

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



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

10th March 2019

Tempted to Distraction?

If we are not criminals, and we don't particularly consider ourselves to be sinners, do we really need to worry about the devil, or the dangers of temptation? If the temptations in our lives are simply to sit at the computer too long, or indulge in the odd tittle, how much does that really matter?

On the first Sunday of Lent we are always treated to the same lesson. We are asked to consider what we are about, how the devil might put spanners in the works, and what we can do about it. Today the devil finds Jesus in the wilderness. He finds him when he is hungry and weak and tempts him with attractive options, food, fame and protection. We don't see Jesus dithering, not even for a minute. Jesus is able to put the temptation behind him because he knows what he is about. Jesus understands his mission and it isn't about materialistic benefit or power. Jesus is able to put aside the temptation because he is confident that the same Holy Spirit that has taken him into the wilderness will lead him back out.

The wilderness comes in all shapes and sizes. For us it could be moments when we're feeling lost, broken, unloved, tired or overburdened. In these moments of weakness this is when we are most at danger. These are moments when the devil can come to us offering comfortable and attractive options. Comfortable and attractive options can tempt us to make poor decisions; decisions that provide distractions. The devil can be subtle. Temptations rarely lead the majority of us into crime or even into sin. Being tempted to finish off a bottle of wine or spend longer than we ought on Facebook doesn't seem so bad, but are the tens of little distractions we succumb to each and every day taking us away from who we really are, and from what is genuinely important?

Every day the Holy Spirit is guiding us towards our specific missions in life. Do we say 'yes' to the work God has lined up for us, or do we fall for all those comfortable little distractions?



MONEY COUNTERS: Meeting with Oscar for all money counters today after the 11am Mass in the sacristy. It will not be a long meeting!

PREPARATION FOR CONFIRMATION: The next class is on Monday 11th March, in the Crypt at St John's from 6.45pm – 8.00pm. Please make every effort to be there on time!

FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME: Children's classes continue each Sunday at 9.45am

MINISTERS OF COMMUNION AND READERS: Please respond by Thursday to the email you received from Sister Miriam or the note you receive today.

LENT PRAYER IN THE PARISH: Mass followed by Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

LENT AND GROWING IN FAITH: All interested parishioners are welcome to join our Communion Ministers and Readers when speakers from the Diocese will be here: Liturgy of the Eucharist on Mon. 18 March.; Liturgy of the Word, Tuesday, 19 Mar. Hall opens at 7:00 for refreshments and session is 7:30 – 9:00. Please sign by the entrance if you are coming or give Sister Miriam the message by Thursday. Some other Tuesday events will follow.

ALMSGIVING IN LENT: As in past years, we are giving parish support for overseas needs through CAFOD Fast Day (Friday, 15 March with collection on Sunday 17 March) and for local needs through the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal (Ongoing from 25 March to 14 April).

FOODBANK: The foodbank is always grateful for your help. If you are interested in helping with the general running of the foodbank when open alternate Thursdays, please talk to Attracta (8:30 Mass) or Sister Miriam (11:00 Mass) This could be helping set up from 11:00 a.m. and clearing up at the end and /or assisting with registration, administering food distribution, serving refreshments between 1:00 and 3:30. If you can contribute food, the items most needed this month are Long Life Semi-Skimmed Milk, Cereal, Sugar, Tea, Tinned Meat and Fish, Tinned Fruit. **THANK YOU.**

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION: Envelopes: £231.34 loose cash: £181.79

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. 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, Barbara Baggs.

| MASSES THIS WEEK: | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| DATE | FEAST DAYS | TIME | INTENTION |
| Sunday 10 th March | FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT <i>(Parish Mass Book p.153)</i> | 8.30am | Baby Florence Lambert RIP |
| | | 11.00am | All our Parishioners |
| Monday 11 th March | Lent feria | 10.30am | Michael Cogley RIP |
| Tuesday 12 th March | Lent feria | 10.30am | Pamela Ignatius RIP |
| Weds. 13 th March | Lent feria | 10.30am | Private Intention |
| Friday 15 th March | Lent feria | <u>7.00pm</u> | Private Intention |
| Saturday 16 th March | Lent feria | 10.30am | Geraldine Lynch RIP |
| Sunday 17 th March | SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT <i>(Parish Mass Book p.156)</i> | 8.30am | Intentions of Linda Leemy |
| | | 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