

# 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



EASTER SUNDAY

1<sup>st</sup> April 2018

## Approaching the Empty Tomb



Traditionally at this time of year thousands of new Christians are baptised all over the world. A young man baptised recently was asked, "Do you feel different now that you are baptised and a Christian?" "Yes," he replied, "I went from believing nothing to believing everything sort of vaguely. I hope God will make things clearer to me as I continue on this journey."

Easter is a good time to reaffirm our faith. The Resurrection is the culmination of Christ's journey on this earth, and the beginning of our journey in faith. Our journey begins with belief in the Resurrection but approaching the 'Empty Tomb' isn't easy. Who moved the stone we wonder? Why were the linen wrappings removed, and why was the cloth that wrapped Jesus' head rolled neatly and placed separately? In

our modern-day times of detective stories and forensic science there is an inclination to turn the empty tomb into a crime scene, but the problem with looking at the empty tomb from an investigative point of view is that we're in danger of missing a greater truth, and the amazing implications of a Resurrection that was after all predicted.

If we were to fully embrace the reality of the Easter story we would pour out of church bouncing with a newfound enthusiasm for life. So how do we embrace the reality of a story for which there is no proof? Jesus promised all along that death couldn't contain us, and the empty tomb points to this not necessarily as proof, but as something that was promised. Why therefore, in the context of everything else that Jesus did and said, should this surprise us?

The empty tomb gives our life purpose. Belief in the resurrection means we can live life boldly and well, looking forward to eternal life. The empty tomb gives us a means to deal with pain and suffering, it means that death is not a meaningless end of life, but the door to the fullness of life with the risen Christ.

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### A BLESSED AND HAPPY EASTER TO YOU ALL!

May the light of Christ rising in glory  
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds!

Many thanks to all who prepared our Holy Week services and all who helped them to be such  
prayerful and moving celebrations of our faith.

*Sr Miriam, Mgr Séamus, Fr David & Fr Larry*

**CONGRATULATIONS:** to Justin Tan who was baptised at the Easter Vigil and to Justin Osei who is making his First Holy Communion today. Please keep them both in your prayers.

**PLANNED GIVING:** Please use the new boxes of envelopes from next Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> April. If you have not collected your box please do so from the back of the church, and please do not use the old yellow envelopes after today. If you are not in the Planned Giving scheme and would like to join, please e-mail the office with your details.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION:** the next classes for those parents wishing to have their infants baptised will take place on Tuesdays 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm in St John the Evangelist Church, Duncan Terrace, Angel. You should please attend both classes.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** The next children's class is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April.

**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.

**LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY:** 18<sup>th</sup> March: Envelopes £213.30 Loose £209.54 **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 1 <sup>st</sup> April	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> <i>(Parish Mass Book p 251)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Joseph Taylor RIP
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	<i>Monday in the Octave of Easter</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	<i>Tuesday in the Octave of Easter</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Weds. 4 <sup>th</sup> April	<i>Wednesday in Octave of Easter</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	<i>Saturday in the Octave of Easter</i>	8.00pm	Private Intention
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <i>(Parish Mass Book p 255)</i>	8.30am	Private Intention
		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*