

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

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18 July 2021

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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“That We May Be Pleasing to God”

We are slowly but gradually and systematically returning to normality after the lockdown restrictions as far as the full liturgical cum sacramental life of the Church and our parish are concerned. Lockdown restrictions are set to ease further tomorrow, July 19, 2021.

During this period of relaxing the lockdown rules, many of our children from both our own schools and other schools have been making their first Holy Communion while Candidates for Confirmation will soon resume their instruction for reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Members of the parish clergy team have been making sure that the Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony are being administered, even during the strict lockdown restrictions.

The Sacrament of Baptism is fundamental to a full access to the sacramental life of the Church especially the sacraments of initiation. It is the opening of the door to the life of Christ and His mission on earth for all God's children. It is the door opening to the sacramental life of the Church for the people of God.

Our Baptism links us to Jesus' mission as the light of God's salvation "to the ends of the earth", as we share in the threefold ministry of Christ – to be priest, prophet and king. Our Baptism is a vocation to be a prophetic sign of God's love in the 'wildernesses of modern society.'

“Jesus himself was **baptised** in order to identify with those he came to save. ... And Jesus knew...that he too must identify himself with this movement towards God”. **John's baptism** was part of the people's turning from sin and turning toward God. **Jesus** wanted to identify with this turning.

Jesus was God's son, so He was sinless and there was no need for Him to receive forgiveness. **John** tried to refuse to baptise **Jesus** saying that it was he, **John**, who should be **baptised** by **Jesus**. ... **Jesus' baptism** was also an opportunity to show his authority as God confirmed He was His Son.

At His baptism a voice confirmed Jesus not only as a Son but as a beloved and pleasing one of God, because...he will carry out or do His Father's will.

The ending part of the collect of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord reads thus: “*That we may be pleasing to God.*”

Like Jesus, we shall be pleasing to God, our Father, if we are faithful to our vocation, our call to the mission of God, our Father. We shall be pleasing to God, as Jesus is, if we choose to do God's will and not ours.

Among the Igbo people of Nigeria, fathers who are particularly proud of their sons call them “*O me ka Nna ya.*” This name literally translates as “*one who acts or behaves like his father.*”

In meaning, however, it goes deeper; it denotes *a child who understands his father, obeys him and always aligns his plans and purposes to those of his father.* **Omekannaya** is the beloved of the father.

In the readings of the feast day of the Baptism of the Lord, Liturgical Year A, we are presented with a scriptural image of an **Omekannaya**. The first reading from the prophet Isaiah (chapter 42, verses 1 to 4 and 6 to 7) speaks of the Anointed Servant of God in whom God delights, and goes on to enumerate the works of this Servant. The second reading from the Acts of the Apostles (chapter 10 verses 34 to 38) equally points to the fact that all who do God's will in all ages and among all peoples are always pleasing to God. In the Gospel according to Matthew (chapter 3 verses 13 to 17), Matthew presents to us the person of Jesus as the perfect **Omekannaya** - He is the perfect example of one who is completely and wholly pleasing to God. He is God Himself.

Jesus acts like the Father and invites us to do the same. God our Father wants us to be like Him. In the Incarnation, divinity became humanity to teach us how we (mere mortals) can become truly like our Father. Christ teaches us the way of love, of empathy and of solidarity. There are three things we can learn from Jesus' Baptism: humility, obedience and solidarity. Christ accepted John's Baptism, a continuation of the love and humility He has already displayed in His Incarnation. His coming into the world was in loving obedience to the Father, an act which the Father praised and confirmed when He said “*This is my Beloved Son...*” Lastly, Jesus teaches us solidarity. He clearly does not need Baptism, but nonetheless he became baptised principally in solidarity with humanity.

We are challenged this day, this week and ultimately during this period of pandemic and its lockdown restrictions to imitate Jesus in His humility, obedience and solidarity – a two-fold solidarity – first to God, through obedience and loving acceptance of God's will in our lives, and secondly to our fellow humans through fraternal support and help whenever and wherever the need arises. As we journey during this era of the Holy Spirit, may the Holy Spirit teach and empower us to become persons pleasing to God our Father, so that, at the end of our lives here on earth, God can look on us and call us “*omekannaya*” for we have truly been conformed to His image and likeness, once more, by the way we act and think and relate with one another. May the Lord bless His Word in our hearts through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fr. David Atuanya, CSSp.
18 July 2021

This week sees the last few days of school for most of our young parishioners, with many having broken up already.

Our thanks and prayers must go to all those who work in our two parish schools, for everything they do for our children. We thank the teaching staff and assistants, cleaners, cooks, dinner ladies, caretakers and volunteers who give so much throughout the school year. This academic year brought its own particular challenges and we are so grateful for all you achieved. We wish you all a restful break.

To those of you who will be fortunate enough to go away on holiday we pray that you have a safe and comfortable journey, a happy and harmonious break and a safe return.



If you are holidaying in England or Wales you can find the Mass times local to where you will be by going online to www.directory.cbccew.org.uk

Please remember that many of these rural parishes rely on visitors' offerings during the summer to keep their churches open throughout the year. Many of them may have been closed since the pandemic began, so please give them your support.

FR ASHLEY—25 YEARS

On Tuesday 20th July Fr Ashley will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the Catholic priesthood.

There will be a special Mass at 7.00 pm on the evening of the 20th. We have not made this a ticketed Mass so all are welcome to come along.

There will not be a 6.00 pm Mass on this day

The 9.30 choir will be finishing this weekend to take their summer break. We return on the 22nd August.

We hope you all have a safe and happy summer. Look forward to seeing you all then and hopefully embrace new horizons.

Best wishes to you all.

Jan, Tony, Clare and Cathy

A huge thank you to the 9.30 choir for continuing to enrich our services with their music during the last year.

Please be aware that the time of Mr Bernard McCarthy's Requiem Mass is now **11.30 am** on Wednesday 21 July. If you know someone who will be attending could you please mention this to them.

The beautiful flowers on the pedestals have been given by her family in loving memory of Christina Carroll as we remember the sixth anniversary of her death.

May she rest in peace



ST EDMUND'S WALKING GROUP

Monday 19 July

6.00 pm

Join us for a leisurely circular stroll from Kelsey Park (Manor Way entrance nearest to Beckenham High Street).

This walk will be led by Michael Elmer and is good for slow walkers. All welcome to join in.

We have had no response to this request. Is there anybody who can offer assistance?

Is there anyone who attends the 11.00 am Mass who would be able to pick up an elderly lady parishioner who lives in the sheltered housing next to the round-about by the cinema?

The lady walks with an aid but cannot manage to walk the distance from her home.

This would not be every Sunday, but by arrangement. If you could help please phone the office.

St. Vincent de Paul in Beckenham is looking for furniture for local families in need and would be grateful if anyone could donate any of the following:



Standard double bed
Single armchair (preferably non-fabric)
Wardrobes (approx. 2ft 6in max width).

We are hoping for two of all the above and a single bed.

Please contact Fiona Ross on 07956 516 279 if you have anything to offer.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR

Finn, one of our young parishioners and a pupil at St Mary's School, has been accepted into the Choir of Westminster Cathedral, one of the best Catholic church choirs in the country. Many congratulations to him for his achievement!

SAVE THE DATES FUN EVENTS AT THE CLAVER CONVENT

The Claver Sisters are raising funds to purchase bicycles for catechists to travel long distances between villages in Malawi.

Two events are planned to take place in their lovely convent garden.

Tickets will be on sale after all Sunday masses from 25th July.

E-mail alagar@pobroadband.co.uk or sspc.echo.uk@googlemail.com if you need more information.

This is a very worthwhile cause and the Sisters need plenty of help to make these events a success. If you can offer help by baking a cake, providing raffle prizes or assisting with food preparation, because as the saying goes '**many hands make light work**' please contact Sr Rena on 020 8313 3915 or email her at sspc.echo.uk@googlemail.com



AFTERNOON TEA

Sunday 15th August at 2.00 pm

Entry is by ticket only. Adults £5.00, children £3.00.

Come with family and friends and enjoy a fun afternoon. If demand is high we may have a second sitting at 4.00 pm



CURRY AFTERNOON

Saturday 4th September
from 1.00 pm

Entry is by ticket only. Adults £10.00, children £5.00. Enjoy vegetarian or lamb rogan (mildly spiced with yoghurt), rice, sides, salad, and ice cream for afters and a soft drink.

We can cater for a takeaway. If demand is high we will have a second sitting at 3.00 pm. Both events will have a cake sale and a raffle.



CHANGES WITHIN OUR CHURCH

We have received guidance from the English Bishops on how we should proceed within our church as regulations are relaxed from Monday.

I am aware that many of our parishioners are still cautious about returning to church so all that we do is with the safety of our parishioners in mind.

There will be little difference immediately and further changes will be announced over the next few weeks

On arrival, you will be asked to self register or use the QR facility and use the hand sanitiser provided.

Alternate pews will be 'open' but there will be cards for you to place on the pews if you wish to maintain distance.

I would also encourage you to continue to wear a mask in respect for your fellow parishioners.

Please continue to follow the stewards guidance as you go up to receive communion via the side aisles and return to your seat using the centre aisle.

Thank you for helping to keep our church a safe place to worship.
Fr Steve

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM 22ND TO 24TH OCTOBER

This is a two night pilgrimage on a full board basis. The cost is £143 per person (**excluding transport costs which can only be confirmed when the number of pilgrims is known**).

All enquiries to dianebrelu@sky.com or 07951 194036

LIGHT OF CHRIST CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

This prayer group will reconvene in person in St Edmund's church hall

The Light of Christ Catholic Charismatic prayer group is due to reconvene meeting in person in the parish hall at St. Edmund's every **Wednesday from 21 July**.

As many of you will know we are an open Catholic Charismatic prayer meeting with people attending from across this part of London.

Next Wednesday the evening will start at 7.45 pm. Evening prayer of the Church (vespers) 8.00 pm, Holy Mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration until 10.00 pm.

Despite the relaxation of government legal requirements Covid protocols will be followed. We look forward to welcoming you to join us in praising and thanking Our Lord for His great Mercy.

Further queries contact: Tom: 07982 999 319
or Anna 07794 202 106

IN THE CHURCH

Sunday 18 July

6.00 pm VIGIL Church
 8.00 am Church
 9.30 am Church

 9.30 am Hall

 11.00 am Church
 5.30 pm Church

Sixteenth Sunday

Canon Michael Lennon RIP (anniv)
 Orla Claffey RIP
 Ints of the Banfield Family
(1 child making FHC)
 For the welfare of all teachers
 (Family Mass)
 For the people
 James & Alice Maye RIP

Monday 19 July

9.30 am Church
 10.00 am Church
 6.00 pm Church

Feria

Rosary
 John & Freda Locke RIP
 Sarah & Michael McCann RIP

Tuesday 20 July

10.00 am Church
 6.00 pm *Church*
 7.00 pm Church

Feria (St Apollinaris, Bishop & Martyr)

Christina Carroll RIP
No evening Mass today
 In thanksgiving for the 25th anniversary of Fr Ashley's ordination

Wednesday 21 July

9.30 am Church
 10.00 am Church
 11.30 pm Church
 6.00 pm Church

Feria (St Lawrence of Brindisi)

Rosary
 Joanna Duguid RIP
 Requiem of Bernard McCarthy RIP
 For all those lost aboard the SS Arandora Star

Thursday 22 July

10.00 am Church
 6.00 pm Church
 8.00 pm Claver

St Mary Magdalene

Welfare of Cynthia Holmes
 Private Intention
 Adoration

Friday 23 July

9.30 am Church
 10.00 am Church
 5.00 pm Church
 6.00 pm Church

St Bridget, Patron of Europe

Rosary
 Sr Brima Rivieri RIP
 Adoration & Benediction
 Dec'd benefactors & promoters of the Claver sisters

Saturday 24 July

10.00 am Church

Confessions after 10.00 am Mass and 5.00 pm to 5.50 pm
 6.00 pm Church

Feria (St Sharbel Makhluf)

Ints of the Banfield Family
(3 children making FHC)
 Paddy & Brigid Maye RIP

Sunday 25 July

8.00 am Church
 9.30 am Church
 9.30 am Hall

 11.00 am Church
 4.00 pm Church
 5.30 pm Church

Seventeenth Sunday

Bernie Harkness (nee Dowling) RIP
 Rafal on his 18th birthday
 For the people of the parish
 (Family Mass)
 John & Ellen Deering RIP
 Adoration & Benediction
 Veronica & Rhona McCloskey RIP
(3 children making FHC)

READINGS FOR 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Cycle B, Week 1, Psalter Wk 4

Kings 4:42-44
 Ps 144
 Eph 4:1-6
 John 6:1-15

Your online offerings last week came to £3945.64

Your donations to the Apostleship of the Sea which were made through the parish came to £1261.19. We are also aware that many of you donated directly through the charity but we do not have this figure.

Thank you so much for your generosity.

ONLINE GIVING

Over the last year it has been a lifeline for our church that an increasing number of parishioners have begun donate through a standing order or electronically. If you donate online, it assists us greatly with the financial administration. Our bank details are:

St Edmund's Church
 Sort Code: 60-02-12
 a/c no: 14282887

To make your regular donations electronically, please click here: <http://saintedmunds.net/index.php/donations/>

Donations can also be given through ChurchSuite via the DONATE option.

Fr Ashley's day off is Monday, Fr Steve's is Tuesday and Fr David's is Wednesday.

There will not be Adoration this week as there is work that needs to be done in the church.

There is Adoration & Benediction every Friday at 5.00 pm and also on the final Sunday of each month at 4.00 pm.

DIARY DATES

Fr Ashley's Silver Jubilee Mass, 20 July, 7.00 pm
 Requiem of Bernard McCarthy 21 July, 11.30 am
 Light of Christ Prayer Meeting 21 July, 7.45 pm, Hall

The Claver Garden Party is cancelled. See p3 for details of what is replacing it.

We pray for those who have died recently: Jenny Widdicombe, Charity Hutton, Eileen Henderson, Bernard McCarthy, Annette Nicholas.

We pray for those whose anniversaries are this week: Anthony Guinle, Margaret Theodorides, Clifford Moore, Charles Boulton, Christina Carroll, Thomas Alfred Morris, Helen Gardner Richards, Joanna Duguid, Joseph McHugh, Matthew Mukoro, Fr Ernest Bonvini, Oswaldo Paya, Harold Cepero.

We pray for the sick: Okwui Agbim, Angela, Evelina Armani, Daniel Asapokhai, Marie Azeez, Sandy Baron, Siobhan Basquill, Boudicca, Fr Ray Brennan, Rob Burns, Niamh Byrne, Carmel Cardiff, Chant, Mark Clapson, Jorge Corrigan-Zorilla, John Crouch, Niamh Dawson, Giacomo Dillon, Bridget D'Souza, Helga de Souza, Alex Dufort, Joshua Dunford, Nicholas Dunford, Sarah Dunmore, Cecil Dutton, Daniel Ebrahimi, Suzanne Eilbeck, Jessica Feron, Antonio Ferrara, Felicity, Mary Flood, Flora, Sarah Gallagher, Erika Geddes, Gaetan Goa, Patsy Grey, Robert Gray, Tony Hallett, Hans Halpin, Margaret Halpin, Amelia Handy, Michael Harper, John Harrow, Pauline Hatfield, Anita Hennigan, Lesley Hill, Glen Jack, Catherine Kelly, Eileen Kelly, Keith Kench, Antony & Richard Kirin, Andrew Kuzan, Pierre Laine, Rosy Lobo, Lizzy Loftus, Barbara Love, Anniqye Lynch, Rose McDonnell, Mary McGrath, Paul McIndoe, Eddie Mitchell, Salvador Moreno, Baby Hendrix Morgan, Barbara Moyce, Robert Moyle, Grace Okezie, Eva Perjesi, John Quaife, Brian Russell, Brigitte Savreux-O'Driscoll, Anna O'Hara, Mary Shipsey, Coleen Shroeder, David Silk, Siobhan, Veronica Somare, Vidya Sookram, Philippa Tolley, Pauline Ullisak, Vanessa, Deborah Walcott-Grappie, Joan, Alfred, Susan & Wendy Waller, Jimmy Walters, Patricia Weal, Sue Wingfield, Terry Woollard and Charlie Wynn.