

# 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



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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

5<sup>th</sup> January 2020

## A Beginner's Guide to Guiding Stars



God reaches out far and wide to announce the birth of his Son. He reaches out to simple shepherds in the fields around Bethlehem, and to great intellects from the East. He reaches out to those of different religions, to politicians and to scientists. The revelation that a saviour has been born is bigger than anybody. The story of the Magi, who followed the star and sidestepped the evil Herod, is tempting in its appeal to romanticise, but if we are to learn anything we have to focus on the nature of God's revelation.

It mightn't feel much as though God is reaching out to us. The stable with its shepherds and kings might seem very far away as we take down our Christmas decorations and recycle our Christmas cards. There's a sense of 'back to normal', and for most of us that means a hum drum cycle of boring jobs and making ends meet. Today's story tells us that it doesn't have to be that way. To follow the star is to make a conscious decision to cut out everything that is unimportant. The rules are simple. We have to make the right choices on a daily basis no matter what the consequences. In the light of poor decisions, we must learn to ask forgiveness and move away from regret. We must find time in a world full of distractions to listen to our inner voice. Most importantly we have to ask God to guide us as he guided the Magi.

Most of us get through life relying on the knowledge we already have. Today's challenge is to look for something new. Knowing where to look for our own guiding star is up to us, but one thing is for sure, if we are not looking for revelation, we will never find it. If we carry on doing the same things, we will only get the same results.



**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.

**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.

**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.

**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 next Sunday, 12 January.

**YEAR OF THE WORD “SCRIPTURE ROAD SHOW”:** In last week’s letter, Cardinal Vincent mentioned this. On January 30 – 1 February at Westminster Cathedral is an opportunity to explore the Year of the Word in “Tents of Meeting” with specially commissioned artwork, “The God Who Speaks”. It includes information, resources, activities and presentations to suit all ages. *If some parishioners would like to attend as a group, that can be arranged. Please sign by the organ, if you are interested in either forming or joining a group.*

**REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS:**

**Please remember to pray for Mary Cerasoli 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, Luke Walsh.

**MASSES THIS WEEK:**

DATE	FEAST DAYS	TIME	INTENTION
Sunday 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
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Christmas feria	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Christmas feria	10.30am	Private Intention
Weds. 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Christmas feria	10.30am	Private Intention
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Christmas feria	10.30am	Private Intention
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b> <i>(Parish Mass Book p.118)</i>	8.30am	All our Parishioners
		11.00am	Intentions of Winifred Howson (sick)

**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*