

# 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

**Postal Address:** 39 Duncan Terrace, Islington, London N1 8AL

**Email:** [copenhagenstreet@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:copenhagenstreet@rcdow.org.uk)

**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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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

18<sup>th</sup> February 2018

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## It's Tempting

What are you giving up for Lent? Chocolates .... smoking .... television ... wine? It's tempting to think that Lent is about saying a few extra prayers and giving up sweets or alcohol, but in truth, we are in serious danger of trivialising Lent. This forty-day journey with Jesus is so much more than resisting a few bad habits.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert and he remained there for forty days presumably to sort his priorities out. Whilst he was there, Satan confronted him with all the temptations we lesser mortals are great at falling for .... the promise of wealth, fame, power, and worldly success. Having overcome Satan's temptations, Jesus emerged all the stronger, and proclaiming God's gospel.

This Lent we are invited to share Jesus' wilderness experience. Over the next forty days, we are challenged to retreat into our own wilderness and face our demons. The power of evil seeks us out in our weaknesses. Lent is a time when we can strengthen the areas in our life that show weakness. Lent is a time when we can change our sinful habits, change our minds about the way we live and decide what we are really about. The wilderness is a place where we can be tested, where we can get to know ourselves better and grow in maturity.

The theme of today's gospel is the close link between the preparation by Jesus in the desert and the start of his preaching. Lent has an end result. What end result are we preparing for? In what ways could we emerge all the stronger by Easter? Could this Lent provide the starting point we need to change the direction in our lives?



**✠ LENT ✠ : as part of our observance of this holy season there will be Mass followed by Stations of the Cross on each of the Fridays of Lent here in the Church at 7.00pm.**

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY:** is next Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February. This is an opportunity to support our brothers and sisters overseas who do not have enough to eat by eating less in solidarity with them. Again this year every £ donated will be matched by government funds. Please take an envelope and return it next Sunday.

**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, by 4<sup>th</sup> March.

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

**FOOD DONATIONS:** We welcome donations for the food bank to supplement what City Harvest brings. Please bring 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 **Everyone please pray for God's blessing on this venture!**

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

**LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** Envelopes £292.88 Loose £166.05 **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 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
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	<i>Lent feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	<i>Lent feria</i>	10.30am	Mary & Danny Buckley RIP
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb.	<i>Lent feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	<i>Lent feria</i>	<u>7.00pm</u>	Private Intention
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	<i>Lent feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT</b> <i>(Parish Mass Book p 151)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Michael Taylor RIP (Anniv.)

**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*