

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

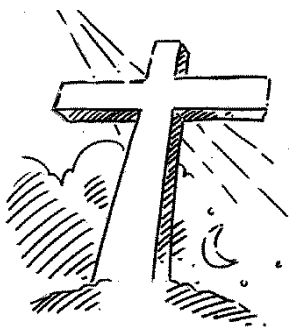
Website: www.rcdow.org.uk/copenhagenstreet

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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 'Laetare Sunday'

11th March 2018



How To Make Good Choices

From the minute we open our eyes in the morning, we are faced with choices. By the end of the day we have made hundreds of choices and not all of them good. In fact, we probably fail to choose God in a hundred and one different ways, yet God still loves us. How do we know? We know because every time we look at a Crucifix we are reminded of the sacrifice Jesus made out of love for us. Just as Moses held up a bronze snake on a pole to remind the Israelites of God's love, so we look to the Crucifix as a reminder that God doesn't condemn us for our mistakes but offers us a second chance of salvation. Too often we take God's love for granted. How could we make ourselves more deserving? We could begin by

looking at all those choices we make on a daily basis. Do we choose to fritter our lives away in inconsequential activities, or do we choose to make the world a better place? Do we choose to bury our heads in the sand when we see someone bullied at work, or do we make a brave stand? Do we determine to look after ailing family members or do we put it off until we are less busy? Do we shroud our decisions in darkness and secrecy or do we walk in the light with our heads held high?

But how do we start making good choices when we have spent so much time making poor ones? This is the beauty of reconciliation; our mistakes are part and parcel of making better choices from now on. We remember how it felt to make a bad choice and we don't want to go there again. Knowing what we are about is also a part of making good choices. Jesus knew what he was about and so must we. There's no better time than Lent to sit down and think about who we want to be. Lastly, once we have decided what choices we are going to make, we mustn't procrastinate. The Bible never tires of telling us that time is of the essence.



A VERY HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY to all our mothers and grandmothers. Hope you get spoiled – you deserve it!

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES: We are not having a retreat this year, but the next two Fridays we will add to our Lenten prayer together. Next Friday, 16 March, after 7:00 p.m. Mass we will be having a more extended reflection on some of the stations, with images that challenge us to link Jesus' story to the struggle of everyday life. On Friday, 23 March, Mass and Stations will be followed by a time of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the opportunity for Confession.

FOOD BANK: We are happy to report that the parish has received a Caritas Westminster grant to cover the costs of setting up the food bank. Please continue your prayers for blessing on the food bank and continue to place your food donations in the box at the back of church. The food bank is open on Thursdays from 1:00 – 4:00 in the hall.

THE CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL: A few weeks ago, you heard the Cardinal talk about his Lenten appeal. This is our opportunity, through our Lenten alms, to support the local diocesan charitable work, family life and evangelisation programmes. If you didn't get a leaflet last week, please take one today. Next Sunday there will be a retiring collection for this appeal.

READERS AND COMMUNION MINISTERS: Please pick up your form from the back table regarding your availability in Holy Week and Easter and return it by next Sunday or email your response. Thanks.

FIRST COMMUNION: Next children's class is on Sunday 18th March at 9.45am.

ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY: Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 19th May 2018 at 3pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th or 60th (and every year over 60!) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2018. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give one of the priests the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) Thanks.

LENTEN READING: please help yourself to the books and pamphlets on the shelf at the back of the church.

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY: 25th February: Envelopes £235.65 Loose £223.79
4th March: Envelopes £229.88 Loose £206.16 **Thank you for your generosity.**

REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS:

Please remember to pray for Dorcas Fagbuyi and Alice Clancy who 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, Barbara Johnson, Josephine Onwuka.

MASSES THIS WEEK:			
DATE	FEAST DAYS	TIME	INTENTION
Sunday 11 th March	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT <i>(Parish Mass Book p 165)</i> <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Ignacio Echeverria RIP
Monday 12 th March	<i>Lent feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 13 th March	<i>Lent feria</i>	10.30am	Intentions of Bl. Sac. School
Weds. 14 th March	<i>Lent feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Friday 16 th March	<i>Lent feria</i>	<u>7.00pm</u>	Private Intention
Saturday 17 th March	<i>St Patrick</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Sunday 18 th March	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT <i>(Parish Mass Book p 172)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	John O'Toole 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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A Parish of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee, Charity no. 233699