

NEWSLETTER

**3 SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

John the voice and Christ the Word

John was a voice, but the Lord in the beginning was the Word. John was a voice for a time, Christ the eternal Word in the beginning.

Take away the word and what is a voice? When it conveys no meaning, it is just an empty sound. A worthless voice strike the ear, but it does not make the heart grow.

However, as we engage in building up our hearts, let us pay attention to the order of things. If I think of what I want to say, the word is already in my heart. And if I want to talk to you, I look for some means whereby what is in my heart may also be in yours.

So, wanting the word, which is already, in my heart, to come over to you, and make its way into your heart, I make use of my voice to talk to you. The sound of the voice brings you to understanding the word. And when my voice has done that, it ceases: but the word carried to you by the sound is now already in your heart, and has not left mine.

Take this sound then. After the word has passed into your possession, does it not seem to say, 'He must increase, but I must decrease'? The word of the voice cried out, performing its service, and then passed away, as though it said 'This joy of mine is now full'. Let us hold on to the word, and not let slip the word have inwardly conceived.

Do you want to see a transient voice, and the abiding divinity of the Word? Where is John's baptism now? He served his purpose and left. It is Christ's baptism which is now administered. We all believe in Christ, and hope for salvation in him. This is precisely what the voice told us.

Since it is difficult to distinguish the voice and the word, John himself was thought to be Christ. The voice was taken to be the Word. But the voice admitted his identity; less he might displease the Word. 'I am not the Christ', he said, 'nor Elijah, nor the prophet'. In reply to who are you? He said, 'I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord'. 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness', the voice of one breaking the silence, 'Prepare the way of the Lord', is as though he said: I cry out to lead him into your heart-but he will not condescend to come when I am leading, unless you prepare the way.

When does 'to prepare the way' mean except to pray as you ought; to be humble-minded? Take an example of humility from John himself. He is thought to be the Christ, but he says he is not he is not what people think. He does not use the mistake of others to feed his own pride.

Suppose he had said: I am the Christ. How easily would he have been believed, since that was what people were thinking before he spoke! But he did not say it. He acknowledge who he was, distinguished himself from Christ, humbled himself.

He knew where his salvation lay. He understood that he was a lamp, and he was afraid of being quenched by the wind of pride.

St Augustine



MASS INTENTIONS

December 7th, 2024

6pm - Ints of M Charles

December 8th, 2024

9 am — J Bednarczyk
(Anniv)

11 am - Pro Populo

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.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY.

Next Sunday, 22nd December, after 11 am Mass, we will decorate the church for Christmas. Please, stay and give us a hand.

We would like to offer a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie after our mid-night mass on 24 December. We need a volunteer to help to warm up the wine and distribute it. If you think you can make it, please, contact Fr Christopher or Katherine ASAP

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— 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,

1st Reading— Micah 5; 2-5a,
Psalm 80;2ac,3b, 15-16, 18-19. responsive v 4

2nd Reading - Hebrew
10;5-10
Gospel - Luke 1; 39-45

The Anticipation

Our Gospel calls us to anticipate at the coming of our Lord. How could we be joyful, when we see so much conflict and persecutions of Christians for their faith. This joy and happiness is so hard to come by. At the time of our Lord's anticipated birth, there was conflict and darkness to this a light came into the world. Joy and happiness is not what we have all the time-joy and happiness is the fruit of absence. We can take joy in knowing a loved one who is far away doing that which she/he loves. We can take joy in sharing a meal with someone who has gone without, even if it means we go without. John the Baptist, claimed he was unworthy to undo the straps of his sandals, he was pointing to another, and yet he attracted many to him. We too can, take second place, 'He must increase, I must decrease' praise God, come Lord Jesus.

Dear Parishes,

Greetings from the Assumption Sisters – we are offering a **Discernment Weekend in Rome**.

To celebrate the Jubilee Year 2025, the **Religious of the Assumption** are inviting single women (18-30s) open to discerning a call to consecrated life to take part in a **discernment weekend in Rome**. This will take place from **Friday 31st January to Sunday 2nd February**, enabling participants to celebrate February 2nd, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life, in Rome!

The weekend will include mass in St Peter's Basilica, time for personal prayer and sharing, input on discernment, as well as opportunities for personal conversations with a sister.

Board and lodging are provided, with participants only paying for their travel. **Places are limited**, and are open to participants speaking English, Italian, French or Lithuanian.

For more information or to register,

contact us at vocations@assumpta-eu.org

Deadline: 20th January

With thanks and best wishes, The Assumption Sisters and Rebecca

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

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 contact 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
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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: £194.00 envelopes: £306.00 contactless collection last weekend: £280.00 total: **£780.00**

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, in November - £2238,

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 LECTIONARY & 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 £3445. Thank you.

The SVP are distributing over 10,000 homeless packs (Vinnie Packs) during the extreme cold weather. Each pack contains thermal gloves, thermal hat, two pairs of socks, face cloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, information sheets and pen. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.10 per pack? Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West **sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237.**

Thank you so much for your support.