

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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 'GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY'

12th May 2019

The Master's Voice



How often do we hear the phrase, "We believe what we want to believe"? It's equally true that we refuse to believe what we don't want to believe. In today's reading the Jews are pushing Jesus to state his case. "If you are the Messiah tell us plainly." Jesus replies, "You do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep." In other words, the questioners are not his followers, they are hostile towards him and therefore they are not open to believing in him even though they have seen the evidence. In some ways Christianity is a chicken and egg kind of scenario. We need to be followers of Jesus, to believe in him, but we need to believe to be followers. Which comes first is up to us, but we have to be open to hearing and recognising Jesus in our twenty-first century world.

Hearing, recognising, believing and responding is what 'Good Shepherd Sunday' is all about. Some situations have got 'God' written all over them and some haven't. How do we tell the difference? What are we called to do? How are we called to believe? Some things are obvious, some things aren't. But at the heart of everything, even issues that didn't exist in Jesus' day such as euthanasia, and stem cell research, Jesus' teachings are like 'cat's-eyes' on life's dark country roads. We have to recognise Jesus' voice in everything by asking, how much of today's decisions are based in love, and how much of our decisions are based in our own human agendas.



TRAINING OUR FUTURE PRIESTS: today is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day when we pray particularly for vocations. Currently there are 45 men studying at our diocesan seminary at Allen Hall, Chelsea – 27 of whom are for our own diocese. The annual Priest Training Fund collection will take place next weekend. This Fund supports these men during the six years of their training, and also the ongoing formation of ordained priests. Donation leaflets/envelopes are available at the back of the church. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Thank you.

CELEBRATION OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Next weekend our parish children will make their First Holy Communion. On Saturday, there will be no Mass at 10:30 a.m. Some of the children will make their First Holy Communion on Saturday at a Mass at 1:30 p.m. On Sunday, in addition to the regular Masses, the remaining children will make their First Communion at a Mass at 1:30 p.m. Although these are extra Mass times to accommodate guests, parishioners are welcome to attend these Masses to support the children.

CONFIRMATION: the next session will be on Monday 13th May at 6.45pm in the Crypt and Church at St John's, Duncan Terrace and will be a Reconciliation Service.

STEWARDSHIP: it is my responsibility to make sure that the parish resources are managed to the best of our ability. I am helped in this task by a faithful group of parishioners who make up the Parish Finance Committee. I am very grateful to them for their time and support. A simplified statement of the Parish Finances at the end of 2018 is posted on the Notice Board at the back of the church. If you have any questions at all about it, please speak to me or one of the Committee members. *Fr Séamus*

HOLY WATER: If you would like to take home some Holy Water blessed at Easter, you can find it in a big container at the front right-hand side of the church under the large picture.

LAST TWO SUNDAYS' OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS: 28th April: Envelopes £146.70, Loose plate £215.79
5th May: Envelopes £210.20, Loose plate £201.02 **Thank you for your generosity.**

REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS:

Please remember to pray for Thomas Griffin 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 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 12 th May	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER <i>(Parish Mass Book p.268)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Delia Maguire RIP
Monday 13 th May	Easter feria	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 14 th May	St Matthias	10.30am	Intentions of Fr Allan
Wednesday 15 th May	Easter feria	10.30am	Private Intention
Friday 17 th May	Easter feria	1.00pm	Funeral of Thomas Griffin RIP
Saturday 18 th May	Easter feria	1.30pm	First Holy Communion children
Sunday 19 th May	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER <i>(Parish Mass Book p.271)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	John Lambert RIP
		1.30pm	First Holy Communion children

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