

# 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

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**Website:** [www.rcdow.org.uk/copenhagenstreet](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/copenhagenstreet)

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



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TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2018

## How Not to Impress God!

It's easy to be fooled. Mr and Mrs Devout are always in church, always to be seen praying, always lighting votives, always to be found kneeling in their favourite pew. Are Mr and Mrs Devout good people? Well very possibly, but outward appearances can be deceptive. Perhaps Mr and Mrs Devout are the salt of the earth, but not necessarily. Despite their Sunday best, perhaps Mr and Mrs Devout spend the rest of the week, complaining about the refugees next door, gossiping about other parishioners and ignoring the plight of the beggar sitting on the church doorstep. Outward appearances are no indication of what lies beneath.

Today the Pharisees complain to Jesus, that his disciples do not wash their hands before eating. Their complaint does not stem from food hygiene. The Pharisees had very many rituals intended to keep themselves pure and undefiled, and one of these rituals was washing before eating. The ritual in itself is not so very wrong. We ourselves have a ritual of saying 'grace before meals', but where Jesus finds fault is in their flawed grasp of what is important. Jesus uses their complaint to teach a lesson, and the lesson isn't really anything to do with washing.

What do we think pleases God? The Pharisees were not bad people, but they had strayed a long way from pleasing God. To the Pharisees, religion was all about abiding by hundreds of rules and regulations. Many of these rules were about keeping themselves segregated from anything in the world that would make them unclean. They had become so obsessed by this that they no longer engaged well with the world and all its suffering. They lived by lofty and judgmental ideals that Jesus totally rejected. Jesus didn't deliberately set out to disregard tradition, but at the same time, he had come to engage with the world and its needs. Jesus' main concern was for the poor the sick and the marginalised, and he went out of his way to associate himself with them. He saw the Pharisees placing barriers between man and God, and he wasn't having it!

We do not become unacceptable to God by failing to follow a set of outward rules. We become unacceptable to God when our hearts become cold. God is not impressed when we turn up for Mass in our Sunday best. God is best pleased when we show the world a loving and sincere heart.



### A Message from Fr David:

As you know I will be moving to my take up my new appointment at the Parish of St Gabriel in South Harrow this coming week. I would like to thank Mgr Séamus, Fr Larry, Sr Miriam, Pauline, Lisa and all parishioners for your continued support, patience and love throughout the last three years of my ministry here at St John's and Blessed Sacrament parishes. Thank you very much for your generous gifts and cards. I am grateful to God for you all and please pray for me as I pray for you. With gratitude, Fr David

**FATHER DAVID:** Today we bid Father David farewell and send him with our gratitude and God's blessings to his new parish. Come to the hall after the 11:00 Mass to greet him personally as you enjoy a shared table.

**"ANNUAL" PARISH BARBECUE:** Our autumn barbecue will take place on Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September from noon. Next Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> September, after the 11:00 Mass there will be a meeting to plan the event. If you are willing to help in any way or have ideas to share, please come along. If you can't come to the meeting, but are willing to help, please let us know.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION:** the next classes for parents wishing to have their infants baptised will be on Tuesdays 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm in St John's Church in Duncan Terrace, Angel. You should attend both sessions.

**FOOD BANK:** Thanks to everyone who contributed to our recent drive. Your donations are always welcome. There is a container at the back of the Church. Please note, however, that we are not able to use perishable or fresh food or bread. These tinned items are much needed: soup, beans, meat/fish, vegetables and fruit. Cereal, pasta, rice, pasta sauce, tea, coffee and cleaning products are much needed items as well. Thank you for your continuing support.

**COMMUNION MINISTERS:** There is no formal rota until later in September. On Sundays when you are here in the summer, please sit near the front and sort out among yourselves who will minister the Hosts and the Chalice. Depending on numbers at Mass, fewer ministers may be required. Please check with the priest.

**CATECHISTS:** We need Catechists to help prepare our young people for the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation. If you think you might like to exercise this very important ministry in the parish, please let either Fr Séamus or Sister Miriam know.

**LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** Envelopes £ Loose plate £  
**Thank you for your generosity.**

**REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS:**

**Please remember to pray for all who have died recently and for all those whose anniversaries are about this time, especially: Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.**

**HEALING FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK:** especially Liam Buckley, 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, Russell Blanco, Florence S Philip, Amidu (Blessing) Yamba, Evelyn Corcoran, Gerry Corcoran, Eamon Hanahoe, Mary Paditey

**MASSES THIS WEEK:**

DATE	FEAST DAYS	TIME	INTENTION
Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	<b>TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Intentions of Fr David
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept.	<i>St Gregory the Great</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	<i>feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Weds. 5 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	<i>feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	<i>The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>TWENTY - THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	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*

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