

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Copenhagen Street

Clergy: Mgr. Séamus O'Boyle (Parish Priest) Fr Allan Alvarado Gil
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Parish Office opening times: Tuesday-Friday 10.00am -2.00pm



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

28th April 2019

Finding Faith



Poor old Thomas! Condemned to go down in history as 'Doubting Thomas', for demanding proof of the risen Jesus. Yet how many of us would admit to a sneaking sympathy for Thomas. How many of us would have done exactly the same thing in his shoes? In our defence we come to the story from a slightly different angle to that of Thomas's; we come with a twenty-first century agenda. We have been brought up in a culture where science rules the day and physical proof is all important. We live in a society where belief in the spiritual is viewed as naive; eccentric even. Yet we are expected to believe. The story of 'doubting Thomas' is comforting to our twenty-first century ears and perhaps that's what John, the gospel's writer, intended. Surely John must have known that faith, or lack of it, would be an issue especially for those without the benefit of first hand evidence. So what are those of us who are struggling with our faith to take from this story?

The most important thing to notice is that Jesus doesn't condemn Thomas for not believing. He simply offers himself as proof. He helps Thomas to believe. Perhaps Jesus does not rebuke Thomas because he knows how much Thomas loves him, and how badly he wants to believe. Doubt might feel like a very negative emotion, but in actual fact, doubt is a sign that we are struggling to find answers and that has to be better than apathy or outright disbelief. Very often doubt is a prelude to firm faith. In fact, a faith besieged by doubt but based in a deep train of thought can be ultimately better than a faith built on little or no thought whatsoever.

In our struggle to find faith we should first take heed of today's story and acknowledge that doubt is 'normal' and not necessarily a bad thing. Next we should acknowledge that the faith others have isn't just some warm and fuzzy feeling, but a conviction and a commitment. It's all too easy when we cannot determine a faith of our own to decry the faith of others as delusion, but this is to simply dismiss out of hand the thinking of centuries of intelligent and gifted men and women.

"Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Jesus applauds those who have arrived at their faith, but for those of us who are still struggling we are promised the Holy Spirit to point us in the direction of a well-founded and enduring faith.



PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENTS:

CONFIRMATION: the next session will be on Monday 29th April at 6.45pm in the Crypt at St John's, Duncan Terrace.

BAPTISM: the next classes for parents wishing to have their infants baptised will be on Wednesdays 1st & 8th May at 7pm in St John's, Duncan Terrace. You should please attend both sessions.

FIRST COMMUNION: important Parent's Meeting, Thursday, 2nd May, 7:00 p.m. Next Children's class, Sunday 5th May, 9:45am.

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE: Meeting this coming Tuesday, 30 April at 7:00 p.m. in the Sacristy.

FOODBANK VOLUNTEERS' MEETING: This coming Thursday, 2 May, 12:30 for 1:00. If you want to become a volunteer, come along and find out what it's all about.

ANNUAL MASS FOR MIGRANTS: Bank Holiday Monday, 6th May is the annual international Mass, celebrating the diversity in the Catholic Church in London. This year it is at Westminster Cathedral. Procession at 10:00 Mass beginning at 10:30.

THE ANNUAL MASS IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY: will be celebrated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols on Saturday 8th June, at 3pm in Westminster Cathedral. Couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries (5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th & every year over 60!) are invited to register with Fr Séamus as soon as possible if they wish to attend this Mass.

HOLY WEEK COLLECTIONS: Holy Thursday - Poor £68.60 Good Friday - Holy Places £84.00
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, 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 28 th April	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER <i>(Parish Mass Book p.262)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Michael Sullivan RIP
Monday 29 th April	St Catherine of Siena	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 30 th April	St George	10.30am	Private Intention
Wednesday 1 st May	Easter feria	10.30am	Private Intention
Saturday 4 th May	The English Martyrs	10.30am	Private Intention
Sunday 5 th May	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER <i>(Parish Mass Book p.265)</i>	8.30am	Bridie Rynne RIP
		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