

## CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

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16 January 2022

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## WHY PEACE SUNDAY IS IMPORTANT

NEXT SATURDAY is the 100th anniversary of the death of the man who is probably the most neglected and overlooked pope of the 20th century, Benedict XV. He wasn't very old and had no history of particularly bad health. Pneumonia was a killer a hundred years ago (my mother, who was born later in 1922 had it as small child and nearly died) - the pope contracted it after catching a chill while waiting outside a convent to say Mass. Benedict is important for many reasons - not least his responsibility for the codification of Canon Law and his promotion of missionary activity in Nigeria - but above all for his uncompromising opposition to the First World War. At the time this made him very unpopular all over Europe (although it earned him respect after it was over), not least in this country, where Cardinal Bourne and the other bishops showed very little loyalty to him: being patriotic was for them far more important. The pope refused to accept the arguments of either the Allied or the Central powers that their actions were morally good: the conflict was simply wrong, a blot on Europe and on the world. This small figure with a squeaky voice was a lone prophet of peace.

It is clear that his witness began a sea change in Catholic teaching about war. Both Pope St John XXIII, in his 1963 letter *Pacem in Terris* ('Peace on Earth') and more recently Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who took the name Benedict as a tribute to him, have made this clear. The witness now of the Catholic peace organisation *Pax Christi*, which we are asking you to support in a second collection this weekend, and the setting up in 1968 of *World Peace Day* on New Year's Day have developed this shift, emphasised so much in the teachings of the popes at least since Pius XII. War is wrong: it is not morally acceptable. Pope Francis, in his 2020 letter *Fratelli Tutti*, has further reiterated this. Prophets, as we see in the Bible, are often ignored, rejected or despised in their own time: the dismissal of the pope's efforts to stop the war was part of this pattern. A century after his death Benedict deserves some recognition.

As you know, each year for World Peace Day the pope publishes a special message - a few years back we had a study evening in the parish hall which looked at a selection of them. This year the message from Pope Francis is entitled *Dialogue Between Generations, Education and Work: Tools for Building Lasting Peace*, and I referred to it in homilies after New Year's day at Mass. It is particularly good at rooting how we should work for peace in the world in how we live at home - and in particular, and this was a good message after family Christmas gatherings (if we were fortunate enough to be able to have them) - the need for different generations in families and societies to listen to and talk to each other. So the Holy

Father writes: 'We need to learn how to regain this mutual trust. The current health crisis has increased our sense of isolation and a tendency to self-absorption. The loneliness of the elderly is matched in the young by a sense of helplessness and a lack of a shared vision about the future.' He identifies the idealism of young people and the wisdom of those of us who are no longer young as both being necessary - qualities which need each other. The message also stresses the importance of education in relation to peace, and the link between peace-keeping and human work. It's not very long and is very easy to read at <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20211208-messaggio-55giornatamondiale-pace2022.html>. *Pax Christi* has also produced excellent material about this which you can find at <http://paxchristi.org.uk>.

We keep Peace Sunday this week as a celebration of the World Day of prayer on New Year's Day; but it always strikes me that many Catholics are far less at home with it than, for example, Remembrance Sunday; I suspect in some parishes it is ignored completely. We are used to the flag waving, the marching, the gun salutes; we may not want, like the bishops in this country in the Great War, to be different from other people. Much of what we teach as Roman Catholics about war and peace is not shared by other people - that war is wrong; or that, to choose a particular example, the nuclear deterrent on which this country's defence policies are based, is immoral and shameful. Asserting these things can make us as unpopular as Benedict XV; we see this too in the hatred experienced back in the 80s by the women at the Greenham Common peace camp and by many others.

The world is, as always, an unstable place and there are 'wars and rumours of war' in many places. Please pray for peace in the world and that we will be faithful to the Church's teaching.

Fr Ashley



### CHURCH HEATING

I promised I would keep you updated on the status of our heating (or lack of it!). As you can imagine the expense of replacing the system will be huge and it is vital we take a careful and thorough look at the systems that are suitable for a building like ours, not only that they are cost effective, efficient to run and maintain, that they heat the church and do as little damage to the environment as possible.

There is much work going on behind the scenes, seeking expert advice on the appropriate way forward but this will take time.

Some of you will know that the temporary heaters are causing problems with the electricians and even with the heaters on the church is still very cold, so please continue to wrap up warm and bring a blanket with you if you wish.

It will be no surprise to you that we will need to raise additional funds to cover the cost of this work and we will shortly be making an appeal for this. In the meantime, if you would like to donate towards the replacement heating system you can do so using the following link [https://stedmunds.churchsuite.co.uk/modules/giving/fund\\_view.php?id=26](https://stedmunds.churchsuite.co.uk/modules/giving/fund_view.php?id=26). By using one of the envelopes at the back of church and putting your donation through the office door. Many thanks to those parishioners who have anticipated our need for financial assistance and have already contributed so generously. I am most grateful to you.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this challenging time. I will keep you posted.

### THE COMMON GOOD TWENTY-FIVE YEARS ON

Some of you will remember the teaching document published by the Bishops Conference towards the end of 1996, in the months leading up to the 1997 General Election entitled *The Common Good and the Catholic Church's Social Teaching*. Nationally it attracted a lot of attention - some negative - and in our parish in Lent 1997 we had a series of talks about the document, organised by the late Terry Smith and the parish Justice and Peace group. To mark the 25th anniversary of the publication, St Mary's University is organising a day conference on Wednesday 26 January - details of how to book are here: <https://www.stmarys.ac.uk/T/events/2022/01/comon-good-25-years-on>. One of the speakers on the 26th will be the Catholic journalist Clifford Longley, who helped draft the original document and who came to our parish during our Lent course in 1997 to speak about it. You are welcome to take part in the study day either online or (hopefully) at the university.

### FAMILY MASS - SUNDAY AT 9.30 AM IN THE HALL

Parents! Do you have children at Primary School? Do you have children too young to be at school? Do you have children preparing for First Holy Communion?

This Mass is for all of you!

Every Sunday at 9.30 a Family Mass takes place in the Hall. A large number of families attend regularly; some of their children are very young, others are in their older primary school years, with two of the latter about to train as altar servers.

We aim to show children how to participate at Mass, by teaching them to join in with all the responses and gestures and when to be especially quiet. We include lots of singing, encourage all the children to take part in the entry procession at the beginning of Mass, ask families to read and take up the offertory gifts. By taking as full a part as possible, children develop their understanding and contribution to our worship as members of the Family of the Church; the Mass is excellent preparation, too, for those approaching their First Communion.

It would be good to have a group of children regularly preparing the Bidding Prayers and leading the singing, but we need more of our older children to take this on.

If you haven't yet attended Family Mass, you and your children would be very welcome and we look forward to seeing you!



### CHURCH UNITY OCTAVE

January 18 - January 25

During this time each year the Church observes eight days of prayer for Christian Unity.

Please see the poster in the porch for the services in the churches in Beckenham.

St Edmund's contribution will be a time of reflection, quiet prayer and gentle music in our Lady Chapel. You may join us for a short time or stay as long as you want.

*We will heat the chapel but still suggest you dress warmly.*



### WALKING GROUP

Our walk to St Blaise's Well will take place on Sunday 6th February. Meet, well clad and shod, at Beckenham Place Park Mansion at 1400 or at 1500 outside the Churchill Theatre, Bromley if you are unable to tackle steep slopes.



**Rediscover Your Marriage** – Retrouvaille simply means 'rediscovery'. The programme offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about *Retrouvaille* or to register for the programme commencing with a 'Virtual' weekend on **3 - 6 March** call or text +44 788 7296983 or email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

### DONATE YOUR SMARTPHONE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Do you have an old phone or tablet lying in a drawer that you don't use? It could be a lifeline for a refugee, helping them keep in touch with family, friends, legal, medical and social services. **Jesuit Refugee Services UK** are collecting smartphones and tablets to give to people experiencing the asylum and immigration system.

Phones and tablets should be in good working condition (able to make and receive calls and texts, a working screen and keyboard etc.) with no significant marks or scratches.

Phones and tablets must be wiped of all data and restored to factory settings, or be accessible for a member of the team to erase all data. A working and compatible charger should be provided.

**Send your devices to: Jesuit Refugee Service UK, The Hurtado Jesuit Centre, 2 Chandler Street, London, E1W 2QT.**

You could also top-up a refugee's mobile phone. The Jesuit Refugees Service gives on average 321 refugees a top-up of £10 every month. Over the course of a year this amounts to £38,520.00. Could you help them by donating something?

Go to: [www.jrsuk.net/adventappeal21](http://www.jrsuk.net/adventappeal21) or send a cheque to the address above.



Living Well  
Bromley

Please don't forget that St George's Church is a drop off point for Living Well. They are open each day until 3.00 pm. Their office is on the left as you enter the church and they are very happy to receive your donations.



### Programme for the day

Praise and worship  
Teaching  
Healing testimonies  
Prayer ministry  
Sacrament of Reconciliation  
Eucharistic Healing Service with operation of charisms  
Holy Mass

Full details and registration at  
[Bit.ly/Healing2022](http://Bit.ly/Healing2022)

### LIGHT OF CHRIST CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

**Wednesday 19 January 2022**

7.45pm Praise and Worship

8.00pm Holy Mass

Celebrant tbc

Followed by Lectio Divina

10.00pm Meeting concludes

Our priests extend their grateful thanks to you all for your generosity to them at Christmas.



### A WARM WELCOME

This week Fr John Olaniran will be joining St Edmund's as an Assistant Priest.

If you see him around please give him your best St Edmund's welcome.

### MEDITATION

in the Hall on Mondays  
(except Bank Holidays)  
from 5.30 - 6.20 pm.

## MASSES

Sunday 16 January	Second Sunday PEACE DAY
6.00 pm VIGIL Church	Peter Johnston RIP
8.00 am Church	Ints of Maureen Pinkett
9.30 am Church	May & Sharon O'Reilly
9.30 am Hall	For the people
CHILDREN'S MASS	
11.00 am Church	William Desmond Webster RIP (2nd anniv) <b>LATIN</b>
5.30 pm Church	David Charles RIP
Monday 17 January	St Anthony, Abbott
10.00 am Church	Florence Logan RIP
6.00 pm Church	Ints of Mary Bradford
7.00 pm <b>25 VW</b>	Adoration
Tuesday 18 January	Start of Church Unity Octave
10.00 am Church	Alfonso & Mariuccia Nesti RIP
6.00 pm Church	Tom & Babs Griffin RIP
Wednesday 19 January	Feria (St Wulstan, Bishop)
10.00 am Church	Rosemary RIP
6.00 pm Church	Antony & Maureen Norris RIP
Thursday 20 January	Feria (St Fabian, Pope & Martyr)
10.00 am Church	Fred Porter
1.00 - 3.00 pm <i>Quiet Reflection in Lady Chapel</i>	
6.00 pm Church	Margaret Nicholson RIP
8.00 pm <b>Claver</b>	Adoration
Friday 21 January	St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr
10.00 am Church	Bridie McGuinness RIP
6.00 pm Church	Adoration & Benediction Wellbeing of Dorothy McWilliams
Saturday 22 January	Feria (St Vincent, Deacon & Martyr)
10.00 am Church	John Logan RIP
3.00 pm Church	Memorial Mass for Katrina Fleming RIP on her 1st anniv.
6.00 pm VIGIL Church	Noreen & Eddie Dowling RIP (anniv)
Sunday 23 January	Third Sunday SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD
8.00 am Church	Wellbeing of Sr Rosalie
9.30 am Church	Daniel James Rumbol RIP on his birthday.
9.30 am Hall	Marlon Dias RIP (4th anniv)
CHILDREN'S MASS	
11.00 pm Church	Angela Mitchell RIP
5.30 pm Church	Michael & Kathleen O'Sullivan RIP



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/stecb/?invite=U95BCP%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm\\_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm\\_content=srt](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stecb/?invite=U95BCP%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm_content=srt)

## 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

## PARISH GIVING - Mass Stipends

If you request a Mass intention it is usual to give a donation (known as a Mass stipend). There is no fixed amount but a minimum of £10 is suggested. Cash for Mass stipends can be put in the Mass intention envelopes which are in the porch, and then, either be put in the offertory collection or through the office door. Please do not put a note through the door asking for a Mass intention on a specific date without also including your name and phone number, so we can get in contact with you if needed.

*There is Rosary every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9.30 am, and Adoration after the 10.00 am Mass Monday to Friday. On Friday Adoration concludes with Benediction.*

*Confession are every Saturday from 10.30 - 11.00 am and from 5.00 pm - 5.55 pm*

**We pray for those who have died recently:** Mary Odok, Leonard Walker, Peter Donnelly, Evalina Armani, Carolla Law, Seamus Duignan, Craig Western, Adam Maslona, Milvia Toni, Fr James Doherty, Jim Buchanan.

**We pray for those whose anniversaries are close:** Lucy Denne, Sharon Oates, James O'Reilly, William Webster, Alec Kinch, Peggy Brown, Tanya Clarke, Terry McGee, Baby William Paul 'Wotsit' Pemberton, Maureen Finch, Linda Turp, Geoffrey Sisley, Julia Mary Bowyer, Samuel Sana, Emily Edwards, Eleanor Harrington, Patrick McInally, Monica Cronin, Michael O'Sullivan, John O'Sullivan, Walter Grubb, Juana Chacaltana, Joan Salmon, Mary Callaghan, Katrina Fleming, Jean Cullen, Kathleen Phelan, Mabel Graves, Raymond Willis.

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