

# NEWSLETTER

**SIXTH  
SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**

*The blessing of the Father shone upon men through Mary*

‘Hail, O favoured one, the Lord is with you’. Could anything transcend the joy that is yours, O virgin Mother? Could anything surpass this grace granted by God to you alone? Is it possible to think of anything more gratifying and more splendid? Nothing can even approach the marvel that we see in you. All things lie far below the grace that is yours; in comparison even the best of them take second place and their brilliance is overshadowed.

‘The Lord is with you’ and who has dared to strive against you? God has been born of you; who would stand in your way and not gladly give you first place and supremacy? For this reason, when I contemplate the privileges that put you above all creatures I cry out to you in highest praise, ‘Hail, O favoured one, the Lord is with you’. The joy that comes from you is shared not only by mankind but also by the powers of heaven.

Truly, ‘you are blessed among women’, for you have changed the condemnation of Eve into a blessing. Because of you and through you, Adam who hitherto was cast down and condemned, received a blessing.

Truly, ‘you are blessed among women’, for through you the blessing of the Father came to mankind and relieved them from the age-old sentence.

Truly, ‘you are blessed among women’, because through you your ancestors found salvation. You were to give birth to the Saviour who would win for them God’s salvation.

Truly, ‘you are blessed among women’, for without the seed of man you bore the fruit that gives a blessing to the whole earth and frees it from being condemned to produce only thorns.

Truly, ‘you are blessed among women’, for through you are a woman like any other woman you will in actual fact become the mother of God. If the one to be born of you is in truth God incarnate, you rightly deserve to be called ‘she who gave birth to God’, inasmuch as you truly do give birth to God.

You have God enclosed within your womb. He lives in you according to the flesh and comes forth from you like a bridegroom, giving joy to all and sharing his divine light with all mankind.

In you, O Virgin, as in the clear brightness of heaven, God ‘has placed his tent’, and he will come forth from you like a bridegroom from his chamber’. Like a giant he will run the course of his life to bring salvation to all living things. That course ‘will stretch from one end of the heavens to the other’ filling all things with life-giving warmth of God’s radiance.

*St Sophronius*

**Ash Wednesday—18<sup>th</sup> February**

**Mass times with distribution of ashes: 9.15am & 8pm**

**It is a day of Fast & Abstinence**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Feb 14th, 2026**

6pm - Pro Populo

**Feb 15th, 2026**

9 am — For B & M

Schumacher

11 am - Darell Benjamin  
(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— Sirach 15:15-20;

Psalm 119; 2, 4-9, R 8

2nd Reading -

1 Corinthians 2;6-10

Gospel - Mathew 5; 17-37

1st Reading— Genesis 2:7-9;  
3; 1-7

Psalm 51;3-4. 12-17

2nd Reading -

Romans 5; 12-19

Gospel – Mathew 4; 1-11,

**LENT** As we approach Lent, we think of self-denial but lent is transformation. Here are some quotations from some Six saints and blessed have offered profound reflections on how to live this time authentically through fasting and conversion of heart.

*'It is true that Moses, Elijah, and Our Lord himself fasted for 40 days; but in Moses, Elijah and Christ we are meant to see the law, the prophets, and the Gospel, and to learn from them not to cling to this present world or imitate its ways but to nail our unregenerate selves to the cross. Christians must always live this way, without any wish to come down from the cross, otherwise they will sink beneath the world's mire. But if we have to do all our lives, we must make an even greater effort during these days of Lent. It is not a simple matter of living through 40 days; Lent is the epitome of our whole life'. St Augustine*

*'Renunciation of sensations, stimuli, pleasures, and even food or drink is not an end in itself. It must only, so to speak, prepare the way for deeper contents by which the interior man 'is nourished'*

(General audience, Wednesday, March 21. 1979) St John Paul II

*'Lent, O Lord: do not allow us to resort to broken cisterns (Jer 2: 13), nor to imitate the unfaithful servant, the foolish virgin; do not allow the enjoyment of earthly goods to make our hearts insensitive to the lament of the poor, the sick, orphaned children and countless brothers and sisters of ours who still today lack the minimum necessary to eat, to cover their bare limbs, to gather the family under one roof' (Radio message of the holy Father John XXIII on the occasion of the beginning of Lent, Feb 27. 1963). St John XXIII*

*'Lent is an urgent call to guard against the snares of the evil one, taking up the weapons of prayer and penance. In the words of our Father, I have often reminded you that' the devil does not take vacations, that he never ceases in his efforts to draw souls away from God' ( Text of Feb 2 1985, published in 'Journey with Jesus through the Liturgical Year' Scepter, 2014). Blessed Alvaro del Portillo*

*'We cannot consider this Lent as just another time, a cyclical repetition of the liturgical season. This moment is unique; it is a divine aid that must be welcomed. Jesus passes our side and awaits from us-today, now-a great change' ( From Furrow, a book written by the saint)*

*'I advise you to try sometimes to return...to the beginning of your 'first conversion', which, if not becoming like children, is very similar to it; In the spiritual life, one must let oneself be led with complete trust, without fear or duplicity; one must speak with absolute clarity about what is on ones' mind and soul'.( from 'Christ Is Passing By' a book by the saint). St Josemaria Escriva*

*' Our Soul is like a hot-air balloon. If by chance there is a mortal sin, the soul falls to the ground. Confession is like the fire underneath the balloon enabling the soul to rise again...it is important to go to confession often' (National Catholic Register).*

*' Conversion is nothing more than moving the gaze from below to above; a simple movement of the eyes in enough' (National Catholic Register). Blessed Carlo Acutis*

### Assisted Suicide

Dear Friends, Assisted suicide campaigners are lobbying MPs to use what is known as the Parliament Act to bypass the House of Lord's and force the assisted suicide Bill into Law in the next Parliamentary session.

This is an unprecedented route of using the Parliamentary Act to bypass the House of Lords' scrutiny of a Private Members' Bill, and recent polling shows that taking this approach is not supported by the public.

The pressure group, Dignity in Dying, who support Assisted suicide, is currently flooding MPs' inboxes with emails urging them to back this attempt to bypass the House of Lord's and force this dangerous Bill into Law.

It is important that MPs hear from their constituents who do not support forcing the Bill into Law-and they must oppose it.

Please visit the link [www.righttolife.org.uk/ASCommons2026](http://www.righttolife.org.uk/ASCommons2026)

To ask your MP to oppose forcing the assisted suicide Bill into law.

## 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 .

**The next Baptismal Course for parents who want to baptised the child will happen on 20 February at 7pm on Zoom.**

If you are interested - start the process by emailing the office asap.

*Fr. Christopher*

## Stations Of The Cross

From Friday 20<sup>th</sup> and throughout Lent we shall Stations of the Cross at 7pm. Should you wish to lead the Stations, then let the Parish Office know and indicate which Friday you wish to lead.

## Holy Hour

From 21<sup>st</sup> Saturday we shall have Holy Hour commencing at 5pm.

**The following message came to our email box last week. Please, read and help if you can.**

Dear Fr I hope this message finds you well.

My name is Amadi A Nigerian international student at York St John University London Campus. As a Catholic student, I am currently facing serious accommodation challenges which are affecting my ability to attend school consistently.

I humbly write to seek your kind assistance in securing temporary accommodation for a short period, so I may continue my studies without disruption. I would deeply appreciate any support or guidance you can offer.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

If you need any further clarification please do not hesitate to contact me. Kind regards, Amadi

Phone number: 07350162964

Email address: [amadinoelx@gmail.com](mailto:amadinoelx@gmail.com)

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

Job Title	Department Name	Closing date
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
Organ Scholar	Cathedral Music	23/02/2026
Parish Bookkeeper	Wood Green	02/03/2026
Parish Administrator	Wood Green	02/03/2026

**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: £297.00 envelopes: £104.00 contactless collection last weekend: £366.00  
total: **£767.00**

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 needs. 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**  
by Accura

**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.*