

NEWSLETTER

**FIFTH
SUNDAY
OF LENT**

God's mercy toward the penitent

The heralds of the truth and ministers of divine grace, who have explained to us from the beginning right down to our own time each in his own day the saving will of God, say that nothing is so dear and loved by him as when men turn to him with true repentance.

Wishing to show that this is by far the most holy thing of all, the Divine Word of God the Father (the supreme and only revelation of infinite goodness) deigned to dwell with us in the flesh, humbling himself in a way no words can explain. He said, he did, and he suffered those things which were necessary to reconcile us, while we yet enemies, with God the Father, and to call us back again to the life of blessedness from which we had been alienated. Not only did he heal our diseases with his miracles, and take away our infirmities by his sufferings, and, though sinless, pay our debt for us by his death like a guilty man. It was also his desire that we should aim to be come like himself in love of men and in perfect mutual charity, and taught us this in many ways. He taught it when he proclaimed, 'I came not to call the righteous but sinners, to repentance.' And again, 'Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.' He also said that he had come to seek and to save the lost sheep; and on another occasion, that he had been sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. In the same way, in the parable of the lost coin, he referred in a symbolic way to the fact that he had come to restore in men the royal likeness which had been lost by the evil smelling filthiness of passions. Likewise he said: 'Just so, I tell you, there is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents.' He taught it when he brought relief, with oil, wine and bandages, to the man who had fallen among thieves and had been stripped of all his clothing and left half-dead from his injuries. Having placed him on his own beast, he entrusted him to the innkeeper; after paying what was needed for his case, he promised that when he came back he would repay whatever more was spent.

He taught it when he said that the prodigal son's all loving Father took pity on him and kissing him as he came running back repentant, clothed him once more with the beauty of his glory, and did not reproach him in any way for what he had done.

He taught it when he found the sheep which had strayed from the divine flock of a hundred, wandering over hills and mountains. He did not drive it or beat it but brought it back to the fold. In his mercy, placing it on his shoulders, he restored it, with compassion, unharmed to the rest of the flock.

He taught it when he cried, 'Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest,' and 'Take my yoke upon you.' By 'yoke' of course he meant 'commandments' or a life lived according to the principles of the gospel; by 'burden' he meant the labour which repentance seems to involve. 'For my yoke,' he says, 'is easy and my burden light.'

Again teaching divine righteousness and goodness he commanded, 'Be holy, be perfect, be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful', and, 'Forgive and it shall be forgiven you' and 'whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them'.

When cares increased in my heart, your consolation calmed my soul. It was you who called the Canaanite woman and the publican to repentance. *St Maximus the Confessor*

Dear Friends; It is with much sadness, I announce the deaths of **Frances Samuels and Des Hayes**. Both were members of our parish community. They both would often ask me, how I was, and encouraging me. During Easter tide, they would both ask me how many Seminarians studying for the Priesthood. It was great visiting Frances and Eric with Stella to give communion. Most of you who knew them have your memories too. On 7th April at 12noon there will be a Mass for Des Hayes, and on 9th April 11:00am will be the funeral Mass for Frances Samuels, followed by cremation at 12.30 at East London Cemetery & Crematorium. May there souls and souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in Peace.

MASS INTENTIONS

March 21st, 2026

6pm - For Peace in the World

March 22nd, 2026

9 am — Pro Populo

11 am - For All Fathers

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— Ezekiel 37:12-14;

Psalms 130; 1-8. R.7

2nd Reading -

Romans 8; 8-11,

Gospel – John 11; 1-45,

1st Reading— Isaiah 50; 4-7

Psalms 22; 8-9, 17-20; 23-24

R 2

2nd Reading -

Philippians 2;6-11

Gospel Mathew 26; 4-27: 66

Lenten Appeal: "Because we are formed in faith, we are sent in love."

Our annual Lenten Appeal across the Diocese supports one shared mission: helping people encounter Christ and live that faith in love and service. Through **Education, Youth & Evangelisation**, and **Marriage & Family Life**, the diocese forms hearts, nurtures faith, and strengthens families within our parishes. Through **Social Action**, that formed faith reaches outward, ensuring that no one in our communities faces life's hardest moments alone.

Your generous support this Lent will enable the Church to continue walking with people at every stage of life and be a visible sign of Christ's love, both within our parishes and among our neighbours. To donate today please visit www.rcdow.org.uk/LentenAppeal. Alternatively, envelopes are available in church. Thank you for your support and for helping our diocesan family to continue this vital work.

Please support the Lenten Appeal 2026



**You can help young
people in our Diocese**

**You can make a difference to people
in need who are hungry or alone**

Please make a gift today

To donate now, scan the QR code or visit rcdow.org.uk/LentenAppeal



Diocese of Westminster

Reg. Charity No.: 233699

**LENTEN
APPEAL
2026**



Scan Me



Stations Of The Cross

From Friday 20th and throughout Lent we shall have 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 21st Saturday we shall have Holy Hour commencing at 5pm.



Latest news on 'abortion up to birth' vote

Dear Christopher,

Peers have voted by 185 to 148 against Baroness Monckton's amendment to overturn the abortion up to birth clause in the Crime and Policing Bill. Baroness Stroud's amendment to reinstate in person consultations before at home abortions was also rejected. [...] If the Bill receives Royal Assent, it will no longer be illegal for women to perform their own abortions for any reason, including sex selective purposes, and at any point up to and during birth. This could lead to more late term abortions at home and an increase in babies' lives being ended beyond the current 24 week limit. [...] Although a more extreme amendment last year did not pass, it shows the direction the abortion lobby ultimately wants to take the law, and similar proposals are expected to return. Defensive work to prevent further expansion of abortion access remains crucial. [...] Polling shows that 89% of the public and 91% of women support banning gender selective abortion, and only 1% of women support abortion up to birth. A majority also favour lowering the abortion time limit. [...]

Although tonight's result is disappointing, the case for positive change remains strong. Thank you for all you have done. We battle on.

Best wishes, Catherine Robinson **Right To Life UK**

An Act of Hope in your Parish

Dear Friends, During Lent we are invited not only to pray, but to act. As Holy Week approaches, I ask you to build a bridge between your church and our fellow Christians suffering in the land where Jesus walked to his crucifixion, death and resurrection, the cornerstone of our hope. [...] I thank you and your parish for standing in prayer with so many individual Christians during this Lenten season. I know they greatly appreciate your prayers and solidarity.

Today, I want to be very candid with you: alongside prayer, they urgently need practical support. Life remains fragile. The ceasefire has not restored stability. Families are still living without steady income, restricted movement, mounting medical care costs and deep uncertainty about the future. Families just like those in your parish. *The generosity of your parish always makes a tangible difference. I ask you to make an intentional fundraising ask in your church through Holy Week.* [...]

These are not abstract needs. They are the basic human rights. When travel permits are cancelled, when checkpoints delay workers for hours, when harassment destroys livelihoods, the resilience of Christian families is diminished. Without intervention, more will feel forced to leave. Hope is not abstract. Faith must be called upon and relied on, time and time again, when we are faced with real hardship. We can all be thankful that we do not have to endure the daily hardships that war brings. This privilege equips us to stand with those who do. *This Easter, I ask you and your parish to consider making a special gift to offer your practical support to these communities in need of hope for the future.* Khader, a father of five from Beit Sahour, was given a life changing opportunity through our job creation project. [...] Before this, Khader had struggled to provide the basics for his family. Stable

employment and renewed hope have brought meaningful change to their daily lives.



Thank you for taking the time to read my update. **I would ask you to respond urgently by signing up here so we can send you our materials to help with your fundraising:**
www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/forms/lent-26.

London
Docklands
Singers

In Paradisum

Zadok the priest - Handel; Ave verum corpus - Mozart
 Insanae et vanae curae - Haydn
 Organ Concerto - Andrew Campling
 In Paradisum - Andrew Campling

London Docklands Singers, LSE Choir
 Thames Chamber Choir, Marcel Sinfonia
 Sir Andrew Parmley, organ
 Andrew Campling, conductor

Saturday 28th March 2026, 7.00pm
 Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge SE1 9DA

Tickets in nave: £25
 Concessions in nave: £20
 Transepts: £10

ldsingers.org/concerts

Concert in aid of Southwark Day Centre
 for Asylum Seekers

Humanities Bursary St Benedict's School, Ealing is pleased to introduce the Exceptional Talent Humanities Pathway Scholarship for Sixth Form entry in September 2026. This new scholarship is designed for academically ambitious students currently attending maintained schools who are predicted to achieve the highest GCSE grades (typically 8–9). It offers the opportunity to join our high-achieving Catholic Sixth Form and pursue a programme of Humanities A levels supported by structured academic enrichment and preparation for university study. The Pathway is available to students wishing to study one or more of the following A level subjects: Philosophy, Ethics and Religion; English Literature; Medieval and Early Modern History; Classical Civilisation; Latin; French, Spanish or German; and Music. Means-tested bursaries will be available for families who qualify.

Families interested in learning more about the Exceptional Talent Humanities Pathway Scholarship are warmly invited to contact Mrs Helen Ridard, Head of Admissions at St Benedict's School, at admissions@stbenedicts.org.uk for further information about the application process.

**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: £233.00 envelopes: £106.00 contactless collection last weekend: £388.00
total: **£727.00**

Standing orders in 2026: January- £2436, February- £2941,

WE WILL HAVE SECOND COLLECTION ON 11/12 APRIL FOR BETHLEHEM UNIVERSITY

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

**NEW DONATION BOXES FOR A TAX YEAR 2026/2027
ARE NOW AVAILABLE FROM OUR SACRISTY**

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.

Prayer for Peace with the brothers of the Taizé Community This event, on Thursday 26th March, is being run by the Italian Catholic Church in Clerkenwell, EC1R 5DL. All are welcome to join and pray for peace in our world. Song practice is from 5.30pm, with a time of prayer beginning at 6.30pm.

Are you a young man aged 18–35 who enjoys a good game of football with fellow faith-filled friends? Join the Youth Ministry's Annual Men's Football Tournament for the John Paul II Cup on 6 June 2026! For more information email youth@rcdow.org.uk or visit:

<https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/events/jp2-cup-2026>