

THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Copenhagen Street N1 0SR

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



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 'Gaudete Sunday'

15th December 2019

Myopic Expectation



It's at this time of year that our children are asking for every new toy they see on the TV. As discerning adults, we know the castle that lights up, shoots arrows and transforms into a fire spouting dragon will just be a frustrating lump of plastic once we get it home, with batteries that give up after three minutes. Our children's expectations are unrealistic, and it is up to us to buy a toy that we know will be more fun. Today's gospel is all about myopic expectation.

From his prison cell John the Baptist sends word to Jesus. "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answers, "Go and tell John what you hear and see. The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." It's interesting that Jesus doesn't send back a "Yes I am," kind of answer. Rather he sends a "Work it out yourself," kind of answer. He asks John to look at the evidence. It seems strange that John, normally so certain and so confident should declare a doubt, but perhaps we can understand his disappointment. John has been arrested and thrown into prison. He is feeling tired and disillusioned. It is likely that he'd had misguided expectations of Jesus. Perhaps he'd expected Jesus to come in the manner of a king or of a great warrior with the power to conquer the oppressor. John has some working out to do. John needs to understand that the work of a Messiah is to teach God's love, not just push a few Romans around.

So, what of our own expectations? Do we expect God to sort out all our problems and make our lives easy and comfortable? Or do we believe that God is there to help change us and guide us through our daily choices. Do we understand that God is preparing us for his kingdom or are we guilty of myopic expectation? Perhaps we have some working out of our own to do.



WELCOME: Today we welcome parishioners who are preparing to be baptised or confirmed at Easter to the next step in their preparation. Let us continue to support Melissa Jones, Daniel Cebrian and Alisha Fernandes with our prayers.

CONFIRMATION 2020: The Confirmation Enrolment Forms are available at the back of the Church. Please return them before **Friday 17th January 2020**. For more details please contact Fr Allan.

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS – YEAR OF THE WORD 2020: Throughout this special year there will be many opportunities in the diocese for "celebrating, living and sharing" the Word of God. Here in the parish opportunities can be provided to learn more about the Bible and other aspects of our faith and to pray with the Scriptures. If you didn't get a newsletter last week, you can pick up by the door a questionnaire that will help us plan based on what parishioners need and want. Please fill it in and return it before Christmas.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR: Thanks again to all who made the bazaar a social and financial success. This year we cleared £1,922.23 (up £87.68 from last year). Next year - £2,000??

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December, Carols and First Mass of Christmas, 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Day, Wednesday 25th December, Mass at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, CALENDARS, ETC.: Available for purchase after Mass at the front of Church.

ROTA FOR CHRISTMAS: Readers and Communion Ministers please indicate on the chart by the organ when you will be here Christmas Eve / Day or send an email to Sister Miriam (ssnd27@yahoo.co.uk) to let her know, so that you can get your readings, etc. next Sunday.

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS: To decorate the Church for Christmas, we ask you once again to bring poinsettia plants which can be tagged in memory of loved ones, if you wish. Please bring them this Saturday or Sunday, or at the latest, Monday 23rd December.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS:

Please remember to pray for Catherine Barnes & Fr Allan's Grandmother Gladys who died recently, and for 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, Jocelyn Hillgarth, Filomena Barbo, Colin Harris, Maria Carrano, May Cullen., Gordana Tancevska, Irene Bryan, Phuong Quach, Albert Boateng, Freddie Mudd, Margaret Cross, 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, Mary Morgan, Pritti Depala, Elise Koffi

MASSES THIS WEEK:			
DATE	FEAST DAYS	TIME	INTENTION
Sunday 15 th December	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>(Parish Mass Book p.88)</i>	8.30am	Intentions of Danny Bartram
		11.00am	All our Parishioners
Mon. 16 th December	Advent feria	10.30am	Intentions of Roseline Egan
Tues. 17 th December	Advent feria	10.30am	Intentions of Julie & Joe McGauley
Weds. 18 th December	Advent feria	10.30am	Intentions of Maureen Molloy
Sat. 21 st December	Advent feria	10.30am	Patrick, Mary & Tim Molloy RIP
Sun. 22 nd December	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>(Parish Mass Book p.90)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Private Intention

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