

## CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST. EDMUND OF CANTERBURY

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18 SEPTEMBER 2022 YR C

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## Servants of Two Masters?

The dishonest steward is one of the stand out characters in the Gospels. He may be an invented character, to illustrate a point, but surely we can all recognise something of him in people that we have met in our own lives and, if we are truly honest, perhaps in ourselves. This weekend, in our first reading from Amos and in the Gospel from Luke, we are given a very clear message about the role of money in our lives. Amos tells us that the Lord will never forget a single thing done by those who trample on the needy and suppress the poor. Luke meanwhile makes a distinction between those who are astute in the matters of this world and the children of light, those who follow Christ.

The message from our readings this weekend is timely as an economic crisis is overwhelming our nation. The number of households that are forced to resort to using one of the over 2,500 food banks across the UK continues to increase, food insecurity is a growing threat to the poor and now these pressures are escalated by the prospect of fuel poverty. The situation could not be any more severe. Inflation has climbed above 10%, and the Bank of England has warned that the UK faces a year long recession starting this Autumn. In order to flourish as human beings we all need to be fed, clothed and housed so that we can continue to focus on our spiritual growth.

In the Gospel Christ appears to praise the dishonest steward for his astuteness but truly He is making the distinction between winning friends in this life, through tainted money, and securing blessings for eternity by living in the light of Christ.

Money is not inherently evil, although it is always tainted by the temptations that it brings, but as Christ says in our Gospel this weekend we cannot serve two masters, we cannot be the slaves of both God and of money. In Hebrew money translates as 'mammon' and the word has come to be used over the centuries to personify the pursuit of wealth, at the cost of one's soul. The



striking painting by Evelyn de Morgan, shows a woman clutching desperately at the knee of the statue of Mammon, yearning to look upon his face, which stares down at her remorselessly. The statue holds out a bag of gold, but the woman ignores the money. She has moved from the love of gold (which in itself is neither good

nor evil) to the love of Mammon himself, wealth for its own sake, and so has cut herself off from the love of God and seems beyond redemption. It's an allegorical image but the temptation is real for each and every one of us.

Our new prime minister's decision to cap energy bills in order to protect households has been welcomed, but the measures are not targeted at the poorest households who will continue to suffer disproportionately. Meanwhile energy companies will continue to reap large, perhaps excessive, profits as the public purse covers the cost of capping bills. As Catholics it is our duty to question these decisions, do they serve the common good, and do they help to protect the poor? Groups such as the St Vincent de Paul Society, who help those in need, are reporting increasing demand for their services. We may be unable to directly influence political decision-making at this moment, but in these difficult times the challenge for each of us is to be even more generous than before, and to remember those less fortunate than ourselves, who are carrying an unfair burden, whose suffering will increase before things improve.

It is also worth reflecting on the lessons of Pope Francis's encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, that everything and everyone is connected, we are a global community. The drought that many around the world have experienced this summer is caused by Climate Change which in itself is a consequence of our failure as the human race to act as 'honest stewards' of creation. In fact energy prices this winter will be pushed higher because German boats are supplying less coal to their power stations because water levels are so low in the rivers, reducing their ability to export electricity. French nuclear reactors cannot operate at full capacity because they are limited in how much heat they can discharge into their shrunken rivers, and so cannot sell as much electricity abroad. Meanwhile, Norway is deciding whether its exportable hydro-electric output needs to be reduced, in order to maintain healthy water levels in its reservoirs. In countries such as Pakistan excessive rainfall has overwhelmed fragile infrastructure, where crowd funding has been squandered on advertising rather than building, leaving millions homeless. In the years to come we will all need to make further sacrifices to help reduce the world's dependence on fossil fuels. Meanwhile, Europe's efforts to support the people of Ukraine through sanctions on Russia, have exposed just how vulnerable the continent is to the Russian threat to turn off the gas supply. Vladimir Putin has poetically likened Europe's vulnerability to the wolf whose tail is frozen to the ice in winter. The pursuit of justice, and of the common good, comes at a cost. Are we each prepared to pay the price?

Deacon Ray

Details of our local food bank can be found here:

<https://www.livingwell.life/p/food-bank>

Our local branch of the St Vincent de Paul Society does wonderful work supporting those in need in our Parish, you can find out more here:

<https://saintedmunds.net/index.php/helping-beckenham-recover-svp/>

### PARISH VISION MEETING

Thank you to all who attended the Parish Vision meeting in the Hall last Tuesday and for being so patient while we sorted out one or two technical problems. From the numbers who came, (there must have been nearly 50 of you) and from your enthusiasm and participation, it is clear to me of your desire to get involved in the life of this parish. It is indeed our parish and working together with all the different talents we possess, we can bring about changes for the better.

Thanks also to those who set up the Hall and the equipment, and those who served refreshments and cleared up at the end of the meeting.

Please don't forget our follow-up meeting on Wednesday 5 October at 7.00 pm, when we will be moving into groups of our choice to share our ideas.

Fr Steve

### CHURCH CLOSURE

The replacement of our heating system is going well and the workmen are now doing internal work which means that the church will have to be closed at some points during the week.

**Please take a careful look at the Mass time table on the back page of the newsletter.**

Our apologies to those who had arranged a Mass intention which will not now be publicly celebrated. Our priests will pray for your intention in their own private Masses and we will transfer the intention to the next Masses that are available.

### THANK YOU AND GOODBYE

It is with a heart full of gratitude and thanks that I write these few words to all of you our friends and parishioners.

After a lot of prayer and discernment, sadly, we will be closing our *Asylum Project* at 25-27 Village Way and moving on to pastures new. It is with a heavy heart we have had to come to this decision due to a lack of personnel and vocations in our small ageing province in the UK.

When we arrived in Beckenham back in 2016, we were welcomed into the Parish with open arms and given your full support for our new mission. You supported us with your time, prayer, gifts, donations, and friendship.

We are very sad but want to assure you that we will never forget our time here with you across the road.

As a final goodbye and thank you, we would like to invite you to join us on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October at noon to celebrate Mass** in the church and afterwards at 25 Village Way for light refreshments. It will be an opportunity for us to thank God for the many blessings given to us over the last 5 years and to say our final goodbye

We look forward to seeing you.

God's blessings,

Sr Connie

Dear friends at St. Edmund's, I am writing this with immense gratitude for your incredible generosity to me following my Ordination to the Priesthood this July. I want to thank each and every one of you - every gift, every prayer is hugely appreciated. I greatly enjoyed celebrating my first Mass in Beckenham and enjoying the day with many of you! I send you every blessing in Jesus and ask you to please keep me in your prayers! In Christ, through Whom all things are possible,

Fr Joseph Gulliford

### FUNDRAISING DINNER FOR THE ST EDMUND'S HEATING FUND

Saturday 29 October

7.00 pm



Solidaction UK is hosting a fundraising Feijoada (Brazilian) dinner in aid of the St Edmund's Heating Fund.

This will be a great evening of Brazilian cuisine, music and fun.

Tickets are £15 per person (£5.00 under 12s) and include the main course and entertainment.

Drinks, desserts and raffle tickets can be purchased on the night.

Go to the ChurchSuite link on the website to purchase your tickets:

[https://stedmunds.churchsuite.com/modules/calendar/event\\_view.php?id=8389](https://stedmunds.churchsuite.com/modules/calendar/event_view.php?id=8389)

or come to the church office

(Monday – Friday 9.00am to 1.00pm).



Aid to the  
Church in Need

ACN UNITED KINGDOM

### CARD AND BOOK SALE

I will be selling children's books, Christmas cards and other items this Sunday on behalf of **Aid to the Church in Need**. The sale will be in the hall after the 9.30 am Mass and in the church porch after the 11.00 am Mass.

Thanks to your generosity, and that of other parishes, Aid to the Church in Need has so far donated over 5 million Euros to Ukraine to ensure that priests, religious sisters, and brothers who have stayed behind will receive all the financial support and aid that they need to provide material aid and spiritual support to their suffering people. Additionally, we have projects in over 140 other countries providing material and spiritual support to suffering Christians via their priests and religious. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Jerry Lohan

Please would you bring in your Missio box for emptying. You can hand it to a steward at Mass or bring it to the Parish Office any weekday morning.

**Please do not take it into the sacristy.**



When emptied it will be left on the reading slope for you to collect. Please take a look to see if your box is there. The collection of unclaimed boxes is growing by the week.

### PILGRIMAGES

The pilgrimage to Fatima has been postponed but there are still places available on the Lourdes short pilgrimage.

If you are interested please contact Diane immediately on 07951 194 036 or [dianebrelubrelu@gmail.com](mailto:dianebrelubrelu@gmail.com)

### A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY Saturday 8 October

St Stephen's Church, Welling  
Formation day for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors.  
More details as we get them.

### LIGHT OF CHRIST CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

St Edmund's Hall

Wednesday 21 September

7.45 pm - Praise & Worship

8.00 pm - Holy Mass

Celebrant: Fr Boniface Arapa

Followed by informal Prayer Meeting

10.00 pm - Evening concludes

St Philomena's Catholic High School for Girls is seeking to appoint a TA. Further information is available from <https://www.stphils.org.uk/join-us/vacancies>

### SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

This autumn Deacon Duncan Aitkins celebrates the 25th anniversary of his ordination. We are all invited to a special Mass on Tuesday 4 October at 7.30 pm at St Joseph's Bromley. Principal Celebrant and Preacher: Fr Kevin Robinson

### FLAME 2023

For young people aged 14 and over, Flame 2023 tickets will be on sale at an early-bird price of £12/seat, available from the parish office from 20 September. This is a *Deanery Youth Day Out* brought to you by the CYM Team. We will travel to and from Wembley by coach on Saturday 4 March 2023 – Don't miss it! Register your interest here:

<https://forms.gle/ZX2UTYQ8LPWWhFBRt5>



### "Grief in Loss, Hope in Christ"

A weekend for those who are in mourning.

Emotions out of control, feeling at a loss?

This weekend is a time for you.

A space for you.

Aylesford Priory, 7- 9 October.

For enquiries please telephone Aylesford Priory 01622 717 272

**MASSES FOR WEEK COMMENCING 18 September YR C**

**Sunday 18 September** **Twenty fifth Sunday Home Mission Sunday**  
 Crescenzo & Delisa Panetta RIP  
 For the people  
 Jack O'Brien RIP  
 Evan Wilson RIP

6.00 pm vigil Church  
 8.00 am Church  
 9.30 am Church  
 9.30 am Hall  
 (FAMILY MASS)  
 11.00 am Church  
 5.30 pm Church  
 Tina Loughney RIP  
 Florence Logan RIP

**Monday 19 September** **Feria (St Theodore of Canterbury)**  
 Ints of Sr Monica on her Feast Day

10.00 am Church

**No evening Mass tonight**  
 7.00 pm **25 VW** Adoration

**Tuesday 20 September** **St Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest & Paul Chong Hasang, & Companions, Martyrs.**  
 Jim Filgate RIP  
 John & Pat McAvoy RIP

10.00 am Church  
 6.00 pm Church

**Wednesday 21 September** **St Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist.**  
 Rita Tildsey RIP  
 Thanksgiving for the Immaculate Heart of Mary & of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

10.00 am Church  
 6.00 pm Church

**Thursday 22 September** **Feria**  
**THE CHURCH IS CLOSED ALL DAY FOR THE HEATING ENGINEERS TO DO INTERNAL WORK.**  
 8.00 pm Claver Adoration

**Friday 23 September** **Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)**  
**THE CHURCH WILL OPEN AT 09.45 AND CLOSE IMMEDIATELY AFTER MASS FOR THE HEATING ENGINEERS TO CONTINUE THE INTERNAL WORK.**  
 10.00 am Church  
 Dorothy Kufeji (birthday thanksgiving)

**NO EVENING MASS TODAY**

**Saturday 24 September** **Our Lady of Walsingham**  
 First Holy Communion  
 Enrolment Mass  
 Marianne Martin RIP

10.00 am Church  
 6.00 pm vigil Church

**Sunday 25 September** **Twenty sixth Sunday Day of Prayer for the Harvest**  
 Connolly Family, living & dec'd  
 Eternal Rest for Adam RIP (22nd anniv)  
 For the people  
 Maria & Julius Jasiewicz RIP (2nd anniv)  
 Paul Stephens RIP

8.00 am Church  
 9.30 am Church  
 9.30 am Hall  
 (FAMILY MASS)  
 11.00 am Church  
 5.30 pm Church

*There is Rosary every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9.30 am, and Adoration after the 10.00 am Mass Monday to Friday unless there is a funeral.*

*On Friday Adoration concludes with Benediction.*

*Confessions are every Saturday from 10.30 am - 11.00 am and from*

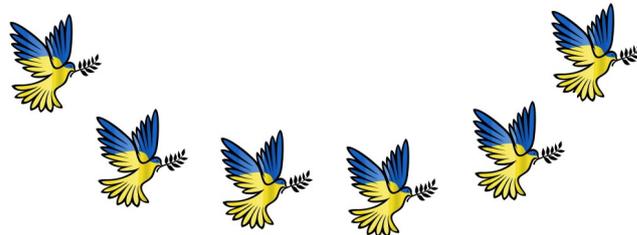
**DIARY**

**September**

Tuesday 20 After morning Mass. Refreshments for all in No 27 Village Way

**October**

Wednesday 5 at 7.00 pm in Hall. Second meeting with the clergy to discuss Parish Vision



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**EMERGENCY**  
 Pakistan Floods Appeal



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**cafod.org.uk/Give**

**MEDITATION**

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

**CONTEMPLATIVE SATURDAY**

In the Hall from 11.00 am -12 noon on every second Saturday, the next one is on **8 October**.

*Prayer is to the soul  
 as rain is to the soil.*

There is to be a solemn Requiem Mass to honour Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at St George's Cathedral at noon on Sunday 18 September.

**We pray for those who have died recently:** Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Alison French, Kingsley Fernando, John Parkin, Daniel Ndoumou Obame, Terry Maughan, Flor Frampton.

**We pray for those whose anniversaries are this week:** Ann Zacaroli, Marisia Nawara, Maria Okafor, Pat McAvoy, Evelina Rettie, John Stoneman, Marion Martin, Patricia English, Paul Stephens, Edward Sullivan, Esther Smith, Ann Margaret Wood.

**We pray for all members of our parish and beyond, and in particular those who are suffering from ill health.**

*Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*