

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

loose: £281.60 envelopes: £296.00 contactless collection last weekend: £266.00 total: **£843.60**

Standing orders in **in January- £3286, in February - £2589, in March - £2715,**
in April - 3769, in May - 2152, in June - 3800, in July - 2565, in August - 2416,
in September- 4660, in October - £2349,

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.

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 refreshed our kitchen and toilets.

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 has come with a cost of over eleven thousand pounds.

Thanks to a very generous donation from a couple of our parishioners who donated £4665 towards our refurbishment project, we have collected now **£11,095** towards our works. Thank you for your support and generosity.

Fr Christopher

Altar Servers

If our young people, have made their First Holy Communion, and would like to become an Altar Server. Please give your details to the Parish Office by email or to me just after Mass. Joseph Adesete our MC would be carrying out the training after the 11 am Mass.

Thank you, Fr Christopher

