

NEWSLETTER

**2 SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

A voice crying in the wilderness

‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord, make straight the paths of our God.’ This makes clear that the events spoken of in this prophecy are to take place not in Jerusalem, but the wilderness. By this means that the glory of the Lord will appear, and the salvation of God will be made known to all flesh.

The prophecy was fulfilled historically and literally; when John the Baptist preached the saving advent of God, in the wilderness by the Jordan, where the salvation of God was in fact seen. For Christ and his glory became known to all when, after he had been baptised, the heavens were opened, and Holy Spirit came down under the appearance of a dove, and rested upon him. There was the Father’s voice heard in testimony to the Son: ‘This is my Son, my Beloved; listen to him.

These things were said because God was about to come to the wilderness, which had been impenetrable and inaccessible for a whole age. For all the nations were empty of the knowledge of God: access to them had been prohibited to all men of God and the prophets.

That was why that voice ordered a way to be prepared for the Word of God, and the pathless and rugged waste lands levelled, so that at his coming, our God might find the road clear for his advance., ‘Prepare the way of the Lord’: this is the Gospel preaching, the new consolation, the ardent desire that the salvation of God comes to the knowledge of all men.

‘ Get you up to a high mountain,
O herald of good tidings to Sion,
lift up your voice with strength,
O herald of good tidings to Jerusalem.

These words fit in very well, with the meaning of our first question. They make an appearance reference to the preachers of the Gospel, and announce the coming of God among men, after we have heard of the voice crying in the wilderness. It is fitting that after the prophecy about John the Baptist, the preacher of good tidings be mentioned.

Who then is this Sion, except she who earlier was called Jerusalem? For she too is as mountain, according to the passage of scripture, ‘The mountain of Sion, where you made your dwelling’, and the Apostle says, ‘You have come to mount Sion.’ Does this perhaps refer to the band of apostles, chosen upon the former people of the circumcision?

This Sion and Jerusalem is she who receives the salvation of God. She herself is placed on high on the mountain of God, that is on his Only-begotten Word. To her he gave the command to get up on a high mountain, and protect the word of salvation. But who preaches the good tidings, if not the band of those who make the Gospel known? And what is meant by making the Gospel known? Preaching to all mankind the coming of Christ on earth, and preaching it first to the cities of Judah.

Eusebius of Caesarea



MASS INTENTIONS

December 7th, 2024

6pm - Ints of R Canavan

December 8th, 2024

9 am — Pro Populo

11 am - M Pudney RIP

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— Baruch 5; 1-9,
Psalm 126;1-2b. 2c-3, 4-5. 6.
R.3

2nd Reading - Philippians
1;3 -6, 8-11

Gospel - Luke 3; 1-6

1st Reading— Zephaniah 3;14-18a,
Psalm Isaiah 12;2-3; 4b-d,5-6,
Response v 6

2nd Reading - Philippians 4: 4:7

Gospel - Luke 3; 10-18,

We can still defeat assisted suicide!

There is a clear path toward the assisted suicide Bill being defeated at Third Reading. Early analysis shows that at least 36 MPs supported the Bill but have concerns that mean they may vote NO at later stages.

Just 28 MPs switching their stance to NO would ensure it is defeated at Third Reading. We need MPs to know that their constituents want them to vote NO at Third Reading.

Please take action now and visit www.righttolife.org.uk/ASvote to find out how your MP voted and ask them to vote against the Bill at Third Reading.

Dear Fathers, Dear Deacons,

In the light of the decision of MPs to vote in favour of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill at its Second Reading today, Bishop John Sherrington, in his role as Lead Bishop for Life Issues at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, has issued a statement.

The Cardinal has asked me to alert you to this statement, which you can read at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/assisted-suicide-bill-second-reading/>.

He asks you to consider making use of it as seems best to you at this significant moment.

Bishop John says, in addition to his statement, 'Please thank those MPs who voted against the Bill and encourage them to continue their opposition to this dangerous Bill. I also encourage pastoral support and prayer for those who feel more fearful after this decision.'

The Cardinal has also asked me to pass on his good wishes to you and, as ever, his thanks for all you do in service of the Church.

Best wishes from me also,

Fr Alexander Master, Private Secretary to Cardinal Vincent Nichols

Archbishop's House | Ambrosden Avenue | London | SW1P 1QJ

privatesecretary@rcdow.org.uk

Bring and Share.

Dear Friends, To celebrate, the end of our Parish Mission , on **Sunday 8th December 24**, after the 11 am Mass we meet in our hall to share the food we have brought with others. It is indeed an excellent opportunity for us to meet one another and catch up with those we know. Everyone is invited even if you have not cooked anything.

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 Canon 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 on 29 January at 7pm on Zoom. If you ARE interested - start the process by emailing the office asap.

Fr. Christopher



CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE

Sunday, 22nd December 2024 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Masses at 6pm Saturday & 9am & 11am Sunday

Monday, 23rd December 2024 9.15 am Mass

Tuesday, 24th December 2024 Christmas Eve

6.00pm

Children's Mass for Christmas

11.30 pm

Midnight Mass of Christmas with Carols before

Wednesday, 25th December 2024 Christmas Day

11am

Mass of Christmas Day

Thursday, 26th December 2024 St Stephen

Mass at 11am

27th December 2023

No Mass

Sunday, 29th Dec 2024

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Masses at 6pm, Saturday 11am Sunday

Monday, 30th December 2024 9.15 am Mass

Tuesday, 31st December 2024 11 am Mass

Wednesday, 1st January 2025 The Holy Mother of God

Mass at 11am

2nd January 2025

No Mass

3rd January 2025

No Mass

Sunday, 5th January 2025

The Epiphany of the Lord

Masses at 6pm, Saturday & 11am Sunday



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: £373.09 envelopes: £150.00 contactless collection last weekend: £234.00 total: **£757.09**

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, We have just finished a special collection for refurbishment in our church & premises, that was a success as we collected almost £12,000. I want to thank you for your support and to remind you, that we are doing it as a 100% money donated as a special collection is staying with the parish while money collected as general offertory must be shared with the Diocese through monthly payable Assessment (that reaches 30% of the income in that category).

Today I want to start a special collection for NEW LECTONARY & MASS BOOKS. From 1st Sunday of Advent we have to use a new addition of Lectionary & Mass books as the new translation has come into use. That is why we have spent £825 on Lectionary and £990 for our Mass books so far. But this is not the end of the expenditure as the mass books must be changed twice a year for three years. It means that we will need £6,000 for year books in total. I ask you for a specific donations towards the books. 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 Mass Books.

We need to collect **£6,940** towards the new lectionary & books. Thank you for your support and generosity.

Fr Christopher

We have already collected £3258. Thank you.

A Day With Mary is taking place at **St George's Cathedral, Southwark** on **Saturday 14 December** (10.15am to 5.15pm). Mass will be celebrated by the Archbishop of Southwark Diocese, John Wilson. Further information is available at <https://www adaywithmary.org/> or <https://eventcatholic.com/>