

# CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST

39 Duncan Terrace London N1 8AL

**Clergy:** Mgr Séamus O'Boyle (Parish Priest) Fr Martin Plunkett

Also in residence: Fr Larry Milby

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**Parish Office opening times:** Tue - Fri, 10am - 2pm



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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

08 DECEMBER 2013

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## PROOF OF THE PUDDING

Change is a difficult notion for most of us. Like the Pharisees and Sadducees we probably think we are okay just the way we are. In our youth we might have had a go at some 'character building' but as we age we tend to hope that others will accept us warts and all. Then along comes John the Baptist with his Advent message "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." It seems that staying just the way we are is not an option.

'Repentance' is an unfashionable word, but it simply means a 'change of direction'. It also implies that we should be sorry for our old way of life. But as John points out, saying 'sorry' isn't enough. We must be able to provide the proof of the pudding. Lip service is all too easy. Saying that we are sorry and that we want to change is a good start, but unless we put any practical provision into place, our good intentions are going to remain exactly that.... good intentions.

John gives us a piece of very helpful advice for making our good intentions fruitful. In preparing a way for Christ in our lives we must "Make straight his paths." That means identifying the obstacles that have prevented us from getting things right in the past and removing them. If for instance our change of heart means giving more money to the poor we will first have to identify what has stopped us doing that in the past. If our change of heart involves spending more time with an elderly relative we must first delegate some of the work that keeps us from doing that in the here and now. If a character trait such as shyness, laziness or prejudice get in the way of things we would like to do, then perhaps now is a good time to devise some strategies that will help make change possible.

If we are serious about wanting to change, John has more advice to offer. "There is one who is more powerful who is coming after me. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." With the best will in the world our own lack of willpower can prevent us from realising our good intentions. This is where the Holy Spirit can help us. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to give us the vision and the will to produce the proof of the pudding.

## PARISH NEWS

**SPONSORED WALK:** It would be good if we could please have your sponsorship forms and any money raised returned to the parish office as soon as practicable! Thanks.

**OPEN CHRISTMAS:** If you would like to help volunteer please take a form from the table in the Vestibule and return it to the parish office by next Sunday.

**DIocese OF WESTMINSTER YEAR BOOK:** For 2014 are on sale from the parish office for £4.50 each or ring-bound £5. They contain details of every church, school and organisation in the diocese. Limited stock so buy now!

**CHRISTMAS FAIR:** Held in the Fr George Haines Centre on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December from 11am – 2.00pm. Please join us for mulled wine, a photograph with at reindeer, a visit to see Santa, tombolas, raffle, arts and crafts, home-made cakes. Please come along, all welcome!

**SUNDAY CLUB:** Would welcome more second-hand books in good condition. No romances. Please bring them along to Mass and ask for them to be put in the Lobby.

**CAROLS ON THE ANGEL UNDERGROUND:** On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. St John's School Choir singing in aid of St John's Homeless Project.

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In an event of a fire or a fire drill taking place, please remain calm, and follow the safest exit routes that will be co-ordinated by the Church Fire Wardens, who will lead you to the designated assembly point.

## DIARY

**LEGION OF MARY:** We meet every Wednesday at 7pm. Please, come to 39 Duncan Terrace.

**A DAY WITH MARY:** Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December at St Mary of the Angels, Moorhouse Road, London W2 5DJ.

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## NOTICES

**SUNDAY COLLECTION 01 DECEMBER:** Envelopes £562.80 / Loose £890.18

**MARRIAGE:** The Diocese asks that couples who are hoping to marry should give six months notice to their Parish Priest. Please do not make any arrangements for your wedding date and reception before meeting with your Parish Priest.

**MY DAY BY DAY BOOKLETS FOR ADVENT ARE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE FOR JUST £1.**

**CATHOLICS SINGLES:** Is an organisation which helps single adult Catholics of all ages meet, either one to one or through social events. Please contact 0161 941 3498 or [www.catholicsingles.org.uk](http://www.catholicsingles.org.uk)

**CORPUS CHRISTI YOUNG ADULT PRAYER GROUP:** For young adults in their 20s and 30s meets every Wednesday from 7pm at Corpus Chrisiti on Maiden Lane, Convent Garden. Regular events include the celebration of Mass and Eucharistic healing service both monthly. We gather for a time of fellowship at the Coal Hole on the Strand afterwards. For more information contact [corpuschristipg@yahoogroups.co.uk](mailto:corpuschristipg@yahoogroups.co.uk)

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## REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

**REST IN PEACE:** Please pray for those who have died, especially Andrew McCarthy, Andrew Martelly, Anthony William Young, Patrick Butler and for all those whose anniversaries occur about this time, Patrick Joseph Reilly, John Edwards, Margaret Reynolds, Giselle Waldman, Timothy Ryan, Maria Oliva, Mary McTigue, Mary Wilkie, George Wesley and Edward Brown.

**HEALING:** Please pray for parishioners and their relatives / friends who are ill, especially: Lisa Ip, Helen Hallissey, Sr Beatrice Immediata and John Sampson.

THE WEEK AHEAD			
DATE	TIMES	INTENTIONS	READINGS
Sat 07 Dec	6pm	Jim McManus RIP	Matthew 3:1-12
Sun 08 Dec SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9am	Intentions of Paddy & Mai Buckley	
	10.30am	Intentions of Catriona Linehan & Family	
	12noon	Mass for Parishioners	
	6pm	Maja Popvic RIP	
Mon 09 Dec Advent Feria	10am	Intentions of Nancy Mulroy	Luke 1:26-38
Tue 10 Dec Advent Feria	10am	Intentions of Ann Barrett	Matthew 18:12-14
Wed 11 Dec Advent Feria	10am	Intentions of Nick & Pat	Matthew 11:28-30
Thu 12 Dec Advent Feria	10am	Intentions of Mary Burke	Matthew 11:11-15
Fri 13 Dec St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr <i>Friday abstinence</i>	12noon No Mass at 10	Jean Elizabeth Bella Bryan RIP	Matthew 11:16-19
Sat 14 Dec St John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor	10am	John Fung RIP (Anniv)	Matthew 17 :10-13
	10.30-11.30am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction	
	10.30-11.30am / 5.15-5.45pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
	6pm	Una Carmody RIP & Bridget Noon RIP	Matthew 11:2-11
Sun 15 Dec THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9am	Kitty O'Malley RIP	
	10.30am	Mass for Parishioners	
	12noon	Thomas Healy RIP (1 <sup>st</sup> Anniv)	
	6pm	Dino Cappuccini RIP	