

# 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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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

29<sup>th</sup> April 2018

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## Branching Out



There's a lot of work to do in today's world. Almost daily, the TV and Radio brings terrible news of atrocities and disasters around the planet. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by all the bad news and to feel powerless to do anything. We do not consider that we can individually instigate change for lots of reasons. We do not feel clever enough, or brave enough or rich enough. In short it's hard to know where to begin and even whether change is possible. The inspirational message in today's gospel is that we can make changes as long as we work together.

We are already familiar with the ethos of trade unions. Trade unions operate on one powerful principle. Individually we can be easily overlooked but together we have the power to bring the whole country to a stand-still and sway governments. If a trade union wanted to promote solidarity and unity, the vine would make an ideal logo. The vine itself is the heart of the union, the part that determines the ethos. The branches do the work of the vine and the fruit they bear is the outcome .... the final result.

Today we are told that with Christ as our vine we can do great things. All too often we become wrapped up in developing our own spirituality, trying to work out what God means to us as an individual .....striving to find our niche. It's easy to forget that we are part of a huge family of people the biggest union on the planet. With Christ's teaching and pruning, we as a body, have the ability to transform the world by putting faith into action. Our individual responsibility is to look for ways in which we can become part of the overall plan. We don't have to branch out alone, we branch out as a team.



**FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION:** The final children's class is next Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> May at 9.45am

**CELEBRATION OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** On the weekend of the 12<sup>th</sup> / 13<sup>th</sup> May our parish children will make their First Holy Communion at a special Mass at 1:30pm on each day. Parishioners are welcome to attend these Masses to support the children.

**PENTECOST INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION:** If you'd like to help plan our international celebration on the 20<sup>th</sup> May, please come to the hall today after the 11:00 Mass, have a cuppa, and share your ideas.

**FOOD BANK:** Our weekly Thursday Food Bank continues its gradual development. The unpredictable nature of the day makes it difficult to do regular scheduling of volunteers. We are grateful for the patience of the volunteers as we try to establish a pattern / rota. Thanks to all who contribute needed products which you can put in the basket at the back of church.

**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.

**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.

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGES:** 30<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> May, with the banner procession at 10.45am followed by Mass at 11am. All are welcome. See poster on notice board.

**LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY:** Envelopes £204.65 Loose £247.66 **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, 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, Pauline Timlin, Kevin Corcoran and Patrick McShane.

<b>MASSES THIS WEEK:</b>			
<b>DATE</b>	<b>FEAST DAYS</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>INTENTION</b>
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <i>(Parish Mass Book p 264)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Thomas Gilligan RIP
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	<i>Easter feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	<i>St Joseph the Worker</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Weds. 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	<i>St Athanasius</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	<i>Easter feria</i>	10.30am	Bridie Rynne RIP
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER</b> <i>(Parish Mass Book p 266)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Private Intention

**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*