

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



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

24th September 2017

What Sort of Union Must God Be In?

Born in 1750, the story goes that Italian composer Antonio Salieri studied harpsichord and violin from an early age. Music was his passion, but not possessing much in the way of natural talent, he had to work extremely hard to achieve success. Imagine his feelings of joy and great privilege to reach the prestigious rank of chief composer at the Viennese Court. Then along came the much younger Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart with ten times more in the way of talent. The young newcomer waltzed in and won favour with seemingly little effort. Suddenly Salieri could no longer see himself as lucky or privileged, he could only see God as unfair for granting this younger, and in his eyes, undeserving man so much more than he. There must be times in all of our lives where we have felt God to be unjust.

In today's parable, the workers who were employed in the vineyard all day are aggrieved to discover that the workers employed late in the afternoon are paid exactly the same generous amount. In our capitalistic twenty first century society in which we expect our rewards to match our efforts, we can easily understand this seeming injustice. What sort of union would sanction this? If this parable is meant to illustrate the Kingdom of God, what sort of union must God be in? The parable of course is nothing to do with employment rights; it's a clue as to how salvation will be dealt at the end of time. God's justice will not be dealt in strict mathematical judgement or apportioned by effort or merit. How could it be, when we are all dealt a different hand to begin with? We have to remember that the workers who worked from early morning were not treated unfairly; in fact to begin with they felt themselves to be lucky and privileged. It was misguided of the workers to resent the latecomers sharing in the same reward, just as it is wrong for us to resent those who live lives of sin and become Christians late in life. That we have lived as Christians from the outset makes us the lucky ones, and we mustn't resent God's generosity in welcoming the latecomers.

This parable isn't a justification for living sloppy lives then becoming more Godly as we approach death. However, the parable is a strong reminder that we are all capable of change, and that at whatever point in our lives we wake up to who we are and what we are about, God is ready to welcome us.

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PARISH NEWS

PARISH BARBECUE: Do come along to the barbecue in the hall today between noon and 5:30pm.

FIRST 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.

LEARNING ABOUT BEING A CATHOLIC CHRISTIAN: The course (RCIA) 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 continues tomorrow, 25th of September at 7:30 at St. John's, Duncan Terrace N1 8AL. It's not too late to join!

UPCOMING MEETINGS: *Finance Committee:* Tuesday, 26 September, 7:00 p.m. in Sacristy.

Children's Choir Leaders: Sunday, 1 October, in church, after the 11:00 Mass

Communion Ministers: Sunday, 8 October after each Mass for about ½ hour

Parish Volunteers' Party: Saturday, 14 October, 7:00 p.m. in hall.

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 24 th Sept	TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>(Parish Mass Book p. 131)</i>	8.30am 11.00am	Dena Adams RIP (Anniv.) Linda & Scott Budge RIP
Monday 25 th Sept	<i>feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 26 th Sept	<i>feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Wednesday 27 th Sept	<i>St Vincent de Paul</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Saturday 30 th Sept	<i>St Jerome</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Sunday 1 st October	TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>(Parish Mass Book p. 134)</i>	8.30am 11.00am	Dena Adams RIP All our Parishioners

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