

# 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



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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

15<sup>th</sup> April 2018

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## Finding the Meaning

Were the other disciples really so very different from Doubting Thomas? When they saw Jesus in their midst, they took some convincing that it really was Jesus and not a ghost that had come to visit them. The gospel outlines four pieces of proof that Jesus uses to convince them that he really has risen from the dead. They can look at the marks on his hands and feet, they can touch him to check that he is really flesh and bone, and they can watch him eat a meal that they have prepared. The fourth proof is when Jesus opens their minds so that they can understand the prophecies that were made in the Old Testament, and which he has fulfilled by rising from the dead.

We are not as lucky as the first disciples. Two thousand years down the line we do not have the benefit of their first-hand experience. We cannot look at Jesus, we cannot touch him, or share a meal. The fourth proof though, the prophecies in the Old Testament are still there for us to read. The only trouble is, the Bible isn't always an easy book to read. We read a passage and fail to understand it. Sometimes we think we understand the literal meaning, but the words fail to offer any significance. It would be good if Jesus could open our minds up as he did for those first disciples when they had trouble understanding the meaning of his death and resurrection. One thing is for sure, understanding the Bible isn't going to happen magically, just as it didn't happen overnight for the disciples. We know that everything worthwhile takes effort. Playing a musical instrument takes years of practice. Being good at a sport takes considerable training ... learning a language demands a concerted amount of study and hard work. So too, we have to apply ourselves to understanding what we read in the Bible. We must consider each passage for some time before we can really grasp it ... sometimes a single verse or phrase. Often, we can derive great satisfaction from knowing that those parts we struggled with the longest hold the greatest meaning. The Bible yields up its greatest treasures to those who persevere.



**PRIEST TRAINING FUND:** Next Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will also take place next weekend. This fund pays for the priestly formation of our seminarians. There are currently 45 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 28 of whom are for our own Diocese. This fund also supports the ongoing formation of our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation envelopes are available in the back of the Church. Please take one and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests.

**PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES:** If you have not collected your box please do so from the back of the church. If you are not in the Planned Giving scheme and would like to join, please e-mail the office with your details.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** The next children's class is on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 9.45am

**EASTER WATER:** The supply of Easter Holy Water is at the front of the Church on the altar step. If you want to take water home, you can fill your containers from there.

**SOCIAL EVENTS IN THE PARISH:** Some social events have become regular features in the parish and dates have been set in advance. If you are interested in helping to plan or help with any of these, please let us know: Pentecost Sunday, 20 May, International Feast; Saturday 23 June, Fish and Chip Supper; Saturday or Sunday, 15 or 16 September, Barbecue; Saturday 1 December, Bazaar.

**SACRAMENTS FOR OUR YOUNGSTERS:** Confirmation, 11 May, 7:30pm at St. John's; First Holy Communion, here, Saturday and Sunday, 12 and 13 May, 1:30pm

**FOOD BANK:** Our neighbourhood food bank continues to be open on Thursdays from 1:00 – 4:00, even during the Easter break. Thanks to our volunteers and to those contributing food which can be deposited in the container at the back of Church.

**LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY:** Envelopes £198.03 Loose £338.61 Good Friday Holy Places £226.15 **Thank you for your generosity.**

**REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS:**

**Please remember to pray for Margaret Phillips 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.

<b>MASSES THIS WEEK:</b>			
<b>DATE</b>	<b>FEAST DAYS</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>INTENTION</b>
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <i>(Parish Mass Book p 258)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Private Intention
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	<i>Easter feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	<i>Easter feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Weds. 18 <sup>th</sup> April	<i>Easter feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	<i>Easter feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <i>(Parish Mass Book p 261)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Michael O'Sullivan 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*