

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Copenhagen Street

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

Pastoral Assistant: Sister Miriam Bruder SSND (home: 020 7837 8378)

Parish Secretary: Lisa Mulvaney **Parish Tel:** 020 7226 3277

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



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10th December 2017

Finding 'You' Time.

How prepared are you? Have you ordered all the presents and put up the tree? Preparation is one of the most important parts of Christmas, but Advent was never supposed to be about fixing the fairy lights. Advent is about spiritual preparation. In all the whirlwind preparations for the Christmas celebrations, we need to prepare a way for the Lord, and this preparation begins with a call from an eccentric man living alone in the desert over two thousand years ago

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance. Today we might easily dismiss the rantings of a strange man who dressed in camel hair and fed on locusts, but interestingly, people travelled miles into the desert to be baptised by him, so charismatic a man was he, and so important his message. Two thousand years later, his message is just as relevant to those of us who want greater meaning in our lives. The repentance that John teaches means so much more than being sorry for our sins. Repentance means changing the direction of our lives away from poor and ungodly choices. Was the direction of our life decided by what exams we did or didn't pass at the age of seventeen? Has the direction of our life been determined by arbitrary decisions and random circumstances? Advent is a time to decide what sort of a person we would really like to be, and in what direction we would really like to be heading.

"Prepare the way of the Lord," John tells us, "make straight his paths." To allow God into our lives, we are asked to remove any obstacles in God's path. How can we open our minds to God's will if our time is consumed in filling the freezer and making Christmas puddings? Advent is an opportunity for us to make some quiet time to contemplate and prioritise. What is it exactly that is preventing God's work in our lives?

"One mightier than I is coming after me," John tells us, "I have baptised you with water, he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." In the desert of commercialism, we are reminded that the reason for the season is not turkeys and baubles. Preparation is a time of reflection; a little 'You' time.



PARISH NEWS

SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS FUND: This important collection will be taken up today. There are currently more than 80 retired priests supported by this Fund in our Diocese. Please consider gift-aiding your contribution. Thank you for your generosity!

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Thanks to everyone who helped to make the bazaar such a happy and successful event. After expenses, we cleared just over £1600 for the parish. This is wonderful! After the 11:00 Mass next week (17 December) there will be a brief meeting to discuss how it all went and what to remember for next year.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, ETC. Christmas cards, calendars, candles and other seasonal items are available to purchase at the front of Church after Mass.

*** CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES ***

CHRISTMAS EVE – 24th December (Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Masses at 8.30 & 11.00am

First Mass of Christmas 6.30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY – Monday 25th December

Masses at 8.30 & 11.00am

CONFIRMATION 2018: A final reminder that completed application forms should please be returned today!

A Parish of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee, Charity No. 233699

ROTA FOR CHRISTMAS: Readers and Communion Ministers, please let Sr Miriam know when/if you are available for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, by signing the paper by the notice board or responding to her email (ssnd27@yahoo.co.uk)

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS: To decorate the church for Christmas, we ask you once again to bring poinsettia plants which can be tagged in memory of loved ones if you wish. Please bring them between Saturday 16th December and Thursday 21st December. Thank you.

APPLICATIONS FOR NURSERY & INFANT RECEPTION: if you are applying for a place in our parish school for next year, you will need to have a 'Certificate of Practice' signed by one of the priests. Either Fr Séamus or Fr David will be available to do this after Mass here on Sunday mornings.

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION: Envelopes £220.62 loose plate £186.40
Thank you for your generosity.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS:

Please remember to pray for those who have 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 & Jackie Payne.

MASSES THIS WEEK:			
DATE	FEAST DAYS	TIME	INTENTION
Sunday 10 th December	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>(Parish Mass Book p 85)</i>	8.30am 11.00am	Frank Murphy RIP Patrick Morgan RIP (Anniv.)
Monday 11 th Dec.	<i>Advent feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 12 th Dec.	<i>Advent feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Wednesday 13 th Dec.	<i>Saint Lucy</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Saturday 16 th Dec.	<i>Advent feria</i>	10.30am	All our Parishioners
Sunday 17 th December	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>(Parish Mass Book p 87)</i>	8.30am 11.00am	Yusuf Khan RIP Michael Joe O'Sullivan 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

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