

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Copenhagen Street

Clergy: Mgr. Séamus O'Boyle (Parish Priest) Fr David Lucuy
Fr Larry Milby

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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

22nd April 2018



Counting on The Shepherd

Today's gospel is for anyone who has ever felt unloved or insignificant. Today's gospel is for anyone who feels his or her life doesn't count for much. At some time or another that probably means most of us.

In biblical days shepherding was a highly dangerous business. Herds might consist of thousands of sheep, and shepherds had to be highly skilled in tending for the sheep and protecting them from wolves and robbers. The shepherd's care and courage were legendary. A good shepherd would not think twice about his own life in protecting his sheep. This is the image that Jesus chose for himself in today's gospel. He is the good shepherd. His leadership is a mixture of tenderness, strength and self-sacrifice. Jesus loves us so much that he would lay down his life. That's a

powerful belief to take out into the world!

But what if we don't quite believe it? Surely there are too many of us to love and look after individually. People fall by the wayside all the time. We hear tragic stories of elderly people who die alone and are not discovered for days because no one cares enough to visit. We see down and outs sleeping in subways because their family and friends have given up on them. Can God really be looking out for each and every one of us? Surely there are too many of us to look after – to love individually. Not so! Jesus we're told would not let even one of his sheep stray without coming to the rescue. He knows each and every one of us by name. If we are one of his, then he will recognise us and take care of us. That's another powerful belief to wake up with. The next time you are feeling lost and forgotten, try looking for the Good Shepherd's love in your life. God's help is always there when we look to him.



PRIEST TRAINING FUND: Today is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Today's second collection will support the Priest Training Fund. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood in our Diocese. The fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your gift ensures we can provide training for these men responding to Christ's call to dedicate their lives to serve God's people. Please be as generous as you can. Please also pray for vocations and for all our priests. If you do not have a donation leaflet, plenty are still available at the back of the Church. Thank you!

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.

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE: Meeting, Tuesday, 24 April, 7:00 p.m. in the Sacristy.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION: The next children's class is next Sunday, 29th April at 9.45am

PENTECOST INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION: If you'd like to help plan our international celebration on the 20th May, please come to the hall next Sunday, 29th April after the 11:00 Mass, have a cuppa, and share your ideas.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGES: 30th annual Lourdes Pilgrimage with Cardinal Nichols, 21 – 27 July; Holy Land Pilgrimage with Bishop John Wilson, 21 – 29 November. Contact Elizabeth Uwalaka 0207 798 9173 for more information.

ANNUAL MIGRANTS' MASS: The annual Mass for Migrants is being held by Southwark Diocese at St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road, SE1 on Monday 7th May, with the banner procession at 10.45am followed by Mass at 11am. All are welcome. See poster on notice board.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: If you are aware that any of the people on the list of sick people in the newsletter no longer need to be on the list, please let Sr. Miriam or Fr. Séamus know so we can bring the list up to date. Also, please let us know if there are others who would like their names to be included in the parish's prayers.

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 £200.01 Loose £317.04 **Thank you for your generosity.**

REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS:

Please remember to pray for Sr Elise Diemert SSND 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 22 nd April	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER <i>(Parish Mass Book p 261)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Michael O'Sullivan RIP (Anniv.)
Monday 23 rd April	<i>St George</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 24 th April	<i>SS Erkenwald & Mellitus</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Weds. 25 th April	<i>St Mark</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Saturday 28 th April	<i>Easter feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Sunday 29 th April	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER <i>(Parish Mass Book p 264)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Thomas Gilligan 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