CATHOLIC PARISH OF MILLWALL

25 October 2026

NEWSLETTER

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

On the Lord's prayer

We need word's to help us recollect ourselves and see what we are asking for; not to make us suppose that the Lord must be given information or swayed by words.

So when we say, 'Hallowed be thy name,' we are counselling ourselves to desire that his name, which is always holy, may be held holy also among men; that is that it may not be treated with contempt: and this for the benefit not of God but of men.

When we say, 'Thy kingdom come,' which will certainly come whether we wish it or not, we arouse our desire for that kingdom, that it may come for us, and that we may be worthy to reign therein.

When we say, 'Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,' we are asking him for obedience for ourselves, that his will may be done in us as it is done in heaven by his angels.

When we say, 'Give us this day our daily bread,' we mean by 'today' this present time. We asking either for sufficiency, by expressing its principal part, signifying the whole by the name 'bread'; or for the sacrament of believers, which is necessary at the present time in order to obtain the happiness not of this present time but of eternity.

When we say, 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us,' we are advising ourselves both as to what we should ask for, and what we should do to be worthy to receive it.

When we say, 'Lead us not into temptation,' we counsel ourselves to make this petition lest we be abandoned by his help, and either be deceived into consenting to some temptation or be so downcast as to give in to it.

When we say, 'Deliver us from evil,' we bring ourselves to reflect that we are not in that happy state where we shall suffer no evil. This last petition in the Lord's prayer has such a wide scope that a Christian may in any trouble express his pain by it, pour forth his tears, begin from it. Linger over it, and end his prayer at this point.

It is necessary by these words to impress the realities themselves on our memory. For whatever words we may say -whether the devotion of the one praying precedes and forms the words to express itself, or accompanies the words and grows from them-if we are praying in the right way, we say nothing that has not already a place in the Lord's prayer. But whoever says anything that cannot be related to this prayer of the gospel, even though he is not praying unlawfully, he is praying in a fleshly, unspiritual manner: and I do not know how that should not be called unlawful, since people reborn of the Spirit ought not to pray otherwise than spiritually.

May he give us all a heart to worship him and do his will. May the Lord our God not abandon you in time of evil.

From the letter of St Augustine to Proba

Applications remain open for our RCIA, Confirmation, and First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion programmes, but deadlines are approaching: **RCIA: 15th October 2026** | **Confirmation: 26th October 2026** | **First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion: 30th November 2026**. Application forms can be collected from Fr Christopher. For all programmes, please email **millwall@rcdow.org.uk** to arrange an appointment. Thank you.

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– Exodus 22:21-27*	1st Reading– Malachi 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10
Psalm Psalm 18(17):2-3a. 3b-4. 47, 51 ab. R. 2	Psalm 131(130):1. 2. 3.
2nd Reading - 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10	2nd Reading - 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13
Gospel Matthew 22:34-40	Gospel Matthew 23:9b, 10b

MASS INTENTIONS

October 24th, 2026

6pm - Margaret Kerr RIP

October 25th, 2026

9 am - Pro Populo

11 am - For the intentions of young people

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 Tribute to Margaret Kerr

It is with great affection that we remember Margaret Kerr, who served as a Teaching Assistant at St Edmund's Catholic School from 1997 until her retirement in 2017.

Margaret was, quite simply, one of those very special people who leave an indelible mark on a school and on the lives of everyone fortunate enough to know her. She was loved by children and parents alike, and held in the highest esteem by her colleagues. Her warmth, kindness and genuine love for others made her an exceptional member of the St Edmund's family.

Margaret was passionate about helping every child to achieve their very best, always offering encouragement, patience and care. But her kindness extended far beyond the classroom. She looked after the staff just as lovingly as she cared for the children, making cups of tea and coffee, and ensuring that anyone staying late for parents' evenings or other school events was never without a welcome drink and a little comfort. Nothing was ever too much trouble for Margaret.

Wherever Margaret was, she brought joy, laughter and a wonderful sense of fun. She had that rare gift of making people feel valued, supported and cared for, often through the simplest of gestures. Her contribution to St Edmund's went far beyond her job title; she was a much-loved colleague, a friend and a source of happiness to the whole school community.

Her dedication and outstanding contribution were deservedly recognised when she won the London Teaching Assistant Award and was subsequently awarded an MBE, which she had the great honour of receiving from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

These honours reflected the remarkable contribution Margaret made, but those who knew and loved her will remember something even more precious: her generous heart, her infectious warmth and the countless acts of kindness that made such a difference to everyday life.

Margaret's years at St Edmund's may have come to an end with her retirement in 2017, but the affection in which she is held and the memories she leaves behind will endure. She was a truly wonderful woman who gave so much of herself to others, and the St Edmund's community was blessed to have had her as part of its family.

She will be remembered with immense love, gratitude and fondness. May she rest in peace.

Gail O'Flaherty

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 continued generosity and support, we have now raised £10,174.40, bringing us ever closer to our goal. 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. Every donation, no matter the amount, will help us improve our church for the benefit of our whole parish community. Flooring samples can be viewed in the sacristy, where voting forms are also available. We warmly encourage everyone to take a look at the options and cast their vote for their preferred colour. Completed forms can be returned to Paul or John. Thank you for your generosity, support, and participation in this important parish project.

20 26

CHRISTIAN ART CONFERENCE

14 NOVEMBER 2026 | QEII CENTRE

ENCOUNTERING THE SACRED THROUGH BEAUTY



A one-day gathering of artists, theologians and cultural leaders exploring the relationship between Beauty and Faith.

Featuring Fr Patrick van der Vorst, Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe, Professor Sheila Baroness Hollins, Sir Gabriele Finaldi, Neil MacGregor, anMari, and leading voices from across faith, culture and the arts.

KEYNOTES · PANELS · BREAKOUT SESSIONS · EXHIBITORS · BOOK SIGNING

Book now →
christian.art/conference2026

Any questions? Email events@christian.art

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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: £278.8 envelopes: £85.5 contactless collection last weekend: £560
total: £924.3

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