

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

39 Duncan Terrace London N1 8AL

Clergy: Mgr. Séamus O'Boyle (Parish Priest) Fr David Lucuy

Also in residence: Fr Larry Milby

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Parish Office opening times: Tue - Fri, 10.00am – 2.00pm



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

2nd September 2018

How Not to Impress God!

It's easy to be fooled. Mr and Mrs Devout are always in church, always to be seen praying, always lighting votives, always to be found kneeling in their favourite pew. Are Mr and Mrs Devout good people? Well very possibly, but outward appearances can be deceptive. Perhaps Mr and Mrs Devout are the salt of the earth, but not necessarily. Despite their Sunday best, perhaps Mr and Mrs Devout spend the rest of the week, complaining about the refugees next door, gossiping about other parishioners and ignoring the plight of the beggar sitting on the church doorstep. Outward appearances are no indication of what lies beneath.

Today the Pharisees complain to Jesus, that his disciples do not wash their hands before eating. Their complaint does not stem from food hygiene. The Pharisees had very many rituals intended to keep themselves pure and undefiled, and one of these rituals was washing before eating. The ritual in itself is not so very wrong. We ourselves have a ritual of saying 'grace before meals', but where Jesus finds fault is in their flawed grasp of what is important. Jesus uses their complaint to teach a lesson, and the lesson isn't really anything to do with washing.

What do we think pleases God? The Pharisees were not bad people, but they had strayed a long way from pleasing God. To the Pharisees, religion was all about abiding by hundreds of rules and regulations. Many of these rules were about keeping themselves segregated from anything in the world that would make them unclean. They had become so obsessed by this that they no longer engaged well with the world and all its suffering. They lived by lofty and judgmental ideals that Jesus totally rejected. Jesus didn't deliberately set out to disregard tradition, but at the same time, he had come to engage with the world and its needs. Jesus' main concern was for the poor the sick and the marginalised, and he went out of his way to associate himself with them. He saw the Pharisees placing barriers between man and God, and he wasn't having it!

We do not become unacceptable to God by failing to follow a set of outward rules. We become unacceptable to God when our hearts become cold. God is not impressed when we turn up for Mass in our Sunday best. God is best pleased when we show the world a loving and sincere heart.



A Message from Fr David:

As you know I will be moving to my take up my new appointment at the Parish of St Gabriel in South Harrow this coming week. I would like to thank Mgr Séamus, Fr Larry, Sr Miriam, Pauline, Lisa and all parishioners for your continued support, patience and love throughout the last three years of my ministry here at St John's and Blessed Sacrament parishes. Thank you very much for your generous gifts and cards. I am grateful to God for you all and please pray for me as I pray for you.

With gratitude, Fr David

MARRIAGES: Many congratulations to Alexander De Mont & Emily Lewis, and also Samir Sweida-Metwally & Christina Lienen, married here in the Church this weekend.

THANK YOU: Mai Buckley would like to thank everyone for their Mass cards, Mass offerings and sympathy on the death of her husband Paddy Buckley. Mass is being offered for your intentions at 10am on Thursday 6th.

BAPTISM PREPARATION: the next classes for parents wishing to have their infants baptised will be on Tuesdays 4th & 11th September at 7pm in the Church. You should attend both sessions.

THE CENACLE GROUP: The next meeting will be on Wednesday 12th September in the Crypt from 7pm until 9pm.

BAPTISM: We welcome our new parishioner baptised this weekend: Séamus Alexander Small.

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERTORY COLLECTION:

Envelopes £290.00 Loose plate £521.33

Thank you for your generosity.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS:

REST IN PEACE: Please pray for those who have died recently: Noel McKeown, Jesus Mari and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Stephen Morris, Francis John Wood, Patricia Craig, Rose Anne Barrett, James Joseph Lyons, Hilda Flatley, Terence Dermot Hughes, Michael John Beglane, Mary Therese Ackerman, Daniel Wilson, William John Fowler, Rose Jay, Margaret Wittich, Bridie McGovern, Jenny Buttigieg, Rosa Esposito, Thomas Butler, Michael Talty, Frederick William Parrin, Mona Lambe, Margaret Colvin, William (Bill) Planner, Vincent Pacitto, John Folan, Alice Miller and Martha John-Jules.

HEALING: Please pray for parishioners and their relatives / friends who are ill, especially : Lisa Ip, Sr Beatrice Immediata, Frances Jennings, Bro. J Lavelle (Marist Brother), Mufide R Family, Igor Bernhart, Christiana Visentin & Family, Monika Szulc, Gerado, Mary Dunn, Tom Cuniffe, Joe McGovern, Roy Allen, Mary Wallace, Clodhna McCorley, Alistair Goodman, Josie Harvey, Suzanne Greaves, Anita Hrebeniak, John and Elena Doherty, Alvito Noronha, Julie & Mike, Audrey Hamilton, Amalia Mastrobono, Margaret Crossworth, William Godber, Antonia Smith, Mary Gathney, Mary Harrington, Georgina George, Michael Treacy, Robert Callahan, Cath Walker, Stephen Henry, Sophia O'Donnell, Fr David Wilson, Carmel Hawkes, Louisa Charlton, Gwendoline Groves, Margaret Rittner, Mary Pospiech, Pat Murphy, Diane Austin, Kerry Doran (Sr Kathleen's niece).



THE WEEK AHEAD			
DATE	TIMES	INTENTIONS	GOSPEL
Saturday 1st September	6pm	Anne Barrett RIP & Patsy Gibbons RIP	Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23
Sunday 2nd September TWENTY-SECOND IN ORDINARY TIME	9am	All our Parishioners	
	10.30am	Michael Connaughton RIP	
	12noon	Terry Hughes RIP & Sofia Ann Rice RIP	
	6pm	Frances Ruane RIP	
Monday 3rd September St Gregory the Great	10am	Intentions of Tony McGill	Luke 4:16-30
Tuesday 4th September feria	10am	Rosalia Cullen RIP	Luke 4:31-37
Wednesday 5th September feria	10am	Elizabeth McCormack RIP	Luke 4:38-44
Thursday 6th September feria	10am	Thanksgiving (Mai Buckley)	Luke 5:1-11
Friday 7th September feria	10am	Intentions of Kathy Donald	Luke 5:33-39
Saturday 8th September THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	10am	Mary Brett RIP (1st Anniv) Deceased members of Timlin & Higgins Families	Matthew 1:1-16. 18-23
	10.30-11.30am	<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction</i>	
	10.30-11.30am / 5.15-5.45pm	<i>Sacrament of Reconciliation</i>	
	6pm	Morris Ann Barrows RIP	Mark 7:31-37
Sunday 9th September TWENTY-THIRD IN ORDINARY TIME	9am	Intentions of Raymond Ronchetti	
	10.30am	Josep Parreu RIP	
	12noon	All our Parishioners	
	6pm	Mary Coe RIP	