

Presbytery

Peter Avenue, Willesden Green,
London, NW10 2DD

Tel: 020 8451 4677

rcdow.org.uk/parish/willesdengreen

Facebook: St Mary Magdalen RC
Church Willesden Green

Parish Clergy

Father Kevin Jordan
kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk

Father Daya Perera

Parish Office

willesdengreen@rcdow.org.uk



ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MARCH - MONTH OF

ST JOSEPH

5 MARCH 2017

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR A

Mass Times

Monday—Thursday: 9:30am

Friday: 9:30am,
6:30pm

Saturday: 9:30am, 6:30pm (Vigil
Mass of Sunday)

Sunday: 9:00am, 10:30am,
12:00 noon, 6:30pm

Sinhalese Mass

Last Sunday of the month: 4:30pm

Eucharistic Adoration

Weekdays: One hour before
morning Mass

Saturday: 8:30am—9:30am
5:30pm—6:15pm

First Friday: 7:00pm—8:00pm

Confessions

Saturday: 10:00am—10:30am
5:30pm—6:15pm

What's the Point?

It's fair to say that we have made a wonderful beginning to Lent. On Ash Wednesday the church was packed at both Masses and yet there was silence during the marking with ashes. Furthermore, both Fr Daya and I were delighted with the prayerful atmosphere in our schools as the children waited patiently to receive the sign of repentance on their foreheads. By the grace of God we will all keep it up for 40 days....and more!

Yet there is an inherent danger with an increase in fasting and praying. Fasting means that we have a little extra cash at the end of the week because of what we've given up. More prayer can mean that we are similarly blessed financially because we're spending a greater period of time with the Lord which costs absolutely nothing. All of us rightly think about how we might use that money to treat ourselves at the end of Lent. But keeping it all rather negates the third aspect of this time—that we give alms to those in need, not just out of our excess, but from what we have saved by our penances.

Next Friday is *CAFOD* Lent Fast Day and this weekend we will hear our new parish representatives of this organisation (which helps those in need across the world) tell us one particular way in which the money we give will be used. In addition, envelopes are also available for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal, more details of which can be found on the reverse of this week's newsletter and will be announced soon. Please, think about what you save and joyfully give that as well as what you would normally offer to the needy.

This is important because the fourth precept of the Church tells us to observe the Church's days of fasting and abstinence to prepare us for the joyful liturgical feasts and to acquire mastery over our instincts. Added to this, the fifth precept teaches that the faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church according to one's own ability. Thus, the amount we help *should* increase as we save money during Lent.

Finally, you might not be aware that neither Ash Wednesday nor Good Friday are Holydays of Obligation and yet our churches are packed. The first of those precepts of the Catholic Church states, "You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation." (*CCC 2041*) The holy days of obligation associated with Our Blessed Lord have all been moved to the nearest Sunday in this country but three others remain—Saints Peter and Paul on Thursday 29 June, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Tuesday 15 August, and All Saints on Wednesday 1 November. So, just a few dates for the diary to help you keep up this wonderful start for life, not just for Lent.. *Fr Kevin*

Those who have died recently: Manuel Garcia Sonora, Cecil Bleau, Noreen O'Donnell, Francisco Sanchez Chimeno, Fr David Hutton

Those who are sick: Paul Etuka, Elizabeth & Simon Doherty, Matt Bickers, Lydia Pambakian

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: George & Beatrice Wallace, Phyllis & Tom Attridge, Armanio Coelho, Sheila Scanlon

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £1,923.19 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity.

First Holy Communion Catechists. The worksheet for session six is available for collection from the rack in the Sacristy.

First Holy Communion 2017. The children are ready now to make their First Confession. Parents can bring them to the church between 10:00am and 10:30am or 5:30pm and 6:00pm on a Saturday or can make a separate time with Fr Kevin or Fr Daya that suits them better. Please come as a family—children will follow your example.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day Friday 10 March. CAFOD has been standing alongside poor communities working with them to end poverty and injustice across the world. CAFOD traditionally holds an Appeal early in Lent. Lent Fast Day is on Friday 10 March when you could consider giving up a meal. Please collect your CAFOD Fast Day envelope from church this week, fast this Friday and give as much as you can in next week's collection, or make a pledge to give regularly. If you are a UK taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation so that CAFOD can claim an extra 25% at no extra cost to you. Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity.

Parish Pilgrimage to Stonor (which is of great significance to Catholicism in England) takes place on Saturday 6 May 2017. The coach will depart from the church at 8:30am and return at approximately 6:00pm (depending on traffic). Cost is £25. Members of our Parish Pastoral Council will be available at the back of the church after all Masses next weekend of 11/12 March to tell you more about the Pilgrimage and to take bookings and payment. Alternatively, contact the Parish Office for information, Tuesday to Friday, between 10:00am and 2:00pm.

Lenten Alms. This year the Cardinal has asked that the Lenten Alms collection be directed to the Cardinal's Appeal fund. The funds raised will go to support parishes or groups in their work to further the mission of the Church: to serve the evangelisation of youth, to develop marriage and family life projects, and to provide service in society, especially to those on the margins. Please take a leaflet, read and pray about this. The second collection on the weekend of 18/19 March will be for the Cardinal's Appeal Lenten Alms. Envelopes are available at the back of church today – you can make a Lenten Gift by placing the envelope in the weekly collection or by placing money in the box at the back of the church. Please be as generous as you can.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Acclamation: Praise to You, O Christ, King of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to You, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Everything ...

...You Always Wanted to Know about Faith but Were Afraid to Ask is an open forum which Justin Osuji and Fr Kevin are offering to deepen our understanding of the truths of Christ and His Church on Thursday 16 March at 8:00pm in the church with refreshments in the Annexe. You can ask anything you like, anonymously, either online at <https://bit.ly/EYAWTKAF> or by completing one of the forms at the back of the church and dropping it in at the Parish Office. Whether you have a question or not, do come along—catechesis is good for all of us at every stage of life.

Funeral Notices

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late Manuel Garcia Sonora of Litchfield Gardens will take place on Wednesday 8 March at 11:00am followed by cremation at West London Crematorium at 12:45pm

May he rest in peace

Diocesan News

Faith Matters: Lent 2017, 'Faces of Mercy'. The following talks will take place at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN, 7:00pm until 8:30pm. 7 March, 'When I was in prison...' by Mgr. Roger Reader, Prison Adviser, Catholic Bishops' Conference. 14 March, 'When I was sick...' by Fr Peter-Michael Scott, The Cardinal's Advisor for Healthcare Chaplaincy. 21 March, 'When I was a stranger...' by Sarah Teather, Director, Jesuit Refugee Service UK. 28 March, 'Seeing Mercy' by Fr Geoffrey Wheaton, SJ, Jesuit priest. Registration is required. Email livingfaith@rcdow.org.uk and indicate your name and the date of the event. If you do not have an access to the Internet, please leave a voice message on 020 7931 6078. Suggested donation £4 per talk.

Parish Diary

Monday	5:30pm— 6:30pm	First Holy Communion class at St Mary Magdalen's Junior School
Monday	7:00pm	Prayer Group—Annexe
Tuesday	7:00pm— 8:30pm	Confirmation class at St Mary Magdalen's Junior School
Tuesday	7:00pm— 8:30pm	<i>Stitch Amazingly</i> sewing workshop—Annexe
Thursday	7:15pm	SVP -Annexe
Friday	7:00pm	Stations of the Cross—Church
Friday	7:00pm	<i>Knights of St Columba</i> —Annexe
Saturday	11:00am— 1:00pm	<i>Stitch Amazingly</i> sewing workshop—Annexe
Saturday	3:00pm— 5:00pm	"The Feast London" - a Catholic prayer meeting of the Light of Jesus Family— Annexe