

# 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

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**Website:** [www.rcdow.org.uk/copenhagenstreet](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/copenhagenstreet)

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



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THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

29<sup>th</sup> December 2019

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## Standing Up to Herod



Along the mantelpiece our Christmas cards depict angels and shepherds and the Baby Jesus surrounded by the love of his family. Today however we are given a picture of the Holy Family fleeing to safety from a ruthless and murderous dictator.

Herod, realising the wise men had tricked him was infuriated, and commanded that all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under should be killed. In a dream an angel appears to Joseph, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there, for Herod is about to search for the child to destroy him." It is difficult to imagine anyone as cruel or as wicked as Herod. It is hard to imagine anyone so insanely jealous that they could put innocent babies to death. In the context of the 'Feast of the Holy Family' we have to admire how promptly Joseph responded to the angel's message and how well he protects his family from the formidable Herod. In the wider context perhaps the main point of the story is that no amount of wickedness or evil could sabotage God's plan. All over the globe people suffer tragedy and loss and terrible injustice, yet still they somehow manage to retain their faith in God. This has to be testimony to the presence of God in our lives, and testimony to the spirit in each of us that abhors evil.

A lot is spoken nowadays of family values, but sadly those values can often be more about becoming successful and making lots of money than becoming good people. The Holy Family reminds us that real family values are about standing up to the 'Herods' in our world and creating a culture of justice and love. Evil only exists if we allow it.



**THANK YOU:** to all who helped make our celebration of Christmas go so well. Particular thanks to the musicians, readers, servers, the church decorators and flower arrangers!

On behalf of Sr Miriam, Fr Allan, Fr Larry and myself, a special thank you for your many kind personal gifts and cards and generous Christmas Offerings. We wish you all a grace-filled and happy New Year of our Lord 2020 as we enter a new decade. *Fr Séamus*

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

**BAPTISM PREPARATION:** the next classes for parents wishing to have their infants baptised will take place on Wednesdays 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm in St John's Church, Duncan Terrace. You should attend both sessions please.

**FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION:** The next session for the children is Sunday, 12 January, 9:45 (prompt) followed by 11:00 Mass and enrolment. The next Parent Meeting is Thursday, 16 January at 7:00 p.m.

**PRAYER PARTNERS:** If you are willing to be a prayer partner for one of the children preparing for First Holy Communion, please sign on the paper beside the organ. Thank you.

**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. Questionnaires that will help us plan based on what parishioners need and want are beside the coin jar on middle aisle. Please fill in and return by 12 January

**REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS:**

**Please remember to pray for those who have 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.

<b>MASSES THIS WEEK:</b>			
<b>DATE</b>	<b>FEAST DAYS</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>INTENTION</b>
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> Dec.	<b>HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY &amp; JOSEPH</b> <i>(Parish Mass Book p.106)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Bridie Harrington RIP
Mon. 30 <sup>th</sup> December	6 <sup>th</sup> Day in the Christmas Octave	10.30am	<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>
Tues. 31 <sup>st</sup> December	7 <sup>th</sup> Day in the Christmas Octave	10.30am	<b>NO MASS TODAY</b>
Weds. 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2020	<b>MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD</b>	10.30am	All our Parishioners
Sat. 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Christmas feria	10.30am	Private Intention
Sun. 5 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b> <i>(Parish Mass Book p.115)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Intentions of Bridie Walsh

**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*