

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

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17 OCTOBER 2021
Twenty-ninth Sunday

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ON THE ROAD WITH POPE FRANCIS

THE PICTURE HERE is of Pope Francis celebrating Mass in St Peter's Basilica last Sunday. On one level it seemed a straightforward Sunday Mass, with green vestments and the same readings as we and every other Catholic parish had – and indeed the Holy Father preached on these readings (<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2021/documents/20211010-omelia-sinodo-vescovi.html>). But it was a very special occasion as it opened a Synod of Bishops – not, this time, a meeting lasting a few days or a couple of weeks, but an ongoing process for the next two years. Moreover this synod is not simply for bishops but for the whole Church.

The word 'synod' simply means 'on a road together' and this helps us understand what it is all about. So the pope said: **'Celebrating a Synod means walking on the same road, walking together. Let us look at Jesus. First, he encounters the rich man on the road; he then listens to his questions, and finally he helps him discern what he must do to inherit eternal life. Encounter, listen and discern'**. Over the next two years the whole Church is invited to do this – encountering Our Lord, listening to him and discerning the future.

I don't need here to offer a commentary on the Holy Father's homily; it's much better to read or listen to him direct and easy to do so. He speaks plainly and doesn't need me to explain what he's saying. We need to see this initiative in the context of the whole teaching ministry of Pope Francis, and also the context of where the Church and the world are at the moment. It is nearly sixty years now since the beginning of one of the most important synods in the history of the Catholic Church – the Second Vatican Council – which did so much to renew the life of the Church precisely because it enabled the Church to 'encounter, listen and discern'; I think the pope is trying to recapture that vision and help us to be inspired.

Three crises in the world provide the backdrop for this. First, the really critical crisis caused by climate change and threats to biodiversity. The moral and theological danger of this is something the pope has repeatedly warned us all about – hence his great 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'* and the Season of Creation every year which we have recently celebrated. This is not simply about governments talking to each other – the behaviour of all of us has to change. The second is the toxic effect of populist nationalism – the results of which we have seen in our supermarkets and queues at petrol stations – so much at odds with Catholic teaching. The Holy Father addressed this in his encyclical of a year ago, *Fratelli Tutti*, which we looked at during Lent in this parish. Building up new links of interdependence and friendship, at all levels, has to be a priority. The final crisis is also still very much with us: coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic. So many bad moral choices have been made and continue to be made, which have led to deaths; simply in the area of the availability of vaccines there is so much going wrong, as Fr Victor pointed out on this page two weeks ago. The world desperately needs a moral compass.

These three crises in the world (and there are others) are crises for



the Church, but we have others of our own as well. The worst is the continuing scandal of the abuse of children and the vulnerable within the Church – France is the latest country for which a truly damning report has just appeared – and the culpable mishandling of this by bishops, Religious superiors and others. The pope has repeatedly pointed out the terrible sufferings of victims is linked to structures reflecting clericalism (and Deacon Séan has made the same point

in this newsletter), which has bred a toxic sense of entitlement and a refusal to be accountable to anyone outside the clerical caste. Another crisis for the Church is worsening divisions and polarisation, much of it made worse in relation to liturgy and the actions of some enthusiasts for the pre-1970 Order of Mass. In the summer the pope addressed this danger by issuing new restrictions on the celebration of Mass according to the 1962 Missal. There are many other issues around, some of them very critical as we gradually emerge from the pandemic in terms of worship – such as the participation of laypeople in leadership within the Church, particularly women, the future of Catholic education and formation, and so on. I wrote above that a feature of clericalism is a lack of accountability. A 'synodal path' addresses this problem head on. If we have proper and prayerful gatherings enabling us to 'encounter, listen and discern' we deliberately make ourselves accountable – to one another, and to the whole community. Dioceses are setting up structures to enable this to happen, and we will be sharing more about this shortly; and we also need to do this in parishes as well: here this will dovetail well with our plans for renewal, growth and mission. But what I would want to stress at this stage is the need to be inspired by the Holy Father's vision. It is easy to be cynical (and clergy are good at that, sadly), especially if the pandemic has left us a little drained and weary; but such feelings could be disastrous for this process which the Church is embarking on. In the closing words of his homily last Sunday, the pope said that he wanted the synod to be **'a grace-filled event, a process of healing guided by the Spirit. In these days, Jesus calls us, as he did the rich man in the Gospel, to empty ourselves, to free ourselves from all that is worldly, including our inward-looking and outworn pastoral models; and to ask ourselves what it is that God wants to say to us in this time. And the direction in which he wants to lead us. Dear brothers and sisters, let us have a good journey together! May we be pilgrims in love with the Gospel and open to the surprises of the Holy Spirit. Let us not miss out on the grace-filled opportunities born of encounter, listening and discernment. In the joyful conviction that, even as we seek the Lord, he always comes with his love to meet us first'**.

Fr Ashley

THE SYNODAL PATHWAY

In addition to the homily referred to on the front page by the Holy Father, here is a link to a special 'Moment of Reflection' which he led last Saturday: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ju_67e2flrw

This is also the subject of this weekend's Pastoral Letter from the Archbishop. Material about the pathway from the Bishops Conference is here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/synodal-church/>

ADORATION & BENEDICTION

With the nights drawing in we have decided to move Adoration & Benediction from early evening on a Friday, to after the 10.00 am Mass each Friday. This will begin next week.

On the last Sunday of every month there will continue to be a Holy Hour of Adoration and Benediction at 4.00 pm.

The Claver Sisters have Adoration every Thursday evening at 8.00 pm and once a month it concludes with Benediction.



OUR PRAYER TREE FOR THE HOLY SOULS

November is the month in which the Church remembers Her dead, and in a special way we are invited to remember our family and friends who have died, especially those who have died in the previous year.

NOVEMBER
THE MONTH OF ALL SOULS

This year we will be adding flowers to the tree that will be placed on the sanctuary throughout November. To each flower you can add the names of your family and friends who you wish to remember and pray for throughout November. As each flower is hand-made, please add your requirements and name to the list at the back of the Church or contact the Parish Office: beckenham@rcaos.org.uk – please mark the subject box 'Holy Souls' and include the names of your friends and family. Your flower will be completed and placed on our tree on your behalf.

BAPTISM

There will be a Baptism Preparation session on **Sunday 31 October**, in the Hall, beginning after the end of the Family Mass, so about 10.45 am.

First time parents and expectant parents need to attend this session before their child can be baptised.

There is no need to book, just turn up.



ASSISTED DYING BILL

As some of you know our bishops launched a nationwide Novena of Prayer, which started last Thursday, in relation to the Assisted Dying Bill 2021 due to be debated in the House of Lords next week. Details from the Bishops Conference website, are here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/nine-days-of-prayer-to-help-defeat-attempt-to-legalise-assisted-suicide/>

HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS

We are planning a 'Homemade Christmas' where we are asking parishioners to donate anything home-made (Cakes, Jams, Christmas Wreaths, Decorations etc) which can be sold to raise funds for St Edmunds.

CAN YOU HELP?

Could you help with the planning or organising?
Do you have any ideas or suggestions?
Could you bake or make something?

If so we would love to hear from you by emailing Sue Owen on sueowenwolf@gmail.com
Please mark your email *Christmas Helpers* or if you don't have email phone the Parish Office on **020 8650 0970**



TREASURER TO ST EDMUND'S FINANCE COMMITTEE

We are seeking applications for the role of Treasurer on the Finance Committee.

This is a voluntary post but an important one as you will be responsible for overseeing the management of parish finances. If you are interested in applying for this role, please write to Fr Steve Wymer, outlining any previous experience and how you feel you would be suited to this work.



The Passage is grateful to those parishioners who have offered to help with its street collection on

Tuesday 19 October. There is still time to volunteer: contact Andrew Hollingsworth on 020 7592 1886 or andrew.h@passage.org.uk or 07928 703 131 but by 12.00 noon on Monday 18 October. Do look out for Passage collectors on Tuesday if you are in Westminster in Victoria Street or Oxford Street. If you do not carry cash you can donate online at:

www.passage.org.uk/street

LIGHT OF CHRIST CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

We invite you to join us on
Wednesday 20 October in the church hall
7.45 pm Praise & Worship
8.00 pm Holy Mass
celebrant Fr Mark Binang
followed by Prayer & Praise
10.00 pm conclusion

You may like to bring water, salt and/or oil for blessing. Please label containers for identification.

If you have any questions please call
Anna 07794 202 106 or Tom 07982 999 319

PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON THE PRESBYTERY FORECOURT.

ST EDMUNDS CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL 2021

Thank you to everyone who has already taken or downloaded a leaflet and is filling a box. Filled shoeboxes can be dropped at 20 Reddons Road anytime until November 1st or brought with you to weekend masses on 30th/31st October when we will be collecting boxes before masses.

If you would like to fill a box but don't already have a leaflet, you can download one here: <https://blythswood.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-SBA-checklist.pdf>

If you have any questions, please call Susie or Lucienne – 0795 6574 789 / 0788 4184 534



CHRISTMAS GIFTS

As you start to do your Christmas preparation please think about looking at the cards and gifts offered by Catholic organisations.

Below is just a few of them. Some offer wonderful and imaginative 'virtual' gifts and others a range of gifts for all ages.

<https://acnuk.org/shop/>

<https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> <https://cafod.org.uk/News/UK-news/Christmas-cards-and-gifts>

<https://www.cathchild.org.uk/christmas-cards/>

<https://www.svp.org.uk/shop>

CATHOLIC HERALD

The Catholic press has had a tough time during the pandemic. With churches shut and the faithful not able to pick up a paper or journal whilst attending Mass, a number of publications have ceased publication.

The Catholic Herald has managed to survive and we are happy to restock it once more but only if we know that the copies will be sold. (It comes out monthly and costs £5.00 an issue.)

Parishioners might like to consider setting up their own subscription which means they will receive the journal through the post each month and also have access to the online version. Subscribers could opt to take only the online version. More information on this at: <https://account.catholicherald.co.uk/>

This would be our preferred option, but if there is anyone who would like to pick up a copy from the porch, please get in touch with the Office.

The Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission **Autumn Assembly 2021** entitled **COP26: What next?**

is a continued response to the huge environmental issues of our time, what can we do that we aren't doing now? Respond to care for the earth, care for the poor, care for a fairer economy. **At Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Brixton Hill, Saturday 20 November from 10am onwards.** Entrance is free. Everyone welcome. Email piccontact@rcaos.org.uk to reserve your place. Please bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee provided.



PARENT GOVERNORS NEEDED

There are now three Catholic schools seeking governors. Please read the adverts below and consider if this is where you could use your talents

COLOMA CONVENT GIRLS' SCHOOL

Schools benefit from having some governors who are parents of current pupils. Coloma, where some of you are parents of pupils, is looking for new parent governors. If you are interested contact one existing parent governor in our congregation, Claire Saunders at: team_saunders@yahoo.co.uk

ST FRANCIS XAVIER SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

St Francis Xavier Catholic Sixth Form College, Balham, a successful provider of outstanding full time education to 16 – 19 year olds, is seeking a foundation governor. Do you have an interest in education with skills and experience that would be useful to our governing body, responsible for preserving and developing the educational character and mission of the College; its solvency and assets and the achievements and safeguarding of its students? This is a voluntary but demanding, interesting and professional role for a practising Catholic who has the time to prepare for, attend and participate in at least six evening meetings each year. The governors are particularly, but not exclusively, seeking volunteers with current experience / expertise in Human Resources management or accountancy / audit.

If you are interested, or would like to know more, please contact Eleanor Lewis, Clerk to the Governors (020 8772 6062 – e.lewis@sfx.ac.uk).

BISHOP CHALLONER SCHOOL

Bishop Challoner School has a vacancy on the Board for a new Governor.

The Governing Body is responsible for the strategic direction of Bishop Challoner School. The Board is made up of committed people with a range of skills. We are keen to strengthen our skill set by appointing people with skills in HR, technology and marketing. If you are interested in joining our team and would like to find out more about what is involved, please contact the Chair of Trustees; Ticky Colling tcolling@bcswb.co.uk or the clerk to the trustees clerk@bcswb.co.uk or the clerk to the Trustees clerk@bcswb.co.uk.

IN THE CHURCH

Sunday 17 October

6.00 pm	Church	Twenty-ninth Sunday
8.00 am	Church	Peter Cole RIP (anniv) For the people
9.30 am	Church	For the intentions of our choir members
9.30 am	Hall	For all our young families
11.00 am	Church	Ints of Clara Mayungbe
5.30 pm	Church	Bridget Mills

Monday 18 October

9.30 am	Church	St Luke, Evangelist
10.00 am	Church	Rosary
6.00 pm	Church	Fr Patrick Paud O'Donnell RIP (anniv)
7.00 pm	25 VW	Ints of Sr Pat Devine
		Adoration

Tuesday 19 October

10.00 am	Church	Feria (Saints John de Brebeuf & Isaac Jogues, Priests & Companions, Martyrs)
6.00 pm	Church	Lee Anna & Rodolfo Cabilin
		Esta Feeney RIP (anniv)

Wednesday 20 October

9.30 am	Church	Feria
10.00 am	Church	Rosary
6.00 pm	Church	Mary Kearney RIP
		David McCarthy RIP

Thursday 21 October

10.00 am	Church	Feria
6.00 pm	Church	John O'Reilly RIP
8.00 pm	Claver	Eugene Gilkes RIP (4th anniv)
		Adoration

Friday 22 October

9.30 am	Church	Feria (St John Paul II, Pope)
10.00 am	Church	Rosary
10.30 am	Church	Bessie Boudville RIP
6.00 pm	Church	Adoration & Benediction
		Wellbeing of Gretta O'Reilly

Saturday 23 October

10.00 am	Church	Feria (St John of Capistrano, Priest)
		Theresia Halpin RIP
6.00 pm	Church	<i>Confessions after 10.00 am Mass and from 5.00 pm to 5.50 pm</i>
		Ints of Elizabeth Adiekporna

Sunday 24 October

8.00 am	Church	Thirtieth Sunday
9.30 am	Church	World Mission Day
9.30 am	Hall	Jerry Bresin RIP
11.00 am	Church	Galina Orlova RIP
5.30 pm	Church	For the people
		Richard & Mabel Graves RIP
		Pamela Kean RIP (8th anniv)



Thank you for raising donations for St Edmunds with #easyfundraising! If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE. 5,900 shops and sites will donate to us when you use [easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to do your everyday online shopping - at no extra cost to you! Every donation you raise makes a difference to us, so please sign up & share today.

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/steceb/?invite=U95BCP%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm_content=srt

ELECTRONIC DONATIONS

Your online offerings last week came to £3810.59 The gifts to PACT were £288.68 and to Cafod £914.14. The second collections were significantly lower than in previous years, which may be due to our lower Mass attendance or to more of you donating online direct to the charity.

ONLINE GIVING

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

Donations can also be given through ChurchSuite on our website, using the DONATE option or if you wish to set up a Standing Order our bank details are:

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

DIARY DATES

October

Every Monday, Meditation, Hall, 5.30 pm prompt
Second Saturday, Hall, 11-12 Contemplative Saturday
- prompt start

There will be Adoration after morning Mass, Monday to Saturday until 11.30am but on Friday morning there will also be Benediction.

There is Adoration & Benediction on the last Sunday of each month at 4.00 pm.

The list of the sick which is read out at each Mass has grown very long. It is intended for those who are close to death or seriously ill in hospital. The names of those with a chronic illness should be on the list in the newsletter.

We pray for those who have died recently: Adrienne Ennis, Canon Richard Hearn, Nigel Fennemore, Elliot Moore, Pina Moxedano

We pray for those whose anniversaries are this week: Paula Marbach, Shelagh & Ronald Lane, Betty Banfield, Christopher Gunapala, Dave Webb, Jacyntha Dutton, Christina Pamment, Patricia McGrory, Marie Lavender, Roy Anggiansah, Peter Cole, Eugene Gilkes, Eileen Mary Gallen, Patricia Hitchcock, Mary Holleran, Riccardo Ling, Rosemary Elmer, Nicholas Beedle, Theresia Halpin.

We pray for the sick: Okwui Agbim, Angela, Evelina Armani, Daniel Asapokhai, Sandy Baron, Siobhan Basquill, Boudicca, Fr Ray Brennan, Patsy Brown, Rob Burns, Niamh Byrne, Mary Byrne, Caroline, Carmel Cardiff, Chant, Zenaido Cinco, Mark Clapson, John Crouch, Malcolm Cusack, Niamh Dawson, Antonia Difato, Giacomo Dillon, Domenico, Helga and Ralph D'Souza, Alex Dufort, Joshua Dunford, Nicholas Dunford, Sarah Dunmore, Cecil Dutton, Daniel Ebrahimi, Suzanne Eilbeck, Yvonne Fairlamb, Joe Fennessy, Jessica Feron, Antonio Ferrara, Felicity, Ann Fleming, Mary Flood, Flora, Sarah Gallagher, Erika Geddes, Gaetan Goa, Patsy Grey, Tony Hallett, Hans Halpin, Margaret Halpin, Amelia Handy, Michael Harper, John Harrow, Pauline Hatfield, Anita Hennigan, Lesley Hill, Maureen Hitchens, Rosemary Horsley, Glen Jack, Catherine Kelly, Eileen Kelly, Keith Kench, Antony & Richard Kirin, Pierre Laine, Rosy Lobo, Lizzy Loftus, Barbara Love, Annick Lynch, Rose McDonnell, Mary McGrath, Patrick McHugh, Paul McIndoe, Eddie Mitchell, Salvador Moreno, Baby Hendrix Morgan, Barbara Moyce, Robert Moyle, Grace Okezie, Eva Perjesi, John Quaipe, Helen Quarshie, Katie Richardson, Pru Root, Brian Russell, Brigitte Savreux-O'Driscoll, Anna O'Hara, Coleen Shroeder, David Silk, Siobhan, Veronica Somare, Vidya Sookram, Pauline Ulisak, Vanessa, Deborah Walcott-Grappie, Joan, Susan & Wendy Waller, Jimmy Walters, Patricia Weal, Paul Williams, Terry Woollard and Charlie Wynn.