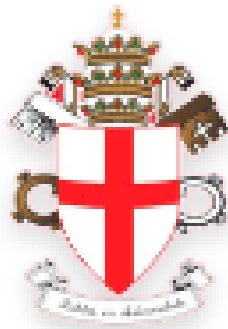




Aid to the Church in Need

Mass for Persecuted Christians in Africa



St George's
Cathedral
S O U T H W A R K

#REDWEDNESDAY

22nd November 2023, 6:00pm

Celebrant:

His Excellency

Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía,
Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain.

Concelebrating: Archbishop John Wilson, Southwark.

Welcome to a special ACN #RedWednesday Mass at St George's Cathedral for Persecuted Christians in Africa and worldwide.

Presented this evening at the end of Mass will be ACN's first **#RedWednesday 'Courage to be Christian' Award**, along with a short talk and update on why this #RedWednesday's focus is Africa. After join the team **for refreshments and conversation** in the hall.

In many parts of Africa there has been an explosion of violence, with millions displaced and living in fear. This #RedWednesday we are calling on UK Christians to give people in desperate need reasons for **hope by offering practical and spiritual help.**

This evening and until the end of the year we ask for your **#RW Action**. Prayer is powerful, will you help us 'storm heaven' with prayers for our brothers and sister. Pledge your decades of the Rosary and together we can reach 100,000 **Decades of the Rosary for Africa.**

£100k4Africa Challenge is a new way to help this #RedWednesday by donating or fundraising. Donations whether big or small made by Christmas will be doubled by a small group of generous donors.



More details at: www.acnuk.org/redwednesday

Thank you wholeheartedly for supporting ACN's #RedWednesday.
With grateful thanks to St George's Cathedral team.

Procession of priests and Religious

Representing communities and countries from the continent of Africa, into St George's Cathedral.

All stand.

Entrance Hymn: **Amazing Grace**

**Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch; like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.**

**The Lord has promised good to me;
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**

Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Peace be with you.
And with your spirit.

Welcome

The welcome address will be given by His Grace, the Most Reverend John Wilson, Catholic Archbishop of Southwark.

Penitential Act

*Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.*

**I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,**

And, striking their breast, they say:

**through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

The absolution follows:

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

All sing:

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy, Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

Collect

The Archbishop says:

Let us pray.

Grant us in your compassion,
O Lord, we pray,
an increase of that faith
which brought glory to your holy Martyrs
as they maintained it even
to the shedding of their blood,
and may the same faith bring to us,
who truly follow it,
justification in your sight.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

All sit.

First Reading

2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

It happened also that seven brothers and their mother were arrested and were being compelled by the king, under torture with whips and cords, to partake of unlawful swine's flesh. One of them, acting as their spokesman, said, "What do you intend to ask and learn from us? For we are ready to die rather than transgress the laws of our fathers."

And when he was at his last breath, he said, "You accursed wretch, you dismiss us from this present life, but the King of the universe will raise us up to an everlasting renewal of life, because we have died for his laws."

After him, the third was the victim of their sport. When it was demanded, he quickly put out his tongue and courageously stretched forth his hands, and said nobly, "I got these from Heaven, and because of his laws I disdain them, and from him I hope to get them back again." As a result the king himself and those with him were astonished at the young man's spirit, for he regarded his sufferings as nothing. When he too had died, they maltreated and tortured the fourth in the same way. And when he was near death, he said, "One cannot but choose to die at the hands of men and to cherish the hope that God gives of being raised again by him. But for you there will be no resurrection to life!"

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial psalm

Ps 30: 3-4, 6, 8, 16, 17. R v.6

R. Into thy hand I commit my spirit.

Be thou a rock of refuge for me,
a strong fortress to save me!
Yea, thou art my rock and my fortress;
for thy name's sake lead me and guide me. **R.**

Into thy hand I commit my spirit;
thou hast redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God.

Thou hates those who pay regard to vain idols;
but I trust in the Lord.
I will rejoice and be glad for thy steadfast love. **R.**

My times are in thy hand;
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors!
Let thy face shine on thy servant;
save me in thy steadfast love! **R.**

All stand.

Gospel Acclamation

R. Alleluia, alleluia!

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

R. Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

All remain standing.

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

15: 18-21

Glory to you, O Lord.

“If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will keep yours also. But all this they will do to you on my account, because they do not know him who sent me.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

All sit.

The homily will be delivered by the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía

The Prayer of the Faithful

After each intention there is a pause while the faithful pray.

Let us pray for the Church in Africa, and for the clergy, Religious, seminarians, and novitiates, and for all who teach the faith, that strengthened by the Holy Spirit, they will continue to be witnesses to God's merciful love.

Lord, in your mercy.

R. Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the protection of women and girls from intimidation, abduction, forced marriage, and all forms of violence.

Lord, in your mercy.

R. Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for God's mercy and courage for all who suffer injustice, corruption, violence, and oppression, especially for those who suffer religious persecution, forced conversion, kidnapping and enslavement.

Lord, in your mercy.

R. Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the conversion of the hearts and minds of those persons who seek to or commit acts of Christian persecution and their supporters.

Lord, in your mercy.

R. Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for God's mercy and peace to flourish throughout Africa, by breaking the bonds of hostility, prejudice, and indifference.

Lord, in your mercy.

R. Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the protection of persecuted Christians, and those mistreated unjustly because of for their faith in Christ.

Lord, in your mercy.

R. Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for consolation, healing, reconciliation, and hope for families and communities living with mental health conditions, and physical illnesses after fleeing their homes to seek safety and security from their persecutors.

Lord, in your mercy.

R. Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for God's blessing for the success of inter-religious dialogue, and for peace-building initiatives between different groups and communities in Africa.

Lord, in your mercy.

R. Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who have died because of Christian persecution and for their families, friends, and communities who mourn them.

Lord, in your mercy.

R. Hear our prayer.

*The Archbishop concludes the Prayer with a collect.
When the Liturgy of the Word has been completed, the people sit.*

The Liturgy of the Eucharist Preparation of the altar and the offerings

Offertory hymn:

Lord, accept the gifts we offer

At this Eucharistic feast,

Bread and wine to be transformed now

Through the action of thy priest.

Take us too, Lord, and transform us

Be thy grace in us increased.

May our souls be pure and spotless

As the host of wheat so fine.

May all stain of sin be crushed out

Like the grape that forms the wine.

As we, too, become partakers

In this sacrifice divine.

Take our gifts, Almighty Father,

Living God, eternal, true.

Which we give through Christ, our saviour,

Pleading here for us anew.

Grant salvation to all present,

And our faith and love renew.

Pray, brothers and sisters,
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

**R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good
and the good of all his holy Church.**

The Archbishop says the Prayer over the Offerings:

Look with favour, we pray, O Lord,
upon these sacrificial gifts offered here
that, celebrating in mystery
the Passion of your Son,
we may, honour it with loving devotion.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation II

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

It is truly right and just
that we should give you thanks and praise,

O God, almighty Father,
for all you do in this world,
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

For though the human race
is divided by dissension and discord,
yet we know that by testing us
you change our hearts
to prepare them for reconciliation.

Even more, by your Spirit you move human hearts
that enemies may speak to each other again,

adversaries may join hands,
and peoples seek to meet together.
By the working of your power
it comes about, O Lord,
that hatred is overcome by love,
revenge gives way to forgiveness,
and discord is changed to mutual respect.
Therefore, as we give you ceaseless thanks
with the choirs of heaven,
we cry out to your majesty on earth,
and without end we acclaim:

The Archbishop continues with the Preface at the end of which all sing:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Archbishop, with hands extended, says:

You, therefore, almighty Father,
we bless through Jesus Christ your Son,
who comes in your name.
He himself is the Word that brings salvation,
the hand you extend to sinners,
the way by which your peace is offered to us.
When we ourselves had turned away from you
on account of our sins,
you brought us back to be reconciled, O Lord,
so that, converted at last to you,
we might love one another
through your Son,
whom for our sake you handed over to death.

The Archbishop joins his hands and, holding them extended over the offerings, says:

And now, celebrating the reconciliation

Christ has brought us, we entreat you: sanctify these gifts by the outpouring of your Spirit,

The Archbishop joins his hands and makes the Sign of the Cross once over the bread and chalice together, saying:

that they may become the Body and Blood of your Son,
whose command we fulfil
when we celebrate these mysteries.

For when about to give his life to set us free,
as he reclined at supper,

He takes the bread and, holding it slightly raised above the altar, continues:

he himself took bread into his hands,
and giving you thanks, he said the blessing,
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

He bows slightly.

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

He shows the consecrated host to the people, places it again on the paten, and genuflects in adoration. After this, he continues:

In a similar way, on that same evening,
He takes the chalice and, holding it slightly raised above the altar, continues:
he took the chalice of blessing in his hands,
confessing your mercy,
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

He bows slightly.

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,

WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY

FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

He shows the chalice to the people, places it on the corporal, and genuflects in adoration.

The mystery of faith.

**R. We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

Then the Archbishop, with hands extended, says:

Celebrating, therefore, the memorial
of the Death and Resurrection of your Son,
who left us this pledge of his love,
we offer you what you have bestowed on us,
the Sacrifice of perfect reconciliation.

Holy Father, we humbly beseech you
to accept us also, together with your Son,
and in this saving banquet
graciously to endow us with his very Spirit,
who takes away everything
that estranges us from one another.

May he make your Church a sign of unity
and an instrument of your peace among all people
and may he keep us in communion
with Francis our Pope and John our Bishop
and all the Bishops
and your entire people.

Just as you have gathered us now at the table of your Son,
so also bring us together,
with the glorious Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with your blessed Apostles and all the Saints,
with our brothers and sisters
and those of every race and tongue
who have died in your friendship.

Bring us to share with them the unending banquet of unity
in a new heaven and a new earth,

where the fullness of your peace will shine forth.
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

He takes the chalice and the paten with the host and, raising both, he says:

Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,
for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

The Communion Rite

After the chalice and paten have been set down, all stand and the Archbishop, with hands joined, says:

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

He extends his hands and, together with the people, continues

The Lord's Prayer

All stand.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope

and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ

R. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Sign of Peace

Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you;
look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All offer one another the customary sign of peace.

Breaking of the Bread

The Archbishop takes the host, breaks it over the paten, and places a small piece in the chalice, saying quietly:

May this mingling of the Body and Blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ
bring eternal life to us who receive it.

The following is sung:

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

Communion

After his private prayers of preparation the Archbishop genuflects, takes the host and, holding it slightly raised above the paten or above the chalice says aloud:

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

And together with the people he adds:

**Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

The communicants come forward in reverent procession, and make a preparatory act of reverence by bowing their head in honour of Christ's presence in the Sacrament.

Communion motet: **Panis Angelicus by Franck**

The Body of Christ.

Amen.

After the distribution of Communion, if appropriate, a sacred silence may be observed for a while, or a psalm or other canticle of praise or a hymn may be sung.

Post Communion Hymn: **Soul of my Saviour**

**Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast;
Body of Christ, be thou my saving guest;
Blood of my Saviour, bathe me in thy tide;
Wash me with water flowing from his side.**

**Strength and protection may thy Passion be;
O Blessed Jesus, hear and answer me;
Deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me;
So shall I never, never part from thee.**

**Guard and defend me from the foe malign
In death's dread moments make me only thine
Call me and bid me come to thee on high
Where I may praise thee with thy saints for aye.**

Prayer after Communion

All stand.

Let us pray.

All pray in silence. Then the Archbishop says the Prayer after Communion,

Having been fed, O Lord,
(on the commemoration of your blessed Martyrs)

With the precious Body and Blood
of your Only Begotten Son,
we humbly pray:
grant that by steadfast charity
we may abide in you,
draw life from you,
and to you be drawn.
Through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

Concluding Rites

Announcements:

ACN's #RedWednesday 'Courage to be Christian' Award Presentation

Caroline Hull, National Director of Aid to the Church in Need UK
to introduce ACN's first #RedWednesday 'Courage to be Christian' Award.

Presentation of the award by the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain,
His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía.

John Pontifex, Head of Press and Information will give a brief overview of our
Africa Update Report and how you are making a difference this #RedWednesday.

The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.

Blessing

May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.

Dismissal

Then the Deacon, or the Archbishop, facing the people, says one of the following:

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

Or

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

Or

Go in peace.

R. Thanks be to God.

Recessional hymn: **For All the Saints**

**For all the saints who from their labours rest,
who Thee by faith before the world confessed;
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.**

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their Might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.**

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.**

Alleluia, Alleluia!

**From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thank you for supporting ACN's #RedWednesday

Please join us for a reception in the Hall.

Follow Christian's African drumming to the hall for refreshments and conversation. Try a traditional Nigerian snack Puff-puff made of fried dough and eaten across Africa. Made with flour, yeast, sugar, butter, salt, water and eggs and fried in vegetable oil until golden. There'll also be Chin chin is also a crunchy, donut-like baked or fried dough of wheat flour.



Aid to the Church in Need

#RedWednesday Award: 'Courage to be Christian'

Presented by
His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía
Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain

Awarded to
Margaret Attah
On behalf of the Clergy and Parishioners of
St Francis Xavier's Catholic Church, Owo, Nigeria.



**I THANK GOD FOR WHAT
ACN IS DOING. I THANK
GOD I AM ALIVE. I HAVE
SO MANY REASONS TO
BE THANKFUL TO GOD."**



In June 2022, anti-Christian militants stormed St Francis Xavier's Church, Owo in south-west Nigeria killing 41 people, including 6 children. Amongst the 70 people injured, Margaret, a nurse and mother of four, lost both her legs and her sight in one eye.

The first **#RedWednesday 'Courage to be Christian'** Award
is given by ACN in recognition of:

- Fortitude when confronted with acts of extreme persecution
- Unwavering witness to the Faith in spite of acts of religious hatred
- Willingness to forgive in response to violence and oppression

PRAYER



**PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS URGENTLY NEED
YOUR SPIRITUAL SUPPORT - PLEASE HELP THEM.**

100,000 Decades of the Rosary for Africa

Help us to 'storm heaven' with prayers for our brothers & sisters.
Please pledge your Rosary decades online.

£100,000 Matched Challenge for Africa

Help families this Christmas and your gift will be doubled.

£25: Can provide **trauma counselling** for children and adults

£100: Can provide **emergency relief** for displaced families escaping violence

£1,000: Can keep Christ present by **re-building destroyed Churches**



Religious Freedom in the World 2023: Africa Update

Request a downloadable copy online or watch the highlights.



Aid to the Church in Need

With grateful thanks to:

Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía.

Archbishop John Wilson.

Canon Michael Branch and the whole team at St George's Cathedral for their generous hospitality. Father Phil Andrews for being Master of Ceremonies along with attending Clergy and special guests.

£100,000 Matched Challenge for Africa

Donations this evening will go towards the challenge. Gifts by Christmas will be matched, doubling your help.

100,000 Decades of the Rosary for Africa

Help us to 'storm heaven' with prayers for our brothers & sisters.

For full details visit: www.acnuk.org/redwednesday



Christmas Carol Service

Wednesday 13th December, 7pm at The Oratory

Featuring The Schola Cantorum conducted by Charles Cole.

Guest readers include Carole Boyd (Lynda Snell in The Archers)

Followed by Festive Reception tickets £15.

For full details visit: www.acnuk.org/events