

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)

Parish Secretary: Lisa Mulvaney **Parish Tel:** 020 7226 3277

Postal Address: 39 Duncan Terrace, Islington, London N1 8AL

Email: copenhagenstreet@rcdow.org.uk

Website: www.rcdow.org.uk/copenhagenstreet

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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

22nd December 2019

Difficult Decisions



If we are lucky, we might get through life without making any painful or difficult decisions, but we can't all be so lucky. There are some who will choose to give birth to a child knowing that the baby has a disability. There are those who will choose to care for a relative who is very ill or dying. These decisions are made with no real clue of what lies ahead, but they will always be made out of love.

There's no doubt about it, for people who make difficult decisions in life there will be great difficulties ahead. What is equally certain is that there will be great rewards too.

Our Nativity scenes show Mary and Joseph smiling fondly at the Baby Jesus as though bringing the son of God into the world had been one of the easiest decisions to make. As we look in at the cosy scene, we have to remember that the history of salvation would

have been completely different if either Mary or Joseph had said 'no' to God's plan. Saying 'yes' to God's plan didn't give Mary or Joseph an easy life, but being part of God's plan in such a direct and practical way must have brought them great fulfilment, and of course, it earned them a place in the history books for all eternity.

We too are part of God's plan, though it probably doesn't feel like it. We too have a part to play in leaving the world a better place than we found it. What is God asking of each of us? Is there a nagging vocation that keeps throwing opportunities into our path, opportunities that up until now we have managed to sidestep? Advent is a time to make decisions that will turn our predictable lives into rollercoasters with difficult lows but rewarding highs.



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.

FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS: If you still want to bring a poinsettia, please do so tomorrow, Monday, between 10:00 and 11:30am or contact Sister Miriam.

CHRISTMAS EVE SOCIAL: For anyone who wants to stay for a while to socialize after Christmas Eve Mass, there will be a Bring and Share (Finger Food) in the hall after Mass.

ROTA FOR CHRISTMAS: If you indicated you can read at Christmas, please pick up a paper at the back of church with your readings.

CHRISTMAS CARDS, CALENDARS, ETC.: There are a few calendars, individual Christmas cards and Westminster Yearbooks at the back of the church with the other cards.

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 as soon as possible.

LAST SUNDAY’S OFFERTORY: Envelopes: £158.70 Loose plate: £291.22 **Thank you for your generosity.**

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 22 nd Dec.	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>(Parish Mass Book p.90)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Private Intention
Mon. 23 rd December	Advent feria	10.30am	NO MASS TODAY
Tues. 24 th December	CHRISTMAS EVE	<u>6.30pm</u>	All our Parishioners
Weds. 25 th December	CHRISTMAS DAY	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	In Thanksgiving
Sat. 28 th December	The Holy Innocents	10.30am	Private Intention
Sun. 29 th December	HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH <i>(Parish Mass Book p.106)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Bridie Harrington RIP

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