

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Copenhagen Street

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

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



TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

20th August 2017

Is God's Salvation for Us All?



Just when we thought that Jesus' love was all embracing and all compassionate, he shocks us by behaving in a way that can only be described as harsh and unfeeling. In today's gospel Jesus is approached by a Canaanite woman, who pesters him to cure her daughter. 'Canaanite' was the name given to the older inhabitants of Israel who were dispossessed as unclean by Jesus' own people. Jesus would not have been expected to fraternise with such a woman. True to expectation, Jesus does not respond to the woman, explaining that he has been sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel ... this woman is therefore not his problem! Could Jesus really have held this harsh opinion, or was he testing his disciples?

The Canaanite woman continues to pester. She has great faith that Jesus will eventually give in and cure her daughter. Again Jesus responds harshly. "It is not right to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs..." In other words, only Jews had a right to be treated as 'children of God'. The Gentiles on the other hand are likened to 'dogs'. This opinion seems even less like the Jesus we know! Much more likely is the notion that Jesus is stretching his disciples' understanding of God's boundaries, or rather, lack of. When we first read the Bible we get the feeling that God is simply there for the 'Children of Israel' or the Hebrew Nation, but the truth is that God does not limit his promises to just certain categories of people. The story finishes with Jesus rewarding the woman's faith with a cure. At first it might appear that Jesus is giving in to 'pester power', though it is much more likely that Jesus had decided from the very outset that he would help this woman. In awarding a cure, Jesus is showing his disciples and us, that faith has the power to melt boundaries and prejudice. Even today we probably imagine God's salvation is for a select few, but today's story teaches us that salvation is there for anyone and everyone who places their trust in God.



PARISH NEWS

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a Funeral Mass at 10am on Wednesday 23rd August here for the repose of the soul of Michael McLoughlin.

There is a 10 o'clock Mass each morning at St John's, 39 Duncan Terrace 39 N1 8AL

LEARNING ABOUT BEING A CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN: If you, or someone you know, is interested in learning more about faith either because you want to refresh your understanding or you may be interested in joining the church, please fill in one of the forms from the stand by the church door and leave it in the sacristy. Sr Miriam will be in touch with you at the end of August.

BLESSED TANSI PILGRIMAGE: Saturday, 26th August is the annual pilgrimage to Mt. St. Bernard Abbey in Leicestershire in honour of Blessed Tansi. Coach seats (£20 adults; £10. Children) can be reserved with payment. Contacts: Lydia Willoughby (+447903458986), Antoinette Kamara or Josephine Onwuka.

PARISH WEBSITE: Thanks to Valentine Nzekwe our website (www.rcdow.org.uk/copenhagenstreet) has been updated. It now includes our weekly newsletter, so if you are away, you can still find out the parish news. Have a look and share any ideas with Valentine.

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION:

Envelopes , loose plate £ **Thank you for your generosity.**

PLANNED GIVING DONATIONS

'We will shortly be submitting our Gift Aid claim to HMRC claiming back all 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'.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS:

Please remember to pray for Ronald Rowley, Emilio Tirado, Marie McKee, Dr Peter Griffith (father of Julia Williams), James Daly and Michael McLoughlin **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), 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, May Cullen., Gordana Tancevska, Irene Bryan, Phuong Quach, Albert Boateng, Anne & Thomas Griffin, Freddie Mudd, Margaret Cross, Catherine Barnes & Josephine Onwuka (knee surgery).

MASSES THIS WEEK:

DATE	FEAST DAYS	TIME	INTENTION
Sunday 20 th August	TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Mass Book p.116)	8.30am 11.00am	Bridie Rynne (RIP) Fr John Hai Pham (RIP)
Monday 21 st August	<i>St Pius X, Pope</i>		<u>NO MASS THIS DAY</u>
Tuesday 22 nd August	<i>The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>		<u>NO MASS THIS DAY</u>
Wednesday 23 rd August	<i>Funeral Mass</i>	10.00am	<i>Funeral Mass for Michael McLoughlin</i>
Saturday 26 th August	<i>feria</i>	10.30am	All our parishioners
Sunday 27 th August	TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Mass Book p.118)	8.30am 11.00am	Bridget Devitt (RIP) Jimmy Duggan (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