

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Copenhagen Street

Clergy: Mgr. Séamus O'Boyle (Parish Priest) Fr David Lucuy
Fr Larry Milby

Pastoral Assistant: Sister Miriam Bruder SSND (020 7837 8378)

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Parish Office opening times: Tuesday-Friday 10.00am -2.00pm



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

26th March 2017

INSIGHTS

Today Jesus cures a man who has been blind from birth, but it is not the blindness of the man himself that is central to this story but the blindness of those around him. The Pharisees are pretty sure they know who Jesus is and they are fairly certain that he is not of God. Consequently they are completely non-plussed by Jesus' miracle. They question the cured man over and over as though seeking some other explanation. The Pharisees are unable to believe the evidence before their eyes. They are just as blind as the blind man once was. They are blind to the truth because they refuse to see it.

Jesus chose to cure the blind man, not simply because he felt a sympathy for him but because he wanted to display how God can work through any one of us. Jesus could see that the blind man would make a persuasive evangelist, and he was right. The cured blind man, unlike his frightened parents, spoke out boldly and persistently first proclaiming Jesus as a prophet, and then as he gained more insight, that this man was the Son of God. Even so, the short-sighted Pharisees were not convinced. Their belief that only Moses could act as spokesperson for God, rendered them totally myopic when it came to Jesus. Perhaps there is a lesson here for all of us. Are we so blinkered in what we believe and how we worship, that we are unable to see the broader picture that would allow our faith to move forwards?

Jesus' miracle and choice of subject, teaches that God can work through any one of us. In the circumstances of our lives we can show others how God works. In our skills and talents we too can be evangelists, we just need the vision and a little bit of lateral thinking.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER & REFLECTION DURING THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

Seniors' Gathering: Come and join your peers in prayer, reflection and socialising, Wednesday, 29th March 2:00 p.m. in the church hall. Last session before Easter.

Exploring Prayer and Faith: Wednesday 29th 7.00 p.m. Join with others to learn about and experience aspects of Catholic spirituality and teaching. Last one before Easter.

Mass and Stations of the Cross: Fridays at 7:00pm. Opportunity for private confession after Stations.

For your Diary: Parish Retreat Day, Saturday, 8th April, 10:30 – 3:30 Saturday, 8 April, 10:30 - 3:30 you are welcome to a retreat day here at Blessed Sacrament. This is an opportunity to prepare personally to enter into the events of Holy Week. The day begins with Holy Mass and includes reflection on Jesus' death and resurrection and time for quiet personal prayer. A simple lunch will be provided. It will be helpful to have some idea of interest. If you want to take part, please sign on the paper by the notice board or fill in a form from there and give it to Sister Miriam by the 4th of April.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Saturday, 1 April is the next meeting for the children's Choir from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

CONFIRMATION & POST-CONFIRMATION: All are invited to take part in the Jewish Passover meal "PASCHAL SEDER" on Wednesday 29th March from 6:45pm -8:30pm in the Crypt of St John the Evangelist 39 Duncan Terrace. Please confirm your attendance with Fr David or Sr Miriam before Monday 27th March. Thanks.

WEB SITE: Check out the parish website at www.rcdow.org.uk/copenhagenstreet the site now includes the newsletter and much more. If you Google Blessed Sacrament, don't go to the "Catholic Directory" site as it is outdated.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: Please collect your box of Planned Giving envelopes for 2017/18, please DO NOT USE THEM until the week ending 8th April 2017'.

SPIRITUAL READING AND PRAYER BOOKS: There are some religious books on the cupboard at the back of church. If you are interested, please help yourself.

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS: Envelopes £348.24 Loose £272.99 CAFOD £399.86
Thank you for your generosity.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS:

Please remember to pray for those who have died recently: Barbara McKenzie, and for all those whose anniversaries are about this time. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

HEALING FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK: especially Leny Tirado, Mary Payne, Alice Clancy, Doreen Clayton, Tom Hunt, Sophia O'Donnell, Monica Smith (O'Leary), Eugene Mariner, Cassie Robinson, Tessa Charlton, Michael Hehir, Emmanuel Tala, Mary Wallace, Nina & Jocelyn Hillgarth, Filomena Barbo, Colin Harris, Margaret Phillips, Peggy Walsh., Nora Moran, Maria Carrano, Teresa Finnigan, May Cullen., Gordana Tancevska, Irene Bryan, Phuong Quach , Albert Boateng, Anne Griffin, baby Freddie Mudd.

MASSES THIS WEEK:

DATE	FEAST DAYS	TIME	INTENTION
Sunday 26 th March	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Mass Book p.160)	8.30am 11.00am	Dena Adams RIP Dan Ahern RIP
Monday 27 th March	<i>Lent feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 28 st March	<i>Lent feria</i>	1.30pm	Private Intention
Wednesday 29 th March	<i>Lent feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Friday 31 st March	<i>Lent feria (Mass followed by Stations of the Cross)</i>	7.00pm	Private Intention
Saturday 1 st April	<i>Lent feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Sunday 2 nd April	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	8.30am 11.00am	All our Parishioners Joseph Taylor RIP (Anniv)

Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday 10.30am

Weekend Masses: Saturday 10.30am, Sunday 8.30am & 11.00am

Confessions: Sunday 8am-8.20am: 10.30am – 10.50am

Weekday Mass at St John the Evangelist Monday - Friday at 10.00am – All welcome

Confessions at St John's on Saturday 10.30-11.15am and 5.15-5.45pm