

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



SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

20th January 2019

If You Could Choose A Miracle?



If you were in Jesus' shoes and you were about to grab the world's attention with your first miracle, what might that first miracle be? Might you reverse global warming or end poverty? Jesus' first miracle was to turn water into wine at the Wedding of Cana. To many it seems a frivolous kind of miracle something akin to a party trick, but John relates the miracle with good reason. John's gospel is quite different in character from the other three. It's written in a very symbolic style, and it doesn't follow the same order, or record the same stories as the others. St. John is concerned in showing us signs, which gradually reveal the glory of God through Jesus. The author seems to be mainly interested in the significance of the deeds of Jesus. So, what is the significance of this miracle? John writes, "This is

written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name." Suddenly confronted with enough wine to swim in, the disciples had no choice but to begin to believe in who Jesus really was. Neither would the symbolism have been lost on the people of the time. It was the people's belief that at the time of salvation God would provide a table for feasting for his servants and a cup that would never run dry. In short, the substance of the sign was of no consequence at all; it was the message the sign conveyed that was all-important.

The symbolism we read in this first miracle speaks of an old religion bogged down with oppressive rules and laws liberated by a new faith governed by love, compassion, joy, generosity, and abundance. Being a Christian is a very serious business, and as Christians we are asked to address life and death issues, but that doesn't mean we should trudge around with long pious faces. Jesus frequently likens the Kingdom of God to a feast, so smile.... the changing of water to wine is a sign of better things to come.



THANK YOU: A very sincere "thank you" for all the prayers and good wishes on my birthday. The time that I have spent here with you has been a special blessing for me. Thank you and God bless you. *Fr Larry*

CONFIRMATION 2019: There will be a meeting for parents on Monday 28th January at 7pm in St John's Church in Duncan Terrace. If you still haven't returned your form, please return it as soon as possible to the parish office.

FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME: Children's classes continue next Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

FIRST COMMUNION PRAYER PARTNERS: If you signed to be a Prayer Partner there is a paper for you on the back table.

FOOD BANK: The food bank reopened for the new year with a few changes: the name is Copenhagen Street Food Bank; the hours on alternate Thursdays, 1:00 - 3:30. There has been widening interest in the food bank since the recent publication of an article in the Guardian. (Here is the link to The Guardian article online <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/jan/12/my-walk-to-work-shows-me-how-homelessness-is-transforming-britain>) We are grateful for your donations of food in the basket at the back of church. For the time being we have enough baked beans. Canned fruit, veg, meat, and fish are always in short supply. We are happy to welcome new volunteers. If you are interested, please talk to Attracta Roden or Sister Miriam.

VOLUNTEER GATHERING: If you volunteer in the parish in any capacity, please plan to come to the volunteer 'Thank You' social on Saturday, 26 January at 7:00 p.m. in the hall.

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE: Meeting on Tuesday, 22 January at 7:00 p.m.

GAMES TABLE: Is anyone aware of someone or some group who could use a small pool or snooker table (not sure which it is)? Please let Sr Miriam know and have a look, if you wish.

PIANO: If anyone could use a piano, please let Sr Miriam know.

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION: Envelopes: £163.00 loose cash: £162.83
Thank you for your generosity.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS:

Please remember to pray for Fr Séamus Noctor, Sr Margaret Volk SSND, Sr Mary Grace Diebolt SSND & Sr Evelyn Volk 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 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 20 th January	SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR <i>(Parish Mass Book p.127)</i>	8.30am	Eveline Smyth RIP (Anniv.)
		11.00am	Intentions of Norma Taylor
Monday 21 st January	St Agnes	10.30am	Francis Jarvis RIP
Tuesday 22 nd January	feria	10.30am	Private Intention
Weds. 23 rd January	feria	10.30am	Private Intention
Saturday 26 th January	SS Timothy & Titus	10.30am	Private Intention
Sunday 27 th January	THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR <i>(Parish Mass Book p.129)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Helen & Family 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