

# 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)

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



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THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4<sup>th</sup> November 2018

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## Love Rules

We all think we know what love is, until we have to put it into words. We all think we know what love is and then realise we've mistaken it for romantic obsession, or dependence, or some kind of selfish need. So when Jesus tells us "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart..." and "You shall love your neighbour as yourself..." we can be at a bit of a loss as to how we should best respond.

Beginning to understand what love is all about is probably best understood in the context of a close human relationship ...the love of a partner, child, sibling or parent. Love in this context is about respect, joy, tenderness, kindness, wanting to do things for another person and appreciating the things that person gives back. Between husband and wife, love is a bit like an unspoken contract..."You treat me well and I'll treat you well." Between a parent and a child, love is unconditional. We do all we can to make our children happy without expecting very much back. We look at our human relationships and it becomes clear that love isn't just a fuzzy feeling we find in Valentine's cards. Love is about aiming to look after other people. Love is about appreciating what people do for us. Love is about not expecting anything in return. Love is about putting ourselves in someone else's shoes.

Establishing a couple of 'love rules' makes it easier to love people we have never met. Have we ever been grateful for a visit when we were sick? Can we translate the gratitude into caring for others when they are sick? Have we ever been unburdened by forgiveness? What can we do for those whose lives have gone wrong and who are crippled by guilt and regret. Have we ever felt lonely or out of our depth? How can we translate those feelings into doing something positive for someone living alone? What does it feel like to be loved? How do we pass those feelings on?

Finally, what does it mean to love God? The glib answer is to have God at the centre of our existence, but what does that actually mean? How do we love God when we cannot see, hear or even imagine him very well! Jesus gives us the answer. We must love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Loving God with all our heart means generating feelings that give rise to how we speak and how we act. Loving with all our soul means keeping up a constant dialogue with God. Loving with all our mind means using intellectual processes to decide how best we can impact the world. Loving with all our strength means developing the stamina and resolve to constantly renew our endeavour.

Learning to love is the most valuable lesson we can master. Once we know how to love, every other law worth its salt is automatically upheld.



**BAPTISM PREPARATION:** the next course for parents wishing to have their infants baptised will take place on Tuesdays 6<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm in St John the Evangelist Church, Duncan Terrace, Angel. You should attend both sessions please.

**NOVEMBER, MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS:** Sheets of paper are available at the back of church for you to write the names of those of your loved ones who have died. These will be placed in the Book of Remembrance placed in front of the altar and Mass will be celebrated for those named in the book during the month of November.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** On Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7:00 p.m. there will be an important meeting in the church hall for any parents who wish to prepare their children (Year 3 or older), for First Confession and First Communion. At the meeting the programme will be explained, and you will find out about registration. More information on papers by the church door.

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR:** Today after the 11:00 Mass there is a meeting for everyone who can help at the bazaar on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November, 2:00 – 5:30 or has ideas to share. Please bring suitable raffle and tombola prizes (especially bottles) and good items for resale. Fliers with details by the door.

**PRE-CHRISTMAS RAFFLE:** After Mass you can sign out raffle tickets to sell to neighbours, friends, etc. and you can purchase tickets too. £1.00 tickets are stapled in groups of five for £5.00. The first prize is £50.00 and the second is a Christmas hamper. If you are able to request prizes from stores or businesses, please take a letter from Fr. Seamus with you. (on the table by the organ)

**REAL ADVENT CALENDARS:** If you haven't ordered and paid £4.00 for your Advent Calendar, please do so today after Mass. The calendar comes with a 24-page Christmas story-activity book. There is a page for every day of Advent and some fun Advent challenges along the way.

**LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** Envelopes £273.77 loose cash £249.13 **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 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, Dora Best.

<b>MASSES THIS WEEK:</b>			
<b>DATE</b>	<b>FEAST DAYS</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>INTENTION</b>
Sunday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Parish Mass Book p.152)</b>	8.30am	All our Parishioners living and dead
		11.00am	Intentions of Mary Todd (Birthday)
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	<i>feria</i>	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	<i>feria</i>	10.30am	<b>**NO MASS THIS WEEK**</b>
Weds. 7 <sup>th</sup> November	<i>feria</i>	10.30am	Holy Souls
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	<i>St Leo the Great</i>	10.30am	Holy Souls
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Parish Mass Book p.154)</b>	8.30am	Bridget Devitt RIP
		11.00am	All our Parishioners living and dead

**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*