

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Copenhagen Street

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

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



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

7th April 2019

The First Stone



It's a sad fact of life, if you do something good, it isn't remembered for very long. You are only as good as your last good deed. But if you do something bad, there will be those who insist on never forgetting it. There will always be those who mutter, "Oh that's 'so and so' the one who had the affair." "That Mr Thingumajig, the one who embezzled the company funds." It's a very sad human failing. We are loathe to let the failings of others go.

In today's gospel reading the Scribes and Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught committing adultery. According to the Law of Moses such a woman should be stoned. What has Jesus to say on the matter? As ever, The Scribes and Pharisees are seeking to trap Jesus into giving an answer that is unlawful. Jesus however is great at not falling into traps. "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone," he replies.

When we have made a mistake in life, the last thing we need is condemnation. Condemnation is rarely useful. Condemnation sends us to a dark place where we fester. Denied our second chance, our self-esteem is eroded. We begin to see ourselves in a different light. Other people think we are bad or weak so perhaps we are. Our self-image spirals downwards, we start to behave the way people expect us to behave.... badly! But the people, who have pointed the finger of blame; are they really in any position to judge?

We are extraordinarily quick to throw the first stone. Our powers of empathy are limited. Perhaps we enjoy moral outrage. Perhaps we enjoy gossiping at someone else's expense. Today we are challenged. The next time we open our mouths to condemn, we are asked to find mercy instead, the same mercy we expect when we have fallen from grace.



PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES: please collect your new box of envelopes from the back of the Church, they should be used from today. If you Gift Aid your donation, would you please complete one of the forms to help update our records. Please do not use any of the pink envelopes from last year. Many thanks.

LENTEN ALMS: Our Lenten Alms this year will go to the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal, which has a special focus on food poverty. If you have not done so already, please pick up a Cardinal's Appeal donation leaflet from the table by the door for more information. Please read it and pray for its aims, and, if you choose to do so, give generously. You can bring your donation to any Mass. There will be a final collection on Palm Sunday, 14 April.

GLOBAL HEALING: To learn how our faith can help us care for our common home, come along Tuesday, 9 April, 7:00 – 8:15. We'll use a video presentation from our bishops based on Pope Francis's letter "Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home."

FRIDAYS IN LENT: Mass and Stations of the Cross on Friday at 7:00 p.m. Opportunity for Confession following Stations.

VOLUNTEERING HERE: The teams that do regular **cleaning** in church could use more help. Interested? Let Zeny Sagun or Sister Miriam know.

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 Sister Miriam. There is a box at the back of church for items you can donate. Most needed: Long Life Semi-Skimmed Milk, Cereal, Sugar, Tea, Tinned Meat and Fish, Tinned Fruit. Thank you.

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION: Envelopes: £167.06 loose cash: £195.20 CAFOD Lenten Fast: £531.33
Thank you for your generosity

REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS:

Please remember to pray for Russell Reyes and Douglas Goodbody 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, Hazel Hoyte, Angela Neary, Irene Cullen, Gerry Twomey, Barbara Johnson, Josephine Onwuka, Pauline Timlin, Kevin Corcoran, Patrick McShane, Margaret Walsh, 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 7 th April	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT <i>(Parish Mass Book p.176)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Joseph Taylor RIP
Monday 8 th April	Lent feria	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 9 th April	Lent feria	10.30am	Private Intention
Weds. 10 th April	Lent feria	10.30am	Private Intention
Friday 12 th April	Lent feria	<u>7.00pm</u>	Private Intention
Saturday 13 th April	Lent feria	10.30am	Private Intention
Sunday 14 th April	PALM SUNDAY <i>(Parish Mass Book p.184)</i>	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