CATHOLIC PARISH OF MILLWALL

04 October 2026

# NEWSLETTER

## TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

***Ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ***

I give back what I owe, obeying the commandments of Christ: 'Search the scriptures', and, 'Seek and you shall find', lest with the Jews I should hear his words: 'You are wrong, because know neither the scriptures nor the power of God'. If, as the apostle Paul says, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God, then he who is ignorant of the scriptures is also ignorant of the power of God and his wisdom: ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ.

For this reason I will imitate the father of the house who draws from his treasure new things and old; and the bride who says in the Song of Solomon: 'New as well as old I have laid up for you, my beloved'. This is the way I shall explain Isaiah; I shall expound him not just as a prophet but also as an evangelist and apostle. For he says of himself and the other evangelists: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news, who bring peace'. And God speaks to him as if to an apostle: 'Whom shall I send and who will go to the people?' He replies: 'Here am I! Send me'.

Let no one think that I intend to summarize in a few words the vast subject of this book, for this part of scriptures contains all the mysteries of the Lord. These pages will proclaim Immanuel born of the Virgin, his many wonderful deeds and signs, his death, burial and resurrection, his work as Saviour of all peoples. What shall I say of physics, ethics and logic? Whatever concerns sacred scripture, whatever the human tongue bring out and whatever the human senses can receive will be included in this book. The author himself testifies to these mysteries: 'The vision of all this will be for you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying 'Read this', he says, 'I cannot, for it is sealed.' And when they give the book to one who cannot read, saying, 'Read this,' he says, 'I cannot read.'

If this argument appears to anyone to be weak, let him listen to what Paul the apostle says: 'Let two or three prophets speak, and let others weigh what is said. If revelation is made to another sitting by, let the first be silent.' How can they keep silent, when it depends on the Spirit who speaks through the prophets whether they are silent or speak? Therefore if they understood what they were saying, all they said was full of wisdom and reason. It was not a voice in the wind which they heard they heard with their ears; but God spoke in the souls of the prophets, just as another prophet says: 'The angel who talked with me', and, 'Crying in our hearts, Abba! Father!', and, 'Let me hear what God the Lord will speak'.

A discerning son is he who keeps the law. This how the man who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.

***A reading from the prologue of the commentaries of St Jerome on the prophet Isaiah***

Please see previous week's newsletter online 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. Please send an email to millwall@rcdow.org.uk to book an appointment.

Thank you.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**October 3rd, 2026**

6pm - Pro Populo

**October 4th, 2026**

9 am - For sick and retired priests

11 am - Justin Pereira RIP

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**

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| 1st Reading– Isaiah 5:1-7 | 1st Reading– Isaiah 25:6-10a |
| Psalm 80(79):9, 12.. 13-14. 15-16. 19-20. R. Isaiah 5:7a | Psalm 23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6. R. 6cd |
| 2nd Reading - Philippians 4:6-9 | 2nd Reading - Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20 |
| Gospel Matthew 21:33-43 | Gospel Matthew 22:1-14 |

*Dear Friends*
*11th -17th October is designated as a week of prayer for Prisoners.*
*On17th /18th There will be a Second Collection for World Missions. We pray for all missionaries. Thank you*

Dear Father

This year Prisoners' Sunday, the National Day of Prayer for prisoners and their families falls on 11th October. This is an opportunity for us to direct our thoughts and prayers to the men, women and young people in prison, their children and families and to support the national Catholic charity which serves them.

The number of people in prison in England & Wales continues to increase and our prisons are in crisis. In our diocese there are five prisons and in our communities, there are children and families with a loved one in prison who are struggling with stigma, isolation and hardship. There is no official record of children with a parent in prison. It is believed that each year over 200,000 children are affected. Into this difficult place, Pact brings hope.

In HMP Wormwood Scrubs, HMP Pentonville, HMP The Mount, HMP Bronzefield and HMPYOI Feltham and in over 60 prisons across England and Wales, Pact volunteers and staff work alongside prison chaplains to offer practical and emotional support, helping families to stay connected and prisoners to cope during their time in prison. Retaining strong family bonds is a significant factor in preventing re-offending – those with good family relations are 39% less likely to reoffend after release. Pact supports building stronger families which leads to safer communities. I have seen at first-hand Pact's work and I commend it to you.

In the pack accompanying this letter you will find more information about Pact and Prisoners' Sunday, including bidding prayers and a parish poster. I ask you to lead your parish in prayer on Sunday 11th October for all those affected by the criminal justice system. **I would also warmly encourage you to hold a retiring collection to help continue the work of Pact in the year ahead.** Together we can help prisoners and their families make a fresh start.

Please do include the following in your newsletters the weekend of 11th October and the weekend before:

*Prisoners' Sunday - 11 October. We will remember prisoners and their families at Mass this weekend. Prisons are in crisis and life for prisoners and their families is challenging. Pact, the national Catholic prison charity support prisoners, their families and their children, offering them hope and the chance to turn their lives around. There will be a second collection to support Pact's important work in the year ahead.*

Pact's Faith in Action team have resources and opportunities for Catholic people to explore how they might respond to Jesus' challenge, 'I was in prison, and you visited me'. Information can be found on the Pact website www.prisonadvice.org.uk

The support of Catholic communities makes a huge difference to Pact and to the impact the charity can make for people living through what may well be the worst times of their lives. I express my wholehearted gratitude, on behalf of Pact, for any support you are able to offer.

Do contact Pact's Head of Faith in Action, Julia Corcoran, by e-mail here:
parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk

Yours in Christ,

+Richard Moth

Archbishop Richard Moth

President of Pact and lead Bishop for Prisons

## Foodbank Update

With Fr Tom's departure from Christchurch, the Foodbank is currently on hold. We are grateful for all the support and generosity shown to this ministry over the years. As we do not yet know when the Foodbank will resume, we kindly ask that no food or other donations be brought to the church until further notice. Thank you for your understanding and prayers.

## Church Floor Renovation

As you know, we are planning to renovate the church floor. The estimated cost of the project is **£21,852.33** and, thanks to your generosity, we have already raised **£8,614.40**.

We are also delighted to share that an anonymous donor has generously offered to **match every pound donated**, doubling the impact of every contribution received up to **25th December 2026**.

Please see the colour options below and complete the survey form enclosed with this newsletter, indicating your preferred choice.

Kindly return your completed form to **Paul** or **John**. Samples can also be viewed in the **sacristy** if you would like to see the colours in person. Thank you for your feedback.




### *Archbishop thanks those who united to defeat assisted suicide Bill*

Archbishop John Sherrington, the Archbishop of Liverpool and Lead Bishop for Life Issues, has offered his gratitude and thanks to those who wrote to their MPs to stop the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill progressing through parliament. Archbishop Sherrington also expresses his gratitude to disability rights groups and legal and healthcare professionals for raising a collective voice to uphold "the dignity and sanctity of every life."

Archbishop's Full Statement

We are pleased that MPs have voted to oppose the passage of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. We would like to thank those who wrote to their MPs to stop the bill's progression and who assisted the campaign against the bill in other ways.

I would like to express my gratitude to those MPs who voted against the Bill and the many people from across society who made their voices heard – doctors, legal professionals, disability groups, other faith communities and those of no faith who stood up for the dignity and sanctity of every life. We are thankful for the many prayers which have been offered during these weeks.

Throughout this debate, we have argued that our response to those facing serious illness, disability or the challenges of old age should be rooted in solidarity, care and respect. The true measure of a compassionate society is its willingness to support people through difficult circumstances rather than encouraging them to end their lives.

Every day, families, friends, carers and healthcare professionals demonstrate extraordinary generosity in accompanying and supporting those who are suffering. Their dedication reminds us of the value of human relationships and of our shared responsibility to care for one another, especially at life's most vulnerable moments.

We remain convinced that the most effective way to address suffering at the end of life is through greater access to excellent palliative and end-of-life care. Ensuring such care is available to all who need it can help people experience comfort, dignity and support in their final days. We will continue to promote these as priorities and to stand alongside those who devote themselves to caring for the dying in hospices, hospitals, care homes and communities.

May all the sick and frail find comfort in the support of their loved ones, and the love of God, which transcends all suffering. I ask the Catholic community to continue to pray for our legislators, that they will ensure that our laws always uphold the dignity of human life.

Archbishop John Sherrington; Lead Bishop for Life Issues; Archbishop of Liverpool

**Diocese of Westminster**
**Roman Catholic Parish of St Edmund of Abingdon, Millwall**
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**Telephone: 020-7987-4114; Email: millwall@rcdow.org.uk;** https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/millwall/




**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: £369.71 envelopes: £138.5 contactless collection last weekend: £481.46
**total: £989.67**

**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***