

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)

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



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8th December 2019

Choose a New Direction



We embark on a diet and the days of lettuce and low calorie drinks loom gloomily. We embark on a fitness regime and our subconscious whispers, "Fifteen more minutes under a warm duvet versus a jog round a freezing park I know what I'd choose!" In today's gospel, John the Baptist preaches "Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." The idea of 'repentance' fills us with about as much excitement as a cold shower on a winter's morning, but it doesn't have to be like that. Diets, fitness regimes and repentance all have one thing in commonwe emerge as new people as a result of choosing a new direction. Repentance doesn't mean throwing ourselves round in fits of Catholic guilt, it simply means having a change of heart, and becoming new and better individuals as a result. There are areas in all our lives that can be improved or turned around. The idea of repentance is actually quite exciting.

John's Advent call for a change of heart is for each and every one of us. We might think we are good enough as we are, but that's probably how the Pharisees and Sadducees in today's reading also felt. True enough they turned up for John's baptism, but had they really turned up in a spirit of repentance? John is clearly suspicious of their motivation, and challenges them to prove their commitment. Declaring our intention to change is all well and good, but our commitment must also 'bear fruit' ... show results.

At this time of year, every year, we are asked to change our lives. For the less optimistic amongst us, the idea reminds us of New Year resolutions; easily made, easily broken and all a little bit pointless. John's message is a tough one. Changing our lives is far from easy. One of the problems of course is that when we try to change we usually rely solely on our own will power, which is notorious for letting us down. John the Baptist reminds us that when we are baptised in the name of Jesus we will receive the Holy Spirit, a divine power that will help us towards God when our will power fails. All we have to do is ask and keep on asking.

Change is not beyond any of us however much you think it probably is. John might have given the Pharisees and Sadducees a hard time but in truth the message is clear. "There is none so lost, they cannot be found, none so helpless that their life cannot be changed."



FIRST COMMUNION: There is an important meeting for parents on Monday the 9th of December at 7:00 p.m. in the church hall. (not on the 5th as originally announced). This is a meeting for adults. If you need to bring your children, please have them bring something along that they can do quietly.

CONFIRMATION 2020: The Confirmation Enrolment Forms for 2020 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 the 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 by the 15th of December.

ADVENT PRAYER: This Thursday, 12 December, there will be an Advent Prayer hour, 7:30 – 8:30 during which there will be opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

MARIA FIDELIS SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS PARTY 2019: Maria Fidelis Catholic School near Euston is throwing a free Christmas Party for local and elderly residents on Wednesday 11th December from 6pm – 9pm. Our guests will be given a full Christmas dinner with drinks and there will be entertainment, throughout the evening. If you would like to come, or know somebody

REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS:

Please remember to pray Catherine Martha Barnes **who died recently, and for those whose anniversaries are about this time** especially Dora Best. **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, 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, Mary Morgan, Pritti Depala.

MASSES THIS WEEK:			
DATE	FEAST DAYS	TIME	INTENTION
Sunday 8 th December	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>(Parish Mass Book p.85)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Patrick Valentine Morgan RIP
Monday 9 th Dec	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSES VIRGIN MARY	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 10 th Dec	Advent feria	10.30am	Private Intention
Wednesday 11 th Dec	FUNERAL	1.00pm	Funeral for Catherine Martha Barnes
Saturday 14 th Dec	St John of the Cross	10.30am	Private Intention
Sunday 15 th December	THRID SUNDAY OF ADVENT <i>(Parish Mass Book p.87)</i>	8.30am	Intentions of Danny Bartram
		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