

NEWSLETTER

**FIFTH
SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

Anointing Of The Sick

Pope Leo, chose the theme for this year, which celebrates the 34th World Day of the Sick. ‘The compassion of the Samaritan: loving by bearing the pain of the other’

In Chapter 10 of the Gospel of Luke, Jesus tells us of the parable of the Good Samaritan. A man travelling from Jerusalem to Jericho when he was attacked by robbers, who stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest goes by the same road, and when he sees him, he passes by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he sees him, walk pass the other side. A Samaritan traveller, came upon him, and he took pity upon him. He went to him , bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine. He put him on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.

The Good Samaritan was the one who had mercy upon the man who was half dead and robbed on the other side of the road. The priest and the Levite showed no compassion, but the Samaritan showed mercy took care of him and saved his life.

The parable teaches us to love our neighbour as ourselves. When other people need our help, like the man on the road, it is when our love for neighbour is truly tested. Our Lord is calling us to be like the Good Samaritan, helping others in times of need.

As we come forward with our ailments seeking healing, through laying on of hands and anointing, we call to mind all those who are sick, and who cannot be here, we pray for them. May the Lord in His infinite mercy heal them and bless them. Amen

Meeting Archbishop Rt. Rev Richard Moth

Archbishop, has put forward, a programme of gatherings has been planned, each following format of a meeting with headteachers, then clergy, followed by the celebration of Mass and then a short meeting with deans. Here are the dates: Wednesday 25th February- Kingsland (for Central and Eastern Area deaneries); Thursday 26th February- Ealing Abbey (For Western Area deaneries); Tuesday 3rd March- Garston (for St Albans and Watford deaneries), Wednesday 4th March-Wood Green (for Haringey, Enfield, and Barnet deaneries)

Tuesday 10th March-Wembley 1, St Joseph (for Brent and Harrow deaneries) Wednesday 11th March-Welwyn Garden City East (for Stevenage and Lea Valley deaneries) ; The Time table for each of the gatherings:

4.30pm- meeting with headteachers 5.30pm-meeting with priests /deacons 6.30pm-Mass After Mass-meeting with deans

Parishioners are most welcome to attend any of the Mass.es. Archbishop Richard Moth will remain at the back of the church to greet as many of the congregation as possible.

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

MASS INTENTIONS

Feb 7th, 2026

6pm - Julia Wong RIP

Feb 8st, 2026

9 am — Pro Populo

11 am - Hazel Donaldson (Anniv)

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 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 58:6-10

Psalm 112;4-5. 6-7. 8-9

2nd Reading -

1 Corinthians 2-1-5

Gospel – Mathew 5; 13-16,

1st Reading– Sirach 15:15-20;

Psalm 119; 2, 4-9, R 8

2nd Reading -

1 Corinthians 1:2-10

Gospel - Mathew 5; 17-37

UPDATE: The House of Lords has concluded its committee stage debate on the abortion decriminalisation clause.

As often is the case at committee stage, there weren't any votes-these will come at Report stage. Nevertheless, many peers spoke strongly against the inclusion of the abortion decriminalisation clause (Clause 191) in the Bill. Nearly 20 peers spoke directly against the clause, with many others expressing serious concerns.

The case for removing Clause 191 was led by Baroness Monckton of Dallington Forest. She set out a strong argument saying:

'Laws exist for a variety of reasons. Sometimes, they exist to deter us from doing things that would cause significant harm to ourselves or others, out of motives that may be devious or simply desperate. The current law prohibiting women from performing their own abortions after 24 weeks is one such law. The existing legal deterrent protects women. For example, if a partner seeks to pressure a woman into an abortion beyond 24 week limit-a limit which I note is already double that common in most European countries-a woman can currently point to the criminal law as a reason for not doing so. Removing this would make it much harder for vulnerable women to resist such pressure and would be particularly troubling given the dangers of unsupervised, self-induced abortions later in pregnancy.'

She then went on to say; 'This is the case for absolute decriminalisation of abortion in any circumstances, and that is the true intention of the proposers of the clause. It would mean that up to full term, the viable unborn child would have the moral status of property, just as a salve did in the American Deep South in the 18th century. No one could be criminally liable for the destruction of their own human property. I do not consider this progressive'.

A number of other important amendments were also debated. Baroness Foster of Aghadrumsee led efforts to end the 'pills by post' policy, exposing how abortion providers are now calling for decriminalisation to shield themselves from the serious consequences of that policy. As she put it: 'It is remarkable that one of our leading abortion providers should respond to its own mistakes-sending pills to women beyond the legal limit through a scheme for which it lobbied and from which it benefits-by trying to push for even more radical laws that minimise accountability'.

Lord Bailey tabled an amendment to introduce a mandatory safeguarding investigation whenever an abortion is performed on a girl under the age of 16. He warned: 'I am very worried about the real-world consequences for young women in vulnerable situations where, when they are being coerced, their abusers would know that no investigation is even possible. No matter where you stand on the question of abortion, surely noble Lords can see that the most vulnerable young women be protected by us in law'.

It is encouraging to see such strong opposition to these extreme decriminalisation proposals. This provides a solid basis for further challenges at Report Stage. I thank you, for writing peers-it is making a difference, once again I thank you all.

Come in Procession

On 11th February we celebrate the 34th World Day of the Sick, for which Pope Leo XIV has chosen the theme: *"The compassion of the Samaritan: loving by bearing the pain of the other"*. The World Day of the Sick, established by St. John Paul II in 1992, is a special moment of prayer and reflection for the entire Church to recognise the face of Christ in our sick and vulnerable brothers and sisters. Focusing on the Gospel figure of the Samaritan who cares for the man who fell into the hands of thieves, we are reminded of our call to love our neighbour. Like the Good Samaritan that bent down to help the injured man along the road, the Christian community is also called to stop and help those who suffer and be evangelical witnesses of closeness and service to the sick and most vulnerable.

One of the ways in which we do this in our diocese, is through supporting the sick and the vulnerable on our diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes each summer. In doing this we are answering the call of Our Lady to St Bernadette to encourage people to go to Lourdes in procession. We are also following the example of pilgrims who for nearly 170 years have travelled to this great shrine where so many have received healing and discovered God's love.

In 2023, the 71st healing to be proclaimed a miracle was that of the pilgrim from Liverpool, Jack Traynor, whose catastrophic injuries from World War One were miraculously healed during a visit to the grotto. Many other healings, although less dramatic, have had an enormous impact on the lives of so many, and this is a good news story we should want to share.

Travelling with the diocesan pilgrimage is also an opportunity for all of us to discover more about the Westminster Diocese, and the opportunities we have to love our neighbour not only on pilgrimage but also when we return home. The pilgrimage this year takes place on 17th-24th July 2026. If you are interested in joining our pilgrimage as a volunteer, a member of our medical team, a praying pilgrim or an assisted pilgrim, or if you feel you are able to support others to go to Lourdes in 2026, please do go to <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or contact the pilgrimage office on 0207 798 9173 for further details.

"With this ring, I pledge my love"

Marriage Week is an annual celebration offering the opportunity to support and promote marriage and family life. It is celebrated from the 7-14th February. This year we are invited to explore, in its 10th anniversary year, the key themes of Amoris Laetitia on: Joy, Love, Mercy, Realities and Discernment, and Mission. Into this eclectic mix we, as a diocese, are celebrating the installation of our new Archbishop, Richard Moth, on the 14th February.

When placed alongside each other, these celebrations provide an incredibly powerful pastoral and symbolic image, in aligning the spousal leadership of the local Church with the vocation of marriage. For me, this synergy is captured through one small yet linked item, a ring.

In the ceremony, the archbishop receives a ring, just as in their wedding ceremony, the couple exchange rings. Each ring represents a gift of oneself in love: that of the couple to one another, and that of the archbishop to his diocese. In both vocations, this gift is permanent, faithful, life shaping and not without challenges. Though the vocations are expressed differently, we find sacrifice, love and nurturing. There is also a focus on well-being: that of the couple to their family and that of the bishop of his wider spiritual family.

The giving of the ring speaks of covenant, not a contract. The ring in both instances is not about power or status: it's about relationship, fidelity, and self-gift. Though the vocations are different, they both symbolise an expression of 'spousal love'. For the couple this is becoming in marriage a living sign of Christ's love for the Church, and for the bishop becoming a 'spiritual spouse' to his diocese.

The blessing of the rings in marriage and that of the bishop's ring both emphasise God's presence in the commitment, the sacredness of the promise, and the grace to live out the vocation. Just as the couple will wear their rings as a sign of fidelity to one another, the bishop wears his as a sign of his bond to the Church. A ring therefore is not simply a sign of an emotional connection, it goes much deeper and is a symbol of a life-long responsibility.

In speaking of the exchange of rings in marriage, Fr Stephen Wang observed, "the ring that is given is a sign of the love and fidelity of the one who gives it... the ring that you wear, that was placed on your finger by your spouse on your wedding day, does not represent your commitment to your marriage, your love for your spouse, your faithfulness. ... It represents the commitment, love, and faithfulness of your spouse to you." If this helps reshape our understanding of the ring that we gave, it can also help us to think of the commitment we make to our new Archbishop.

Take a moment to look at your wedding ring. Reflect on the one that will be worn by Archbishop Richard and take note of the parallels. Both are a sign of commitment, of harmony in their different ways speaking of a shared language: marriage and priesthood lived as a covenant, expressed publicly, and sustained by grace. *Deacon Roger Carr-Jones, Marriage & Family Life Coordinator,*

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.

Jobs at Diocese of Westminster—for further details, please visit <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk/>

Job Title	Department Name	Closing date
Justice & Peace Coordinator	Caritas Westminster	09/02/2026
Youth Social Action Coordinator	Caritas Westminster	09/02/2026
Countertenor Lay Clerk	Cathedral Lay Clerks	12/02/2026
Parish Organist	Whitton	13/02/2026
Parish Administrator	Millwall	16/02/2026
Parish Administrator	Dollis Hill	19/02/2026
Parish Outreach Worker	Kensal Rise	20/02/2026
Electrical Testing Engineer	Health & Safety	20/02/2026
Parish Support Partner	PST	20/02/2026
Parish Office Assistant	Brazilian Chaplaincy	26/02/2026

**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: £335.00 envelopes: £80.00 contactless collection last weekend: £346.00
total: **£761.00**

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 & building maintenance and we encourage you to give specified donations towards one of the funds. 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 or building maintenance on the screen, if you transfer by bank: type 'utility bills' or "building maintenance" in description, or you can give money in a prepared envelope that can be found on the table in the church's lobby.

A recliner armchair is looking for a new home.

The armchair is like new and is free. If you would like to have it, you need to organise the collection.

Please, contact Parish Office for more information.

Configura
Comfort 1 and Lite 2
INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE



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.**

Hope we will hear from you, *Fr Christopher with Parish Finance Committee Members.*