

# 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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**Website:** [www.rcdow.org.uk/copenhagenstreet](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/copenhagenstreet)

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



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SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

11<sup>th</sup> February 2018

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## The Power of Empathy

In the 1870's, the idyllic sunny island of Molokai might not have been one of your top holiday destinations. Molokai was a settlement where the government kept segregated all persons afflicted by leprosy. It was here that a young priest named Joseph Damien de Vuster (Fr. Damien), at his own request arrived at the settlement to preside as its resident priest. There were then six hundred lepers many rendered helpless by the disease. For a long time Fr. Damien was the only person to bring them the help they needed, both spiritual and practical. After twelve years of this heroic service he eventually contracted the disease himself. At the age of forty five he stood before his brethren and addressed them, "My dear brethren ... my fellow lepers. ... I am one of you now."

In today's gospel Jesus is called upon to cure a leper. Jesus could have done this with a few words, but he does more than this ... he reaches out and heals the leper not only with words but the touch of his hand. This might seem a small detail, but the simple gesture speaks volumes. The gesture tells us that Jesus was setting aside the stigma that accompanied this terrible disease. Jesus is able to take on the leper's condition and know his needs. We call it empathy, an empathy essential for true compassion. This is the example that we see Fr Damien live to the letter.

To learn from Jesus' example we do not have to rush off and find a leper colony as Fr Damien did. There are plenty of social lepers everywhere we look. There are all sorts of social misfits that we stigmatise and push to the edges of our society. If we are to learn by Jesus' example we have to employ all our powers of empathy before we can even begin to make changes.

That Jesus uses his powers to cure leprosy is amazing, but more important is how we can learn from this miracle in changing the lives around us.



**✠ ASH WEDNESDAY ✠ : the holy season of Lent begins on Wednesday next, 14<sup>th</sup> February. It is a day of fasting and abstinence when we are invited to have only one main meal and to avoid eating meat. There will be Mass with the distribution of Ashes at 10.30am and 7.30pm  
During Lent there will be Mass followed by Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7.00pm**

**RCIA:** please pray for our catechumen Justin as he celebrates the Rite of Signing this Sunday at the 11 am Mass and then goes forward to the Rite of Election before the Cardinal at Westminster Cathedral next Saturday."

**REAL EASTER EGGS:** If you wish to place an order for a Real Easter Egg, please do so at the front of Church after Mass today with payment, or, at the latest, 4 March.

**FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERS:** Thank you to all volunteers! Please plan to come to a training and information session Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 12:30 for 1:00 p.m. start. The meeting will be no more than 2 hours.

**OTHER FOOD BANK NEEDS:** On the next two Sundays we welcome food donations to supplement what 'City Harvest' will bring. Please donate only the following items and be sure they are well within date: Cereal, Tinned Soup, Pasta, Rice, Pasta Sauce, Beans, Tinned meat, Tinned vegetables, Tea/coffee. If anyone knows of a lap top computer that could be given, please tell Sister Miriam. **Everyone please pray for God's blessing on this venture!**

**FIRST COMMUNION:** The next class for our First Communion candidates is on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> February at 9:45.

**PART TIME CLEANER/HOUSEKEEPER REQUIRED:** For women@thewell which is a woman-only drop-in centre in Kings Cross run by the Sisters of Mercy. We are seeking a part-time female cleaner/housekeeper to join our friendly team. You will have a good understanding of the principles of cleanliness, hygiene and infection control and be self-motivated. Contact [recruitment@watw.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@watw.org.uk) for an application pack or call 020 7520 1710 and speak to Cheryl. Closing date is: **15<sup>th</sup> February 2018.**

**LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** Envelopes £185.13 Loose £199.32 **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, Irene Cullen & Gerry Twomey.

<b>MASSES THIS WEEK:</b>			
<b>DATE</b>	<b>FEAST DAYS</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>INTENTION</b>
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> <i>(Parish Mass Book p 137)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Kathleen Taylor RIP (Anniv.)
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	<i>feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	<i>feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> Feb.	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	10.30am	Private Intention
		7.30pm	All our Parishioners
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	<i>Lent feria</i>	<u>7.00pm</u>	Private Intention
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	<i>Lent feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b> <i>(Parish Mass Book p 148)</i>	8.30am	Eveline Smyth RIP
		11.00am	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*

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