

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

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



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

1st March 2020

Daily Choices



Famous artists depict Satan as a winged demon with goat horns and cloven hooves. If the devil really presented temptation to us in this obvious guise, we would easily be able to recognise and resist it. Sadly, that is not the case. We tend to think of temptation as something that will lead us into a life of crime or immorality, but temptation is simply anything that threatens to take us away from God. Temptation does not come with all the easily recognisable trappings of Satan. More often or not temptation comes as an attractive choice. Satan presents for us easy ways out of our problems. Satan dresses up poor decisions as sensible options. Worse, the devil will

help us to justify our poor decision making until we reach a point where we really cannot tell right from wrong.

Many of us fail to recognise temptation, and the reason we fail is because we don't really know who we are or what we're about. It's surprising that we can get so far on in years without being about to answer simple questions like "What are you doing for God?" "How would you like to be remembered?" The reason we struggle with questions like these is because as human beings we are governed hugely by self-interest. Self-interest is essential for survival and it's in all of us, but as Christians we have to put self-interest on a back burner and put in the time and effort into defining who we really would like to be. Once we have achieved this, then the devil's temptations are suddenly crystal clear. After all, we can't be tempted away from our path in life if we've no idea what our path in life is. If we have no plan, we are hardly worth the devil's attention.

When we choose to give up something this Lent, perhaps it should be something that reflects the path we have chosen and the temptation we are trying to transcend. If we decide to give up red wine for instance, with the intention of dropping a couple of dress sizes, God won't be hugely impressed, and the devil won't be remotely interested. If we give up wine because we have identified that it is stopping us from doing some important work of God's making, our Lenten journey will take on a life changing significance. Jesus gives us an important clue; "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" When we make our daily choices ask, "Is this about me.... or is it about God?"



FRIDAYS OF LENT: During Lent there will be Mass followed by Stations of the Cross each Friday evening at 7.30.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY: Next Friday, 6 March, is CAFOD Family Fast Day. You are encouraged to eat a simple meal and donate what you save (or more) to help their work with the poor around the world. Please take a Fast Day envelope with you this week and give whatever you can. There will be a retiring collection next Sunday. Through CAFOD's global Church family – one of the largest aid networks in the world – your support can reach to the ends of the earth.

FIRST COMMUNION: Children's classes today and next Sunday, 8 March at 9:45. Parents' Meeting on Thursday, 5 March at 7:00 p.m. in the hall. If for some important reason a parent cannot attend, please contact Sister Miriam in advance.

CONFIRMATION 2020: the next session is tomorrow, **Monday 2nd March**, in the Crypt at St John's in Duncan Terrace from 6.45pm – 8.00pm. Please make every effort to be there on time!

BAPTISM PREPARATION: the next classes for parents wishing to have their infants baptised will take place on Wednesdays 4th & 11th March at 7pm in St John's Church in Duncan Terrace. You should attend both sessions please.

REAL EASTER EGGS: These eggs tell the real meaning of Easter with a story/activity book as well as a quality Fairtrade chocolate egg. Please hand in order forms today at the front of church after Mass or put them in an envelope and slide them under the Church door by Thursday. Forms are on table by door and at the front of church.

FOOD BANK: Two years ago today, Copenhagen Street Foodbank opened its doors. Thanks to all for your support by donations, helping on the day and with other tasks, and for providing a place of welcome where the people who need this service can come.

REQUESTS FOR PRAYERS:

Please remember to pray for Mary Joyce and Elizabeth Norman 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, Luke Walsh, Ted Sullivan, Tim Healy and Billy.

MASSES THIS WEEK:

DATE	FEAST DAYS	TIME	INTENTION
Sunday 1 st March	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (Parish Mass Book p.151)	8.30am 11.00am	All our Parishioners Eugene Gleeson RIP
Monday 2 nd March	Lent feria	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 3 rd March	Lent feria	10.30am	Private Intention
Weds. 4 th March	Lent feria	10.30am	Private Intention
Friday 6 th March	Lent feria	7.30pm	Private Intention
Sat. 7 th March	Lent feria	10.30am	Mary Donnelly RIP
Sunday 8 th March	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (Parish Mass Book p.155)	8.30am 11.00am	Intentions of Fr John Hai Pham 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

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A Parish of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee, Charity no. 233699