

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Copenhagen Street

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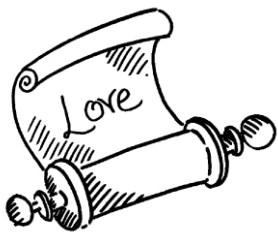
Parish Office opening times: Tuesday-Friday 10.00am -2.00pm



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

6th May 2018

Love is the Answer



Young couples in love promise each other that their love for each other will never die. Older onlookers may raise a cynical eyebrow. Of course, there are lots of older couples in our community who are still very much in love after years and years of marriage, but for every marriage that succeeds another falls by the wayside. The problem with our love for each other is that subconsciously it can be conditional. We can love a partner who is young and beautiful, but will our love survive when that partner is old and toothless and out of shape? We can love a partner who is successful and dynamic and rich, but will our love stagnate when that same partner is out of work, weary and penniless? We might love a partner who

is always cheerful and makes us smile, but will our love fade if that partner becomes clinically depressed or seriously ill? When problems rear their head, does love walk out of the door? We wouldn't like to admit it at the outset of a relationship, but human love tends to be conditional.

God's love of course is unconditional ... or is it? In today's gospel Jesus says, "If you keep my commandments you will abide in my love..." does that sound like a condition? Are we being told that whilst we are keeping God's commandments God will love us, but as soon as we are sinful that love will be withdrawn?

The important thing for us to understand is that God's love cannot be fickle in the same way that ours is. Human love, especially if we are a little immature, can be something we simply bestow on each other. God's love is a state of being. God's love is simply there and doesn't go away. It's we that choose whether or not to accept or reject God's love by the way we choose to live our lives. We can choose to live good lives and by doing so we will remain in a loving relationship with God, or we can make poor decisions and step out of that loving relationship. Living by God's commandments isn't about following a list of strict rules in return for God's love, it's about sharing the joy God plans for us by living in a certain way.

Of course, those of us who have fallen out of that loving relationship with God haven't done so on purpose. Few of us consciously make poor decisions... we are all human after all, and we all make mistakes. For those of us who are in danger of losing their way in life, Jesus give us one important guideline "This I command you ... to love one another." The next time you have a tricky decision to make or a dilemma to solve, ask yourself the all-important question. "Is God's love for me, and my love for neighbour pointing out the answer?"



ASCENSION THURSDAY 10th MAY: our Bishops have reinstated this Holyday of Obligation beginning this year. Masses here will be at 10.30am (with children from the Parish School) and 7.30pm.

BAPTISM PREPARATION: The next class for parents wishing to have their infants baptised will take place on Tuesday 8th May at 7.00pm in St John's Church in Duncan Terrace, Angel.

PENTECOST NOVENA: We are encouraged to join Christians of all denominations in a *Global Wave of Prayer* from Ascension Thursday to Pentecost Sunday, for a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit that many people can come to know Jesus Christ. Attached is a format of Novena prayer you might like to use individually or as families.

CELEBRATION OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Next weekend our parish children will make their First Holy Communion. On Saturday there will be no 10:30 a.m. Mass. Some of the children will make their First Communion at a Mass at 1:30 p.m. On Sunday, in addition to the regular Masses, the remaining children will make their First Communion at a 1:30 p.m. Mass. Although these are extra Mass times to accommodate guests, parishioners are welcome to attend these Masses to support the children.

PENTECOST CELEBRATION OF OUR DIVERSE CULTURES: On Sunday, 20 May, we will be celebrating our unity in diversity during Mass and in the hall after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. To help with planning, we ask you take a bit of time after Mass to sign the pages on the side wall, indicating your country of origin and what you will bring (food, savoury or sweet) or drink; and what you will do (dance, sing). If you are willing to translate and read in your language a petition in the bidding prayer, please sign the chart and include contact details or tell Sister Miriam after Mass.

MAY THE MONTH OF MARY: On Tuesday, 22 May at 7: p.m. we will have a special Evening Prayer to honour Mary and entrust ourselves, our Church and our world to her care. This will include the Rosary and May Crowning.

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY: Envelopes £197.42 Loose £213.97 Priest Training Fund £362.15
Thank you for your generosity.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS:

Please remember to pray for those who have 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, Patrick McShane & Margaret Walsh.

MASSES THIS WEEK:			
DATE	FEAST DAYS	TIME	INTENTION
Sunday 6 th May	SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER <i>(Parish Mass Book p 266)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Private Intention
Monday 7 th May	<i>Easter feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 8 th May	<i>Easter feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Weds. 9 th May	<i>Easter feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Thursday 10 th May	ASCENSION OF THE LORD <i>(Parish Mass Book p 272)</i>	10.30am	Intentions of Bl. Sacrament School
		7.30pm	All our Parishioners
Saturday 12 th May	<i>Easter feria</i>	<u>1.30pm</u>	1 st Holy Communion Children
Sunday 13 th May	SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER <i>(Parish Mass Book p 273)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Margaret Devaney RIP
		<u>1.30pm</u>	1 st Holy Communion Children

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