CATHOLIC PARISH OF MILLWALL

20 September 2026

NEWSLETTER

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Faith, eager and firm

Cyprian greets his brother Cornelius.

I have learnt of the splendid proofs you have given of your faith and courage and I have received with such elation the news of your noble confession of faith that I reckon I share in your merits and the praise that was given you. For since we have one Church, one shared purpose and one harmonious charity, how can one priest not rejoice at the praises earned by a fellow priest as if as his own? What sort of brotherhood does not rejoice in a brother's joy?

I cannot express the exultation and the joy I felt when I heard of your brave declaration and its happy outcome. In confessing your faith you showed the way to your brethren, and the confession of the leader was enhanced by that of his brethren. While you go before to the glory of eternal life, you have persuaded the people to declare themselves Christian by first making profession of your own faith on behalf of all. I do not know which to praise you for first: your eager and firm faith or the love with which your brothers in Christ follow you. Your exemplary courage as a bishop has been publicly proved, and your brothers in Christ have shown their unity by imitating you. So long as you are unanimous in thought and word it is as if the whole Roman Church made a profession of faith.

Your faith, which the blessed apostle Paul foretold, shone brightly, my dear brother. He anticipated in his mind your noble courage and unflinching strength. He proclaimed your meritorious future deeds, and while he praised the parents, he roused the children. So long as you are bold and united you give good example to your fellow Christians of courage and unity.

I have been instructed by the warning voice of God's providence and admonished by salutary counsels of divine pity that the day when I shall be put to the test is approaching. I want to urge you earnestly then, my dear brother, as far as I can, in the name of that mutual love by which we cling to each other, that we fast, watch and pray with all our people unceasingly. These are the heavenly weapons which help us to stand and persevere bravely in our faith; these are the spiritual defences and divine weapons which our protection.

Let us remember each other with one heart and mind. Let us pray for each other always and lighten our burdens and anxieties by our mutual love.

A reading from the letters of St Cyprian

Please see this week's newsletter for information on our **First Holy Communion** and **RCIA** programmes. Dates for the **Baptism preparation course** for parents and the **Confirmation** programme will be announced shortly. For **all programmes**, you can already collect the registration forms from Fr Christopher.

Thank you for your patience as arrangements are being finalised.

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 55:6-9

Psalm 145(144):2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. 18a

2nd Reading - Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Gospel Matthew 20:1-16

1st Reading– Ezekiel 18:25-28

Psalm 25(24):4-5b. 6-7. 8-9. R. 6a

2nd Reading - Philippians 2:1-11

Gospel John 10:27

MASS INTENTIONS

September 19th, 2026

6pm - Christopher Lawrence Ramos RIP

September 20th, 2026

9 am - Pro Populo

11 am - For the intentions of the people in Novopavlivka

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

Holy Hours and confession on Saturday between 4.30-5.30 pm

or by appointment.

First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion 2026–2027

Applications are now available for children wishing to take part in our **First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Programme**. Application forms can be collected from **Father Christopher**.

The deadline for applications is 30th November 2026.

Please note that the **First Holy Communion preparation sessions will take place on Sunday mornings**.

Requirements for Enrolment

Candidates must:

- Be **baptised in the Catholic Church**
- Provide a **copy of their child's Baptism Certificate**
- Be in **Year 3 or above** (or at least 7 years old)
- **Attend Mass regularly** with their family
- Participate fully in **all preparation classes and activities**

We look forward to welcoming families as we prepare our children for these very special Sacraments.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) 2026–2027

Applications are now open for adults who are interested in exploring the Catholic faith through our **RCIA Programme**. Application forms can be collected from **Father Christopher**.

The deadline for applications is 15th October 2026.

Whether you are seeking Baptism, Confirmation, First Holy Communion, reception into the Catholic Church, or simply wish to learn more about the Catholic faith, you are warmly invited to join us. **The programme begins on Tuesday, 20th October 2026.** Sessions will take place **every Tuesday from 7.30pm to 9.00pm**.

Who is the programme for?

- Adults who have not been baptised and wish to become Catholic
- Baptised Christians from other denominations seeking reception into the Catholic Church
- Baptised Catholics who have not yet received First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation
- Anyone wishing to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith

Please complete and return the application form to the parish office or contact **Fr Christopher** for further information. We encourage all participants to attend the programme regularly, as each session forms part of a structured journey of faith leading towards the celebration of the Sacraments at Easter. We look forward to accompanying you on this journey and welcoming all who wish to explore the richness of the Catholic faith.

Friends of the Holy Land

Dear friends,

On 19/20 September, Chris Timmins from Friends of the Holy Land (FHL) will visit our parish to speak about the charity's work and the difference it makes to the small Christian communities in Palestine, Israel and Jordan.

There will be a second collection after all Masses in support of this important work. Chris will also bring leaflets and newsletters providing further information about the work of Friends of the Holy Land.

For more information, please visit: www.friendsoftheholyland.org.uk.

We warmly encourage parishioners to attend and learn more about how we can support our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land.

Westminster Information September 2026

Westminster Interfaith Pilgrimage for Peace

You are invited to join Westminster Interfaith's 37th Annual Pilgrimage for Peace on Saturday **3 October**. 2026 marks the 40th anniversary of the first Pilgrimage for Peace, which took place in Southall in 1986. This year, they return to Southall to mark this important milestone. The pilgrimage will begin at 10am at St Anselm's Catholic Church, UB2 4BE and finishing around 3pm. To reserve your free ticket, please contact westminsterinterfaith@rcdow.org.uk

St Thomas More: An Evening with Dr Joanne Paul

Join historian and broadcaster Dr Joanne Paul for an evening exploring the life of St Thomas More - his beliefs, his writings and his dramatic clash with Henry VIII. The talk will be followed by a Q&A, with plenty of opportunity to ask questions. 7pm, Thursday 15 October 2026 at the Church of St Thomas More, 9 Henry Road, Manor House, London N4 2LH. Tickets are £10. Book at www.eventbright.co.uk — search "Joanne Paul and St Thomas More". Contact John Mullen johnmullen@hotmail.com for further information.

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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: £294.52 envelopes: £307.5 contactless collection last weekend: £486.5
total: £1088.52

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 & church floor. 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, building maintenance or church floor on the screen, if you transfer by bank: type 'utility bills', 'building maintenance' or 'church floor' in description, or you can give money in a prepared envelope that can be found 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.

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**

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 sauce 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.

Saint Benedict