

# THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Copenhagen Street

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Fr Larry Milby

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



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THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

19<sup>th</sup> November 2017

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## NO PAIN NO GAIN

The third servant in today's parable was trying to bury a responsibility that he wished to avoid. The treasure he had been given was an opportunity for him to invest and please his master, but instead of putting himself out, he buried the treasure where he could forget about it and go about his own affairs. Buried deep, the treasure was no longer an uncomfortable reminder of his master's expectations. Meanwhile, the other two servants, realising that there is no gain without pain, risked everything on their master's account. They invested and multiplied their gifts, and their master was pleased by their efforts.

Like the three servants in this story we too have been given talents and gifts, and with those talents comes a responsibility to use those talents as an opportunity to make the world a better place. Our talents are varied, some great some small but we are all gifted in some way. Some have high profile and very obvious talents ... there are those who are great musicians, surgeons, sports people and scientists. The rest of us might have less obvious talents. We might have a talent for caring, listening, speaking, growing things or solving practical problems. Whatever our particular gift we are urged to step out with it ... stick our neck on the line and invest our gifts in God's cause. God will not be so impressed if we are too afraid, embarrassed or lazy to use our talents. Ever heard the expression 'Use it or lose it.' If we ignore our gifts long enough, there will come a time when we can no longer rely upon them. This is what happened to the third servant.

One of the excuses that the third servant made for not investing his gift was that he was fearful of losing it. But the message today is not to be fearful. God never asks us to do something we are not capable of doing, and he is not judging us by our levels of productivity. The master in the story did not judge the third servant for producing nothing from his gift, but rather for being lazy and for his bitter indifference to his master's generosity. The master would not have judged him harshly, if he had tried his best but failed.

Today we are invited to look again at what gifts we have been given and how we are using them for the benefit of all. We are asked to examine what gifts we might be ignoring because we are too embarrassed or afraid, and we are asked to live a little dangerously and invest more of ourselves in God's cause.



## PARISH NEWS

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:** Please keep selling raffle tickets and bringing in the returns as soon as possible, but no later than the 29<sup>th</sup> of November. Prizes include £50.00 cash, a Christmas hamper and family theatre tickets. Each ticket is £1.00. Tickets are packaged in books of five. If you are willing to request prizes from a store or business, please take a letter from Father Séamus with you. (on table by organ). If you have received a raffle prize from a donor, please let Sister Miriam know, so they can be acknowledged.

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR SATURDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER:** If you are able to put a poster up on a notice board in your estate or block of flats, please pick one up from the shelf by the notice board at the top of the stairs. If you can take one to any place on the list beside the posters, please take them and check it off. See attached flier for details of how to help now and in the days just before the bazaar

**REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED DEAD:** There will be an Evening Prayer Service next Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> November at 7:00 p.m. Please invite friends, family members and neighbours who are grieving the death of loved ones to come along with you. All are welcome.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION:** Children's class at 9:45am next Sunday 26<sup>th</sup>.

**REAL ADVENT CALENDARS:** If you ordered and paid for calendars they can be picked up today after Mass.

**CONFIRMATION 2018:** Confirmation Enrolment Forms for youngsters in Year 9 and above are available at the back of the Church. Please return them before **10<sup>th</sup> December 2017**. For more details contact Fr David on [davidlucuy@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:davidlucuy@rcdow.org.uk)

**LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** Envelopes £311.77 loose plate £305.72

**Thank you for your generosity.**

**REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS:**

**Please remember to pray for Yusuf Khan 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 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, 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, Ellen Hunt Hazel Hoyte & Angela Neary.

**MASSES THIS WEEK:**

DATE	FEAST DAYS	TIME	INTENTION
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> <i>(Parish Mass Book p.155)</i>	8.30am 11.00am	Dena Adams RIP All our Parishioners Living & Dead
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	<i>feria</i>	10.30am	David O'Connor RIP
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov.	<i>Presentation of the B.V.M.</i>	10.30am	Holy Souls
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov.	<i>St Cecilia</i>	10.30am	Holy Souls
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	<i>feria</i>	10.30am	All our Parishioners Living & Dead
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>CHRIST THE KING</b> <i>(Parish Mass Book p.158)</i>	8.30am 11.00am	Martin Walsh RIP Michael Moran RIP ( <i>Month's Mind</i> )

**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*