

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Copenhagen Street

Clergy: Mgr. Séamus O'Boyle (Parish Priest) Fr David Lucuy
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Parish Office opening times: Tuesday-Friday 10.00am -2.00pm



TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

17th September 2017

Our Turn to Forgive

Forgiveness is difficult. We read about the victims of horrendous crimes and wonder how those people could ever begin to forgive - we even question why they should have to. Most of us know how hard it is to forgive even a small grudge once it has been left to fester. Many of us know what it is like to excuse ourselves with "...Well she started it so she should really apologise first," or, "It's his problem not mine." There are limits on our forgiveness. Why should we accept the apology of someone who has let us down repeatedly? Why if we have given someone every last chance should we be expected to forgive yet again? Yet Jesus tells us that we must forgive "...not seven times, but seventy-seven times."

If there should be no limits to our forgiveness perhaps we should begin by looking at what makes it so difficult to grant genuine forgiveness. Anger probably comes top of the list. We don't want people to get away with hurting us. Pride often stands in our way too. Forgiving someone often involves an element of 'climbing down'. Also close to the top of the list of obstacles comes a lack of understanding. When we hear of a crime, whether it is small or large, we always ask "Why?" It seems that in order to forgive, we must first understand what has made the other person do what they have done.

Today's readings suggest that in order to make it easier to forgive others, we should look at how often we have asked God to forgive us, often for the same failing. This is the lesson in today's gospel, Jesus is reminding the servant who was unable to forgive that he himself was forgiven. How could the servant expect his master's forgiveness if he could not forgive others? Remembering how we have been forgiven makes us more compassionate when it is our turn to forgive.



PARISH NEWS

PARISH BARBECUE: Next Sunday, 24 September is our BBQ from 12:00 to 5:30pm Come and bring your friends and pray for good weather. Can you help by coming **Saturday, 23 Sept. 5:00 – 7:00 pm** for hall preparations; by taking a turn at the grill (let us know today); by contributing a raffle prize suitable for BBQ or Christmas Bazaar?

LEARNING ABOUT BEING A CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN: The course for those interested in learning more about faith either because you want to refresh your understanding or you may be interested in joining the church starts tomorrow, 18th of September at 7:30 at St. John's, Duncan Terrace N1 8AL. Come along if interested.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: On Tuesday, 19th September, 6:30 – 8:30 Caritas is hosting an informative evening focussing on why human trafficking is an issue, the extent of the problem in London, and practical actions we can take. The event is specifically for people living in Camden and Islington boroughs. It takes place at Kilburn West Parish, NW6 5RS. See poster on notice board for details.

SAVE THIS DATE: The volunteers' party, postponed from July, will take place 14 October.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: We are hoping to continue with monthly children's choir on the second Sunday of the month. This depends on having enough parent volunteers to help on the Saturdays. If you are willing, please talk to Josephine Onwuka or Sister. Thank you

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION REGISTRATION: If you wish to prepare your child (Year 3 or older) for First Confession and First Communion this year, you will find by the notice board a letter with more information and a registration form which is due by 9 October.

PLANNED GIVING DONATIONS: We will shortly be submitting our Gift Aid claim to HMRC for Planned Giving donations for 2016/17. If you have not paid any tax for the year 2016/17 please e-mail me, oscarignatius@rcdow.org.uk ASAP. Thank you.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS:

Please remember to pray for Eugene Mariner (Jacky's husband) who died recently 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 Alice Clancy, Doreen Clayton, Tom Hunt, Sophia O'Donnell, Monica Smith (O'Leary), 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, May Cullen., Gordana Tancevska, Irene Bryan, Phuong Quach, Albert Boateng, Anne & Thomas Griffin, Freddie Mudd, Margaret Cross, Catherine Barnes, Josephine Onwuka (knee surgery), Ellen Hunt & Raymond Willoughby

MASSES THIS WEEK:			
DATE	FEAST DAYS	TIME	INTENTION
Sunday 17 th Sept	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>(Parish Mass Book p. 128)</i>	8.30am 11.00am	Dena Adams RIP (Anniv.) Thanksgiving for Mary Todd
Monday 18 th Sept	<i>feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 19 th Sept	<i>feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Wednesday 20 th Sept	<i>SS Andrew Kim Tae-gon & Companions</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Saturday 23 rd Sept	<i>St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)</i>	10.30am	All our Parishioners
Sunday 24 th Sept	TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>(Parish Mass Book p. 131)</i>	8.30am 11.00am	Dena Adams RIP Linda & Scott Budge RIP

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