

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Copenhagen Street

Clergy: Mgr. Séamus O'Boyle (Parish Priest) Fr David Lucuy
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Parish Office opening times: Tuesday-Friday 10.00am -2.00pm



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4th February 2018

The Greater Point

When we read about Jesus' miracles, two big questions spring to mind. Does Jesus still cure people today? And ... why does Jesus cure some people but not others? Surely with his power he could cure everybody!

Jesus behaves unexpectedly in today's gospel. Having cured Simon's mother in law, the whole town turns up at his door eager for miracle cures, and Jesus obliges. This it would seem is his golden opportunity. This is his chance to have everybody eating out of the palm of his hand. Instead, Jesus gets up early and goes off to a deserted place, and when Simon comes looking for him, Jesus suggests that instead of returning to his new found fans, that they move on to the next village. This might seem odd to many, but it is to become apparent that curing the sick was not top of Jesus' agenda.

In some schools today, children are rewarded for a hundred percent attendance. Children come rushing home at the end of term waving certificates to prove that sickness has not kept them away from the classroom for one single day. But there are critics who would suggest that being in school every single day is not the important bit; it's what the pupil achieves whilst in the classroom that is of true importance. So it is with our lives. Our bodies are merely vehicles in which to get us through life. It is important to look after a vehicle, but what point is there in looking after a vehicle that isn't heading anywhere?

To achieve anything in this world our health of course is important, but Jesus didn't heal people simply to promote some health and fitness regime. Healing was only part of his primary ministry to teach. Jesus' healing miracles were signs of his identity and of God's power and compassion. His acts of healing were often to teach the importance of faith and discipleship.

Does Jesus still cure today? Perhaps the question is irrelevant. In asking it, are we missing the greater point? As mere mortals, our health is of paramount importance to us, but is it top of God's agenda? Saint Bernadette made a prayer that we could do well to adopt. She said "Lord, I do not ask that I never be afflicted, but only that you never abandon me in affliction."

MEETING RE HALL AND PARISH SOCIAL CALENDAR: The Hall Committee will be meeting this Wednesday, 7th February at 7:00 p.m. Besides hall business we will look at desired parish use of the hall so that dates can be booked in advance. Interested parishioners are welcome.

POP UP FOOD BANK: Thanks to all who have volunteered to help with this project. If you still wish to do so, please fill in a form and put it in the basket on the table by the organ. There will be a training session for all volunteers on Thursday, 22nd February 12:30 for 1:00 p.m. start. Please put this in your diary! **Everyone please pray for God's blessing on this venture!**

REAL EASTER EGGS: Attached to the newsletter is an order form for "Real Easter Eggs". All the chocolate is Fair Trade certified, meaning the farmers receive a fairer price for their produce and a Fairtrade premium to invest in their communities with everything from buying school books to solar panels and providing fresh water. Inside the "original" (£4.00) is a 24 page Easter story-activity book and a bag of Swiss Chocolate Chunky Buttons. Inside the Special Edition is a guide to Easter, an orange milk chocolate bar and an olive wood holding cross from the Holy Land.

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

CHILDREN'S CHOIR: Practice and activities next Saturday, 10th February, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

BAPTISM PREPARATION: the next sessions for parents with infants for baptism will take place in St John's Church, Duncan Terrace, Angel, at 7pm on Tuesdays 6th & 13th February. You should attend both sessions please.

CONFIRMATION COURSE: The next session is tomorrow evening, Monday 5th February, from 6.45- 8.30 here in the Church hall. Please try to be on time!

ANNUAL MASS IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES: Next Saturday, 10th February, 2:00 p.m. at Westminster Cathedral. Mass includes the Anointing of the Sick.

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 for an application pack or call 020 7520 1710 and speak to Cheryl. Closing date is: **15th February 2018.**

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION: Envelopes £246.95 Loose £163.17 **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.

MASSES THIS WEEK:			
DATE	FEAST DAYS	TIME	INTENTION
Sunday 4 th February	FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>(Parish Mass Book p 134)</i>	8.30am 11.00am	All our Parishioners Jerry & Mary O'Donnell RIP
Monday 5 th February	<i>St Agatha</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 6 th February	<i>St Paul Miki & Companions</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Wednesday 7 th Feb.	<i>feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Saturday 10 th February	<i>St Scholastica</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Sunday 11 th February	SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>(Parish Mass Book p 137)</i>	8.30am 11.00am	All our Parishioners Kathleen 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