

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



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

23rd July 2017

Wheat and Weeds

Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a field in which the master has sown good seed. In the night, an enemy comes and plants weeds, so when the crop grows it is a mixture of wheat and weed. The servants' instinct is to pull the weeds out, but the master demands that the bad grow alongside the good ... he himself will sort the wheat from the weeds at the final harvest.

It's a typical Palestinian problem, the darnel weed, which looks just like wheat in its early stages is a menace to the harvest. The roots of the darnel weed intertwine with the roots of the wheat. To pull the darnel out can jeopardise the harvest. Similarly, just as it's hard to tell the difference between wheat and darnel, so it's not always easy for us to tell the difference between good and evil. A bad person can change and become good, and a seemingly good person might not be as virtuous as we imagine. It's best if we refrain from judging; this job is best left to God.

In films and novels, the good guys always win and the bad guys always get their come-uppance. Happy endings satisfy our human sense of justice, but in reality, justice seems strangely elusive. We come up against evil time and time again. Sometimes we get so angry that we want to take justice into our own hands. Sometimes we are incensed that God can allow evil to grow alongside good, but before we get too irate, maybe we need to stop and take a good long look in the mirror. What makes us so sure that we're not weeds too? Where did we get that assurance that we are represented in the parable as the wheat?

Rarely is reality black and white. We all have good and bad inside us. We all need to change, and we all deserve the opportunity to make those changes. Perhaps this is the reason Jesus' advises us to leave the evil to grow alongside the good. As Martin Luther King Jnr. once said, "God's purpose is not wrathful judgement. God's purpose is redemption, and the road to redemption is by way of reconciliation."



PARISH NEWS

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: £341.29 Loose plate: £202.68 Thank you for your generosity.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS:

Please remember to pray for Emilio Tirado, Marie McKee, Dr Peter Griffith (father of Julia Williams) & James Daly 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 23 rd July	SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Mass Book p.105)	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Emilio Tirado RIP
Monday 24 th July	<i>feria</i>	10.30am	Patrick McDonagh RIP
Tuesday 25 th July	<i>St James</i>	10.30am	Mary Payne RIP
Wednesday 26 th July	<i>SS Joachim & Anne</i>	10.30am	Dena Adams RIP
Friday 28 th July	<i>feria</i>	<u>12noon</u>	Funeral of Marie McKee RIP
Saturday 29 th July	<i>St Martha</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Sunday 30 th July	SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Mass Book p.108)	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Anna Kam Ho 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