

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)

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



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - *Gaudete* Sunday

17th December 2017

Recognising Jesus in Our Lives



If we were still using the Latin Mass, one of the first words we would have heard this Sunday would have been '*Gaudete*' meaning 'rejoice'. Today, the third Sunday of Advent, otherwise known as '*Gaudete* Sunday', is a day upon which we are invited to rejoice. But what if we don't feel as though there is much to rejoice about? Should we pretend? Should we put on a smile and thank God for our blessings with a joy that we don't honestly feel in our hearts?

There's a well known saying that goes "Every cloud has a silver lining." The old adage is telling us to look for good in every circumstance, but in truth it's not always easy to believe in silver linings or know how to find them. Our lives can sometimes feel like a pointless spiral of problems, and finding joy can be elusive.

In the days of John the Baptist, the Jewish people had been praying for a messiah who would come in great power like a regal warrior to restore Israel. They were unable to recognise Jesus as the answer to their problems, because he was just the humble son of a poor carpenter. They didn't recognise him because he wasn't what they were expecting. They were unable to embrace their 'silver lining'.

Today it is easy to recognise Jesus in our lives when things are going well, but in our suffering Jesus' presence can be harder to recognise. God's agenda is hardly ever our own agenda. The solutions we yearn for and pray for are probably not God's solutions. Today's challenge is to rejoice in God's presence in all of life's circumstances both good and bad. We need to recognise God when he comes to us in ways we do not expect.



PARISH NEWS

*** 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



BAZAAR MEETING: There will be a brief meeting after 11:00 Mass for those who were involved in the bazaar to identify what needs to be remembered for another year.

ROTA FOR CHRISTMAS: Please pick up a Christmas rota if you said you would be available for reading or Communion ministry at the Christmas Masses. They are on the table beside the organ.

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS: If you are bringing poinsettias, please try to do so by Saturday. If you can't bring them at a time when the church is open (Mon. - Wed. 10:00 - 11:15; Saturday, 9:30 - 11:00), please phone Sister Miriam (see above) for access to the church at a convenient time.

DECORATING THE CHURCH: Can you help to get the Church ready for Christmas on Saturday, 23rd December at 11:00 a.m.? Please let Sister Miriam know.

CHRISTMAS CARDS etc.: Still available at the front of the church for purchase after Mass: Christmas cards, calendars, diaries, Nativity water /snow balls, parish china mugs, a variety of rosaries and New Westminster Year Books available there too. After today, these will be at the repository shelf at the back of church.

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.

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 17 th December	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>(Parish Mass Book p 87)</i>	8.30am	Yusuf Khan RIP
		11.00am	Michael Joe O'Sullivan RIP
Monday 18 th Dec.	<i>Advent feria</i>	10.30am	** NO MASS THIS WEEK **
Tuesday 19 th Dec.	<i>Advent feria</i>	10.30am	Jack Walsh RIP
Wednesday 20 th Dec.	<i>Advent feria</i>	10.30am	Dena Adams RIP
Saturday 23 rd Dec.	<i>Advent feria</i>	10.30am	Gerard Devaney RIP
Sunday 24 th December	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>(Parish Mass Book p 90)</i>	8.30am	Private Intention
		11.00am	All our Parishioners
	CHRISTMAS EVE <i>(Parish Mass Book p 97)</i>	6.30pm	Children of the Parish

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