

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Copenhagen Street

Clergy: Mgr. Séamus O'Boyle (Parish Priest) Fr Allan Alvarado Gil
Fr Larry Milby (retired, in residence)

Pastoral Assistant: Sister Miriam Bruder SSND (home: 020 7837 8378)

Parish Secretary: Lisa Mulvaney **Parish Tel:** 020 7226 3277

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



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2nd December 2018

Saving Souls



Martin Lewis, the 'money saving expert' made a video this month that went viral. He called on everyone to make a pact not to spend money on gifts that were overpriced or unnecessary. The point was to take the burden from other people who might be embarrassed into buying an expensive gift back, and to release poorer families from buying presents that would put them into debt. The idea was to side step the commercialism of Christmas. As Christians this message goes much deeper. Side stepping the commercialism of Christmas obviously isn't

about saving money, it's about saving souls.

The trouble with Advent is that Christmas comes at the end. We know that Advent is a time for taking stock, but with Christmas just around the corner, we're far too busy with shopping lists to think about the state of our souls.

It seems obvious that we should spend our lives in preparation for the final judgement day, but it is all too easy to take our eye off the ball. Life heaps demands on us day in and day out. We spend each and every day taking the children to school, going to work, cleaning the house, shopping, cooking, cleaning, fixing the car and paying the bills. At this time of year in particular it is easy to get swamped in the things that the TV ads convince us we must do before Christmas. We end up feeling trapped and unable to see the bigger picture. All of a sudden, it's too late. We never get to do the things we know we should have done.

The Gospel paints a frightening picture of the end of the world, but it is not meant to terrify us. Rather, the signs of the second coming are there to liberate us. Advent is a time of waiting and of looking forward. We are looking forward not just to Christmas but to the second coming of Jesus. The signs of the second coming are there to liberate us from the material preparations of Christmas and the other things that weigh us down. We are invited to take a step back from our fraught lives and take a long-term view. It would be a pity to get to the other side of Christmas only to realise that a host of fake Santa Clauses had distracted us from contemplating the real direction of our lives.



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AND RAFFLE: thanks, and congratulations to everyone who supported the parish bazaar. As a result of your work, donations and participation, the parish raised £1,848.38. On Sunday, 16th December after 11:00 Mass there will be a brief meeting to discuss how it all went and what to remember for next year.

REAL ADVENT CALENDARS: If you ordered one, please pick it up after Mass today.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, CALENDARS, ETC.: Available for purchase after Mass at the front of the church.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: First Communion registration forms and other requested items are due NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, 16th DECEMBER. Please put everything in an envelope with your child's name on it. If you need a registration pack, please see Sister Miriam after Mass.

CONFIRMATION 2019: The Confirmation Enrolment Forms for 2019 are available at the back of the Church. Please return them before **Friday 11th January 2019**. For more details please contact Fr Allan.

SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY: Maria Fidelis School is holding a Christmas Dinner and Dance for local Seniors on 6th December, from 6 – 9 p.m. at the school on Drummond Crescent NW1 1LY. RSVP Tel: 020 7387 3856 or Email: amoney4.202@lgflmail.org See notice board for details.

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION: Envelopes: £163.70 loose cash: £233.19
Thank you for your generosity.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS:

Please remember to pray for Dora Best, Lady Elizabeth Uzoma Nzekwe (Valentines' mother) & Clarence Clarke 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 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, Kieran Vos, Bridget Ryan.

MASSES THIS WEEK:			
DATE	FEAST DAYS	TIME	INTENTION
Sunday 2 nd December	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>(Parish Mass Book p.82)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Mario Carrano RIP (Anniv.)
Monday 3 rd December	<i>St Francis Xavier</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 4 th December	<i>Advent feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Weds. 5 th December	<i>Advent feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Saturday 8 th December	<i>Immaculate Conception B.V.M.</i>	10.30am	All our Parishioners
Sunday 9 th December	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>(Parish Mass Book p.84)</i>	8.30am	Thomas Hunt RIP
		11.00am	Patrick Morgan 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