

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



SS PETER & PAUL

30th June 2019

Carrying the Baton



Over the years the Catholic Church has laid itself bare to criticism. Sometimes this criticism is underserved, but sadly at other times it is. At certain times in history the Church has been guilty of making mistakes, and doubtless it will continue to make mistakes in the future because we are all human. There are those who complain that the Church is out of step with an increasingly secular world. There are even those who point to diminishing Mass attendances and predict that the Church is living on borrowed time. The bottom line however is drawn in today's gospel. Jesus turns to Peter and says, "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church. "Whether

Jesus' idea of 'Church' is our idea of 'Church' is debateable, but one thing is for sure, Jesus intended to leave behind a group of followers initially led by Peter, united in their belief of Jesus and God until the end of time. Because Peter recognised that God was acting through Jesus, he was entrusted with the job of leading the rest of us. The Church today is a testimony to Peter's faith, it exists because Peter and others like him trusted and believed in God. It exists because Peter and people like Peter acted out their faith despite hostilities and persecution. Fortunately, today's Christians don't get thrown to the lions anymore, but we face different sorts of problems instead. Today we face lethargy, conflicting secular values, and the complexities of scientific debate. The Church cannot be silenced. Fearless Christians like Peter and Paul are still needed to carry the baton. Peter and Paul represent two strikingly different approaches to discipleship. Peter had to learn slowly, making many mistakes along the way. Paul, on the other hand, came to the Faith immediately and never backed away from his zeal for Christ after that. We aim to imitate these two great apostles in our own lives. Like Peter, we know we are likely to fail and to get things wrong, yet like Peter we aim to persevere. Like Paul, we must always fight for what is right, no matter how difficult that might be.



CONGRATULATIONS: to Fr Allan today - the first anniversary of his ordination as a priest. He has a little bit of catching up to do with his older brethren here: Fr Larry (54 years ordained) and Fr Séamus (38)!

This year has been a steep learning curve for Fr Allan, and he is going home to Costa Rica this week for a month's well-deserved holiday time with his family. *Ad multos annos* Fr Allan!

NORA MORAN RIP: Nora died peacefully at home last week after a long illness. Her remains will be received into St John's Church in Duncan Terrace this evening at 7.15 and her Funeral Mass will be tomorrow at 10.30am in St John's with burial afterwards at the City of London Cemetery. Please keep Nora and her family in your prayers at this time.

BAPTISM PREPARATION: the next classes for parents wishing to have their infants baptised will take place on **Tuesday 2nd & Wednesday 10th July** at 7pm in St John's Church, Duncan Terrace. You should please attend both evenings.

EVERY PENNY HELPS: Any building that's over 100 years old needs ongoing repairs – some small, some not so small. Our church is now 103 years old! Parishioners' generosity helps keep our church in pretty good shape. We've heard that some people save their copper coins (and other loose change) for good causes. If you don't do so, perhaps you could start. There's a big jar available in which you can put your saved coppers – and other coins – to help with church repairs. We entrust this little project to St Barbara, Patron of Copper Miners.

ANNUAL BARBECUE: This year our now annual barbecue will be on Sunday, 14 July after the 11:00 Mass. Those who can finalise plans and help on the day, please meet today after 11:00 Mass. As in the past there will be a cake stall at the BBQ. Please bring along cakes to share on the day – before Mass if possible.

HELP WITH SOME OUTDOOR WORK: Can you help on Saturday, 6 July, 11:00 – 1:00 with a bit of outdoor tidying? Please do come along. If you can, please bring along garden gloves, shears or a spade.

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION: Envelopes: £158.00 Loose plate: £214.31

Thank you for your generosity.

GIFT AID: We will shortly be submitting our Gift Aid claim to HMRC for the tax year 2018/19. If you are currently in the Gift Aid Scheme and have ceased paying tax for 2018/19 on any of your income, please advise Oscar Ignatius the parish bookkeeper via email oscarignatius@rcdow.org.uk Thank you

REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS:

Please remember to pray for Nora Moran 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, 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, Eleanor Macauley

MASSES THIS WEEK:			
DATE	FEAST DAYS	TIME	INTENTION
Sunday 30 th June	SS PETER & PAUL (Parish Mass Book p.180)	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Private Intention
Monday 1 st July	Dedication of the Cathedral	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 2 nd July	feria	10.30am	John Mulligan RIP (Anniv)
Wednesday 3 rd July	St Thomas	10.30am	<u>NO MASS TODAY</u>
Saturday 6 th July	feria	10.30am	Private Intention
Sunday 7 th July	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Parish Mass Book p.105)	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