CATHOLIC PARISH OF MILLWALL

27 September 2026

NEWSLETTER

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

You have been saved by grace

From Polycarp and his clergy, to the colony of God's Church at Philippi.

All mercy and peace to you, from God Almighty and Jesus Christ our Saviour.

When you welcomed those copies of True Love, and took the opportunity of setting them forward on their road, it made me as happy in Jesus Christ as it did you. For those chains they were wearing were the badges of saints; the diadems of men truly chosen by God and our Lord. It does my heart good to see how the solid roots of your faith, which have had such a reputation ever since early times, are still flourishing and bearing fruit for Jesus Christ. In him, endurance went so far as to face even death for our sins; but God overruled the pangs of the grave, and raised him up to life again. Though you never saw him for yourselves, yet you believe in him in a glory of joy beyond all words(which not a few others would be glad to share), well knowing that it is by his grace you are saved, not of your own doing but by the will of God through Jesus Christ.

So gird your loins now and serve God in fear and sincerity. No more of vapid discourses and sophistries of the vulgar; put you trust in him who raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, and gave him glory and a seat at his own right hand. All things in heaven and earth have been made subject to him; everything that breathes pays him homage; he comes to love the living and the dead, and God will require his blood at the hands of any who refuse him allegiance.

He that raised him from the dead will raise us also, if we do his will and live by his commandments, and cherish the things he cherished-if, that is to say, we keep ourselves from wrong-doing, overreaching, penny-pinching, tale-telling, and prevaricating, if we do not repay wrong with wrong, or abuse with abuse, or blow with blow, or curse with curse, but bear in mind the words of our Lord in his teaching, 'Judge not, that you be not judged; forgive, and you will be forgiven; be merciful, that you may obtain mercy; for whatever you measure out to other people will be measured back again to yourselves.' And again, 'Happy are the poor and they who are persecuted because they are righteous, for theirs is the kingdom of God'.

Not to us , O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory for the sake of your love and your truth. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of Time.

The beginning of the letter of St Polycarp to the Philippians

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

Thank you.

MASS INTENTIONS

September 26th, 2026

6pm - Pro Populo

September 27th, 2026

9 am - For all young people

11 am - For the intentions of all parents

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.

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 18:25-28	1st Reading– Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 25(24):4-5b. 6-7. 8-9. R. 6a	Psalm 80(79):9, 12.. 13-14. 15-16. 19-20. R. Isaiah 5:7a
2nd Reading - Philippians 2:1-11	2nd Reading - Philippians 4:6-9
Gospel John 10:27	Gospel Matthew 21:33-43

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.

Confirmation Programme 2026–2027

Applications are now open for young people who wish to prepare for and receive the Sacrament of **Confirmation**. Application forms can be collected from **Father Christopher**.

The deadline for applications is 26th October 2026.

The Confirmation Programme is designed to help candidates grow in their faith, deepen their understanding of the Catholic Church, and prepare spiritually to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The programme begins on Saturday, 7th November 2026. Sessions will take place **every Saturday from 4.30pm to 6.00pm**. Candidates are also expected to remain for the **Saturday Evening Mass**, which forms an important part of their preparation journey.

Who is the programme for?

- Baptised Catholic young people who have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation
- Young people wishing to deepen their relationship with Christ and the Church
- Those committed to active participation in the life of the parish community
- Candidates prepared to attend the weekly formation sessions and Saturday Evening Mass regularly

Please complete and return the application form to the parish office or contact **Fr Christopher** for further information.

Regular attendance is strongly encouraged, as each session forms part of a structured programme of faith formation and preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We look forward to accompanying our candidates on this important step in their faith journey and welcoming them as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day Collection

Dear friends,

On **26th/27th September**, our parish will take part in **CAFOD's Harvest Fast Day Appeal**, supporting vulnerable communities around the world who are facing poverty, hunger, and the effects of climate change.

There will be a **second collection after all Masses** in support of this important appeal. Donation envelopes will be available in the church for those who wish to contribute. Every gift, no matter the size, will help CAFOD continue its vital work with communities most in need.

We also encourage parishioners to watch and share CAFOD's Harvest Appeal video to learn more about the projects your generosity supports.

For more information about CAFOD and the Harvest Fast Day Appeal, please visit: **www.cafod.org.uk**

We warmly encourage parishioners to support this appeal through prayer, fasting, and charitable giving, helping our brothers and sisters around the world to build a better future.

Thank you for your generosity and support. God bless.

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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
Mr Miklos Jambrich - Safeguarding Representative
Mr Tomasz Daszkiewicz - Data Protection
Parish Officer

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS:

loose: £318.6 envelopes: £100.92 contactless collection last weekend: £393
total: £812.52
Second Collection Friends of the Holy Land : £1029.57
Thank you

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