

Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Church

Egerton Gardens, NW4 4BA



Rev Fr Tim Edgar (Rector & Parish Priest)

Tel:020 8202 0560

www.rcdow.org.uk/hendon

hendon@rcdow.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 233699

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

S 11	6.00pm		the people of the Parish & their needs
Su 12	10.00am		private intention
	12noon		intentions of Pauline Ennis
M 13	10.00am	Our Lady of Fatima	private intention
T 14	10.00am	St Matthias	intentions of Fr Tony
W 15	10.00am	Easter feria	Ronald Sole (rec dec)
T 16	7.30am	Easter feria	priest's intentions
F 17	10.00am	Easter feria	Edna Rozario (rip)
S 18	9.00am	Easter feria	Daniel O'Connor (rip)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

S 18	6.00pm		Sandra Slattery (anniv)
Su 19	10.00am		the people of the Parish & their needs
	12noon		George Crisp (rec dec)

Mass times and intentions are subject to change if there is a funeral.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: after Mass on Saturday morning

and on First Friday: after Mass until midday

Holy Rosary: Saturday 5pm

Confessions: Saturday 9.30-10am; 5.15-5.45pm and at call

Holy Matrimony: in accordance with the norms of Canon Law, SIX months' notice must be given, whether the marriage is here or abroad, to enable the required spiritual preparation to take place and for the paperwork to be gathered and, if necessary, submitted to the Chancellor of the Diocese. Please make an appointment to see the Parish Priest.

Parish Centre Bookings: call the Parish Office.

The Parish Secretary is Mrs Sheila Barr.

WEEKLY OFFERINGS

28 April £1743.03

which includes £843.03 collection

plus £900 (avg p w) Standing Orders for April

Thank you for your generosity!

Text **PARISH HENDO**

to 70800 to donate £5 automatically.

THE CALENDAR THIS WEEK

This feast of **Our Lady of Fatima** commemorates the visions of Our Lady seen near Fátima in Portugal in 1917 by three shepherd children, Lúcia dos Santos and her cousins Jacinta and Francisco Marto. The visions occurred on the 13th day of each month from May to October, and by October huge crowds were gathering at the site of the visions and reporting visions and miraculous occurrences themselves.

Pope Saint John Paul II was devoted to Our Lady of Fátima and attributed his survival of an assassin's bullet on 13 May 1981 to her intervention.

The history of Marian devotion is the history of the development of Christianity itself. It was to take the best part of five hundred years for the Church to understand and define the nature of Christ as both God and man: as the theologians struggled to find terms to express this most profound of all mysteries they found they could not keep silent about the woman in whom the Godhead had chosen to become incarnate. In giving her the title "Mother of God", those present at the Council of Ephesus in 431 were trying to find a vocabulary to express the truth that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us". The Christian understanding is that God did not swoop down to earth like a figure from ancient mythology, but rather went through the normal processes of gestation and birth taking his human DNA from a young woman about whom virtually nothing is known, certainly not

enough for a conventional biography. "The only reason for devotion to the Mother is that her Son is divine, and that Marian devotion is a safe-guard for the doctrine of the deity of Christ" (Eric Kemp).

We know it is not true that Catholics "worship" Mary or place her in a position which can in any way compromise the absolute centrality of the Godhead; it is true, though, that Catholic devotion is marked by a tender love for the Mother of the Saviour. We do not pray to her; we ask her for her prayers. The greatest truth about Mary is that she is one of us. We see in her what is possible for ourselves and our brothers and sisters. In her total openness to grace, Mary is available to God, and desirous only of doing his will: everything she is exists to be used by God. Mary shows us how to love God – she shows us what it means to love God. "If there is a scandal about our love for Mary and the saints then there is a scandal about our love for neighbour and enemy ... and yet that love alone can give meaning to human life" (John Saward).

The Second Vatican Council chose to consider Mary's place in the Church not in a separate document but as part of its whole reflection on the nature of the Church itself, *Lumen Gentium*. Mary is treated here as an integral part of the whole, and the fresh title proffered, "Mother of the Church", underlines the communion which we share with her.



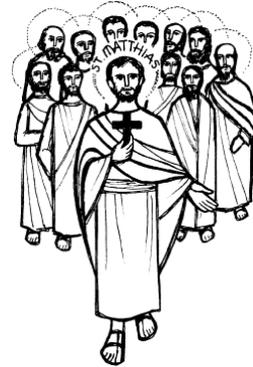
Back in the 19th century, John Henry Newman, although convinced of the truth of the Catholic Church, held back from its communion as he was confused by its popular expression. Once he had become a Catholic, though, Newman came to understand that what he had seen as a barrier was in fact the jewel in the crown, and that the devotion of the ordinary faithful, far from compromising theological orthodoxy, has been a fundamental element in its transmission.

"The total Christ is Jesus and his members. And because Mary is his mother, and we are his members, therefore she is our mother too. And motherhood of course is a permanent relationship. A mother does not cease to be a mother when she is not able to have any more children or when her children grow up. Mary is now the mother of Jesus, because motherhood is a permanent relationship, and we are now his members. Therefore, she is now our mother too for we are children by adoption into him who is Son by nature" (Eric Mascall).

Devotion to the Mother of Jesus brings home to us the truth that though salvation is an individual invitation, it is received and responded to within the community of faith: there is a Christian solidarity of which Mary is the great and effective sign.

Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
nunc, et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen.

St Matthias was not one of the Twelve; but after the treachery and death of Judas Iscariot, someone was needed to take his place. Two candidates were selected, and lots were drawn to see which of them should be made one of the Twelve: the choice fell on Matthias. Nothing is known for certain about his subsequent history.



Drawing lots to select a candidate for an office was a recognised Jewish custom: for example, the priest who was to enter the Temple sanctuary and burn incense there was not chosen by some rota but by lot.

When we attain some high or responsible position, we may be tempted to congratulate ourselves on being the best candidate for the job. We would do well to remember that we have got there because of the people we have met and the things we have found ourselves doing, and, more fundamentally, because of the gifts and talents that God has given us. Like Matthias, we have been chosen.

PLEASE pray for Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Religious Life. For those who are sick either at Home, in Hospital or Nursing Home – Petrina Peters, Paula Zanetti, Erlinda Allegio, Elaine Geary, Patience Chinwada, Malachy and Anne Drury, Sheila Barr, Bunny France, Jim O'Brien; for the recently departed – Caroline Bennett & Schola Elosia; those killed as a result of the violence and terrorism, most especially in Sri Lanka. Peace in the world and that those who govern the nations may do so wisely and justly.

May Procession at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden, Sunday 12th May, 3.30pm.

Preacher: Fr Martin Plunkett. Willesden Junction Bakerloo Line and Overground. Bus routes 18, 187, 206, 220, 226, 228, 260, 266, 487

Dates for your diary

Helpers BBQ – 6th July

Parish Feast Day (170th anniversary) - 15th September

VOLUNTEERS

We are in need of more people to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, also more people to read at Sunday Mass and more people to help with cleaning the Church.

If you can help with any of the above, please give your name either to Fr Tim or drop a note to the Office. Thank you.

COACH TRIP

13th July to Bourton on the Water

Adults £18: one child travels free with paying adults from the same family, extra children £5 each. Booking forms available at the back of Church.

200 Club draw – 26th May after 10am Mass.