

NEWSLETTER

**SECOND
SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

The Baptism of Christ

Christ is illumined, let us shine with him; Christ is baptised, let us descend with him, that we may also ascend with him.

John baptises, Jesus comes to him; perhaps to sanctify the Baptist himself, but certainly to bury the whole of the old Adam in the waters; and before this and for the sake of this, to sanctify Jordan. As he is Spirit and flesh, so he consecrates us by Spirit and water.

John will not receive him: Jesus contends, 'I have need to be baptised by you', says the lamp to the Sun, the voice to the Word, the friend to the Bridegroom; he that is above all those who are born of women to him who is the First-born of every creature; he that leaped in the womb to him who was adored in the womb; he who was and is the Forerunner to him who was and is to be manifested. 'I have need to be baptised by you'; add to this 'and for you'; for he knew that he would be baptised by martyrdom, or, like Peter that he would be cleansed not only as to his feet.

But further-Jesus goes up out of the water; for with himself he carries up the world and sees the heaven split open which Adam has shut against himself and all his posterity, as the gates of Paradise by the flaming sword.

And the Spirit bears witness to his Godhead, for he descends upon One that is like him, as does the Voice from heaven (for he to whom witness is borne comes from thence) and like a dove seen in bodily form it bestows honour on his body, since this also God by being deified. And moreover, the dove has from distant ages been wont to proclaim the end of the Deluge.

Let us however today venerate the Baptism of Christ, and let us celebrate the feast honourably.

Wash yourselves and keep yourselves clean. God rejoices in nothing so much as in the amendment and salvation of men, on whose behalf is every word and all the sacraments. Be cleansed so that you maybe like lights in the world, a life-giving force to all other men, and stand as perfect lights beside that great Light, and learn the mystery of the illumination of heaven, enlightened by the Trinity more purely and clearly, of which even now you are receiving in a measure the One Ray from the one Godhead in Christ Jesus our Lord; to whom be the glory and the power for ever and ever: Amen

St Gregory Nazianzen

"As we just enter a week of prayer for Christian unity, let us pray that all Christians might express our shared love of Christ in charity towards the most vulnerable, including the sick, the poor, and the unborn.

Lord hear us".

MASS INTENTIONS

Jan 17th, 2026

6pm - Pro Populo

Jan 18th, 2026

9 am — Ints of Stefania & Stefan

11 am - For Clergy of the Diocese

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

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- Isaiah 49:3; 5-6, Psalm 40; 2, 4-9, R 8

2nd Reading -
1 Corinthians 1:1

Gospel - John 1; 29-34

1st Reading— Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27;1-4. 13-14. R.1

2nd Reading -
1 Corinthians 10-13,17

Gospel – Mathew 4; 12-23,

An abortion update.

I wish this were an email I didn't have to write. However, there are moments when numbers reveal a moral crisis more clearly than words can.

Sobering new figures released this morning by the Department of Health and Social Care reveal that **278,740 abortions took place in England and Wales in 2023, the highest number ever recorded in a single year.**

Compared with the 252,122 abortions in 2002, the new figures represent an 11% rise, amounting to 26,618 additional lives lost to abortion in just one year. When combined with the record **18,242 abortions in Scotland** in 2023 and the evidence-based estimate of **2,632 abortions in Northern Ireland** in the same year, this brings the estimated **total number of abortions across the UK in 2023 to 299,614, the highest figure ever recorded.**

When close to 300,00 children can lose their lives in one year, we are not witnessing rare or exceptional cases but a **profound national failure.** It reflects a society that has failed women in crisis, failed under pressure, and defaulted to abortion where support should have been offered.

When figures of this magnitude no longer shock us and, to an extent, are expected, they tell a story about a country that has lost its moral direction.

The rise in abortions coincides with both the erosion of legal safeguards across the UK and the third year of widespread at-home abortion provision in England and Wales. Introduced as a temporary measure, these services were rapidly normalised and made permanent by the Conservative Party.

Since then, we have seen mounting evidence of women taking abortion pills without adequate medical oversight, gestational limits being breached, and coercion going undetected behind closed doors.

Data released this month even **suggest the sex-selective abortions of baby girls have been imported into this country,** reflecting practices brought from cultures where this discrimination is more common.

Tragically, there is a real risk that this situation will worsen.

Later this month, the House of Lords is due to consider a deeply controversial provision in the Crime and Policing Bill that would permit abortion up to birth. If passed, it would remove even the final legal limits and place England & Wales (with Scotland likely to follow) among the most extreme abortion regimes in the world.

Peers have tabled amendments to overturn this clause and to reinstate in-person medical consultations before abortions take place at home, and we are doing all we can to support them. We will be in touch soon with clear ways you can stand with us and help at this critical moment.

For now, if you pray, please join me in praying:

- for the lives lost and for the women affected, many of whom face pressure, fear, or isolation
- for wisdom, courage, and perseverance for those working to defend life
- That we would be able to change the culture as well as the law on this issue

With heavy heart, Zuzana Revayova,

WESTMINSTER DIOCESE JUSTICE & PEACE LECTURE 2026

The second annual Justice and Peace Lecture which will be given by Charles Wookey, formerly CEO of Blueprint for Business, and for the last three decades advisor on social and ethical issues to archbishops of Westminster and at the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. He will speak on the topic 'Living out Catholic Social Teaching in Today's Britain'. A response will be given by the young scholar Dr Charles Bury of the University of Manchester. The lecture will take place at Farm Street Church of the Immaculate Conception, 114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH, on March 25th 2026 at 7pm. Access to the church is from Farm Street or Mount Street. After the lecture in the church all are invited to a buffet reception in the Arrupe Hall. All are welcome. If you would like to attend please reply to justiceandpeace@rcdow.org.uk by March 1st 2026.

'Come & See' Vocations Mornings 2026

Sat 17 January, 10am-1.30pm - Our Lady of Victories (Kensington Room) - Kensington High Street, London W8 6AF

Sat 28 February, 10am-1.30pm - St Anselm's, Southall - St Anselm's Rectory, The Green, Southall UB2 4BE

Sat 14 March, 12 noon-3.30pm - St Bonaventure's Church Hall - 81 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City AL8 6JF (*A short walk from Welwyn Garden City Station.*)

Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. To find out more and to register your attendance at one of the days, please contact: Canon Roger Taylor Vocations Promoter rogertaylor@rcdow.org.uk or Deacon Tito Pereira – Assistant Director Permanent Diaconate 07977 599110 or titopereira@rcdow.org.uk.

If you are aware of any men who may be interested in the diaconate or priesthood, please to share this information with them.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18-25 January 2026 marks the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which this year has the theme "One Body, One Spirit". Churches Together in Britain and Ireland have produced resources for the week, which can be found here: <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity/>. There are also a couple of events taking place in the Cathedral during the Week of Prayer:

Tuesday 20 January at 5pm – Westminster Cathedral are hosting the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral, to sing Vespers together, in thanksgiving for the recent proclamation of St John Henry Newman as a Doctor of the Church. The preacher will be Archbishop Rowan Williams.

Friday 23 January at 5pm – St Paul's Cathedral are hosting the Choir of Westminster Cathedral, to sing Evensong together.

The Diocesan Ecumenical Coordinator is running an Ecumenical Pilgrimage on Friday 23 January, leaving from Westminster Cathedral at 1pm and visiting Temple Church & a Catholic Church, before finishing at St Paul's in time for Evensong. Clergy, parishioners and Christians from all denominations are most welcome to join this pilgrimage. Please email ecumenism@rcdow.org.uk to let them know that you're coming.

Little Sisters of the Poor: 4 Day Retreat for Young Women

Please see the below invitation, which you may wish to pass on to anyone who it may be of interest.

The Little Sisters of the Poor are inviting young women, aged 17-35, for a 4 day retreat at St Anne's Home, 77 Manor Road, Stoke Newington, N16 5BL. It will start at 3pm on 2 April (Holy Thursday) and finish 6pm on 5 April (Easter Sunday), although attendees are welcome to stay for 1-2 days if they are unable to stay for the full four days. A donation is suggested to cover the cost of accommodation. To register and find out more please email Sister Caroline ms.stanne@lsplondon.co.uk.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The dates for this year's Westminster Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes are 17 – 24 July 2026. Registration details will be published soon but to express an interest please go to <https://pilgrimages.rcdow.org.uk/>

The Annual Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes and for the World Day of Prayer for the Sick will take place on Saturday 7 February at 2pm at Westminster Cathedral. This will be preceded by a talk at 11.30am in Westminster Cathedral Hall by Dr Kieran Moriarty on the extraordinary story of the Lourdes miracle of Jack Traynor, the man from Liverpool whose miraculous healing was declared a miracle in 2024. Tickets for the talk are £5 per person, available from [this link](#) . Donations to the Lourdes Pilgrimage 2026 are always welcome and appreciated.

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: £206.00 envelopes: £163.00 contactless collection last weekend: £378.00
total: **£747.00**

Standing orders in 2025: January- £3982, in February- £1883, in March - £2576
in April - £2638, in May- £2394, in June- £2085, in July- £2956, in August—£2016,
in September—£2730, in October—£1996, in November—£1906, in December—£2390,

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

We have created a specified fund for utility bills and we encourage you to give specified donations towards our utility bills. As we need to share our general donation with the diocese, we find it difficult to meet our parish ends. Your donations towards a specified fund let us keep 100% of the money in our parish. If you give by a card, just chose: utility bills on the screen, if you transfer by bank: type 'utility bills' in description, or you can give money in a prepared envelope that can be find on the table in the church's lobby.

If you pay taxes, please, fill out the Gift Aid form (do not hesitate to ask any question you have). Thank you.

Counting of the Collection

Dear Friends, To comply with guide lines set by the Diocese, they require us to create a Rota of Counters to Count the collection. Therefore we are appealing for volunteers who would be willing to count the collection after the 11 am Mass on a Sunday or on an alternative date.

You need to count in pairs, with another member of our community. It will take probably half an hour, once a month if we have enough volunteers to cover each week. We also ask students of six forms to step forward. **If you are interested, please give your details into the Parish Office.**

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.