

# NEWSLETTER

**FIFTH  
SUNDAY OF  
EASTER**

*Mary paths, one way*

This is the way, dear friends, that we find out our own salvation: even Jesus Christ, the high priest by whom our gifts are offered, and the protector by whom our feebleness is aided. Through him we look up to the highest heaven and see, as in a glass, the peerless perfection of the face of God. Through him the eyes of our hearts are opened, and our dim and clouded understanding unfolds like a flower to the light; for through him the Lords permits us to taster the wisdom of eternity. He is the splendour of God's majesty; and as much greater than the angels as the title he has inherited is a loftier one than theirs.

So now, my friends, let us get on resolutely with our warfare under his unerring direction. Think of the men who serve our own commanders in the field, and the prompt and orderly obedience with which they go about their duties. Not all of them are marshals, generals, colonels, captains, or the like; nevertheless, each at own level executes the orders of the emperor and the military chiefs. For the great cannot exist without the small, nor the small without the great. Every organism is composed of various different elements; and this ensures its own good. Take the body as an instance; the head is nothing without the feet, nor are the feet anything without the head. Even the smallest of our physical members are necessary and valuable to the whole body; yet all them work together and observe a common subordination, so that the body itself is maintained intact.

In Christ Jesus, then, let this corporate body of ours be likewise maintained intact, with each of us giving way to his neighbour in proportion to our spiritual gifts. The strong are not to ignore the weak, and the weak are to respect the strong. Rich men should provide for the poor and the poor should thank God for giving them somebody to supply their wants. If a man is wise, let him show his wisdom by good deeds, not by words; and if he is modest, let him leave others to speak of his modesty, instead of proclaiming it himself. Also, one who is physically chaste must not brag about it knowing that the ability to control his desires has been given him by another.

For just consider, my brothers, the original material from which we took out being. What were we, pray, and who were we, at the moment of our first coming into the world? Our Maker and Creator brought us out of darkness into his universe as it were out of a tomb; even before our birth he was ready with his favour for us. To him we owe everything, and therefore on every count we are under an obligation to return thanks to him. Glory be to him for ever and ever, amen.

The fulness of the divine nature lives in Christ, in his humanity, and you, who were buried with him in baptism, have been given full life in union with him; in baptism you were raised with him through your faith in the active power of God, who raised him from death, alleluia.

**Pope St Clement I  
To the Corinthians**

**Proposal for church floor changes**

A proposal has been put forward, the two sample tiles by the foot of the sanctuary are the ones to be laid in the body of the church. An estimate has been given : £58,275. Father would welcome any thoughts.

**MASS  
INTENTIONS**

**May 2nd, 2026**

6pm - Pro Populo

**May 3rd, 2026**

9 am - For sick and house-bound

11 am - For engaged couples

For weekday mass intentions please, see the notice board on the left hand side of the main door of the church.

**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-- Acts 6:1-7

Psalm 33 (32):1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. 22

2nd Reading -

1 Peter 2:4-9

Gospel John 14:1-12

1st Reading-- Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Psalm 65:1-7, 16, 20 response v 1

2nd Reading -

1 Peter 3:15-18

Gospel John 14:23

*Pastoral Letter for the Fourth Sunday of Easter 26th April 2026*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today, Good Shepherd Sunday, the whole church prays for vocations to the priesthood. We are blessed with so many wonderful priests serving in the Diocese and I ask you to join with me in praying in thanksgiving for their ministry amongst us all. Please pray, too, for those who are in formation for the Priesthood and for the staff in our seminaries who are entrusted with the important work of their formation.

The ministry of the priest is one of service. This was expressed during Holy Week in the Renewal of Priestly Promises, which took place at the Chrism Mass as our priests resolved to continue their ministry, following “Christ the head and shepherd, not seeking any gain, but moved only by zeal for souls.” This spirit of service, itself a self-emptying in imitation of Christ Himself, brings with it the utmost joy for all those called by the Lord to share in His priesthood.

Priestly ministry flows, in a very particular way, from the celebration of the Eucharist. The celebration of the Eucharist is the “source and summit” of our lives. This celebration is vital for our lives, for the life of the Church and the priest is called by Christ Himself to celebrate the Eucharist with and for the People of God. From this celebration flows his ministry of servant-leadership for all those entrusted to his care -in whatever circumstance he may carry this out.

This priestly service: a response to Christ’s call, rooted in His gift of the Eucharist and nourished by the Word of God and daily commitment to prayer, is a great endeavour, enabling all whom the priest serves to grow in Christian life and in the mission of the Church.

The discernment of this vocation, as Pope Leo reminds us, calls for “a relationship based on prayer and silence.” Such prayer and silence require a commitment of time, but this is time that will bear great fruit. It is important for us all – in our parish communities, schools and homes – to foster time for such prayer and support those whom the Lord calls to share in His priesthood.

A diocesan resource has been produced that will assist us in this path of prayer for vocations to priesthood leading to the celebration of Pentecost.

The practice of Eucharistic Adoration is an aspect of parish life in many parts of the Diocese. Times of Adoration provide excellent opportunities for prayer for priestly vocations and I ask every parish to hold a Holy Hour each week over the next month for this intention.

The praying of the Rosary is a part of many people’s lives of prayer. I invite parishes to form groups of people who will commit to praying the Rosary for vocations to priesthood, whether this be together or alone but united with others through prayer.

The call to priesthood, more often than not, comes in quiet ways: the example of a priest; the example of parents and family members as they persevere in faith; a thought about service to the Church; a renewed experience of God’s presence when on retreat or at a day of prayer and celebration; a reawakening of awareness of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Above all, the call to priesthood comes through the gentle promptings of the Holy Spirit.

To those of you who sense these stirrings of the Holy Spirit, calling you to service of Christ and his Church, “pause, listen, entrust yourselves. In this way, the gift of your vocation will mature, bringing you happiness and yielding abundant fruit for the Church and the world.”

With every Blessing,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

✠ Archbishop Richard Moth

Archbishop of Westminster

**To donate, scan the QR code  
or visit [rcdow.org.uk/PriestTrainingFund](http://rcdow.org.uk/PriestTrainingFund)**



Diocese of Westminster  
PRIEST TRAINING FUND

Registered charity no. 233699

**Priest Training Fund 2026**

If you are able, please give generously to **the second collection, on 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> of May.**

Please continue to pray-for those in formation, and pray for the clergy, and for me a sinful, unworthy priest. May God bless you all.

**Thank you**

### **Westminster assisted suicide Bill has fallen**

The assisted suicide Bill has failed to pass all stages in the House of Lords. This means that Kim Leadbeater's assisted suicide Bill has fallen and will not become law!

This is a major milestone, but the battle is not over. Assisted suicide campaigners have said they are going to try to bring the Bill back in the next parliamentary session and use the Parliament Acts to bypass the Lords.

To find out more about this significant milestone and what comes next, visit: <https://righttolife.org.uk/LeadbeaterBillFalls>

Catherine Robinson  
Right To Life UK

### **RCIA pictures**

*Thanks to Andrew for the pictures.*



**Diocese of Westminster  
Roman Catholic Parish of St Edmund of Abingdon, Millwall**

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**Fr Christopher Silva**

*Parish Priest,*

**Ms. Fériel Guebli**

*Parish Administrator*

**The office may be contacted by phone**

**Monday to Thursday 9am-4pm**

**Closed on Bank Holidays**

**Mrs Diane Winship - Safeguarding Representative**

**Mr Tomasz Daszkiewicz - Data Protection**

Parish Officer

**LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:**

loose: £129.97 envelopes: £141.70 contactless collection last weekend: £308  
total: **£579.67**

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

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*

**NO MASS ON MONDAY 4TH MAY 2026 (BANK HOLIDAY)**

**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 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**

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](mailto:youth@rcdow.org.uk) or visit: <https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/events/jp2-cup-2026>