

Presbytery

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ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

FEBRUARY - MONTH OF
THE HOLY FAMILY
YEAR C

14 FEBRUARY 2016
1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

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

Descending into Hell?

In a teaching session with children in a primary school some time ago one of the pupils asked, "Why do we say that Jesus descended into hell?" I was a little curious as to why he raised this question but not because he was wrong—indeed, he was absolutely right. Rather my surprise was due to the fact that he could only know this if he had ever said the Apostles' Creed and we prayed only the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed every Sunday and on Solemnities in the parish where I served. It transpired that he went to Mass in a neighbouring parish where they alternated between the two.

St Peter in his first letter refers to this aspect of Christ's salvific work - "He went and preached to the spirits in prison." (1 Pet 3:19) The Church's understanding of this is that Christ's soul descended to the dead between His death and resurrection. There He released the souls of those who had faithfully waited for the Messiah but who had died before His coming. As a reward for their fidelity He opened to them the gates of Heaven. The great Dominican artist Fra Angelico portrays this in his painting *Christ in Limbo*—Christ stands at the entrance to the place of the dead and extends His hand to Abraham, pulling him over the fallen door of hell which has crushed the devil after Christ blew it off its hinges. It's a fantastic image of Christ's triumph of good over evil.

That explanation of dogma aside, the *Roman Missal* states, "Instead of the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed, especially during Lent and Easter Time, the baptismal Symbol of the Roman Church, known as the Apostles' Creed, may be used." (*General Instruction on the Roman Missal no.19*) Because of this and since in Lent we are moving towards the origin of Baptism and all the sacraments in the celebration of the Paschal Sacrifice of Christ in Holy Week, we shall use the Apostles' Creed from today and during Easter.

Another thing for Lent that isn't too painful might be watching a film which focuses on a particular aspect of our faith and our Church. Slightly tongue in cheek, while you may be in a personal "hell" with your Lenten self-denial, come on Thursday evening to the Annex and watch "No Greater Love," a documentary on the Carmelite Nuns in Notting Hill. They reject the world's materialism—no television, radio or newspapers—and live a life dedicated to prayer and contemplation and yet everything about them seems so full of joy. This could be just the tonic for those of us struggling with our penances.

By the way, the Apostles' Creed is in the Mass leaflets provided so you don't need to learn it. In addition, another of its distinct characteristics is that in contrast to the one we usually pray it is shorter. You see—not everything in Lent is a burden. *Fr Kevin*

Those who are sick: Fr James McNulty, Una Maguire, Pat Butler, Ann Quirke, Raimundo Pereira de Souza, Fr Anthony Slack

Those who have died recently: Paul Dubrey

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: McGerty Family, Peggy Corboy, Sean Donagher, Daniel & Peter Mulhern, Danny Riordan, Benny & Margaret McDade, Augustine (Justine) Daroux, Jack Maher, Steven Bougouneau, Fitzroy Bougouneau, Josephine Bougouneau, James, Teresa & Nora Cafferkey, Robert Kennedy

Those Baptised: Keon Avery Gunarathne Asuramanage

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £2,129.61 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity.

The family of the late Josephine Clough would like to thank all those who expressed condolences, sent Mass and sympathy cards, and who attended the funeral. The collection raised a total of £375.00 which has been shared equally with *Cancer Research UK*, *The MS Society* and *The Diabetic Association*. Thank you for your kind and generous donations.

Tea and coffee. You are welcome in the Annexe after the 9:00am and 10:30am Masses when we will be serving drinks.

First Holy Communion Masses 2016 will be on Saturday 14 May at 12 noon, Sunday 15 May at 2:00pm and Saturday 21 May at 12 noon. Please indicate today on the lists at the back of the church which date you would like. The date you choose will be your confirmed date.

First Holy Communion/ Confirmation 2016. Please note that because of half term there will be no classes this week.

Stitch Amazingly Sewing Half Term Workshop for Kids & Parents at St Mary Magdalen's church (Annexe) on Thursday 18 February from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Places are limited. Please contact Glenda at www.stitchamazingly.co.uk, or telephone 07739 707 564 or see the poster at the back of the church.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day Friday 19 February. This year *CAFOD* is working to ensure girls living in the world's poorest countries are free to change their lives by getting an education. *CAFOD* is working with local expert organisations around the world to bring water to family homes so girls who used to spend hours collecting it every day now have time for school, study and to play with their friends. *CAFOD* Fast Days are our opportunity to support that vital work. 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. The UK government has promised to match every pound and penny you give to *CAFOD* this Lent.

Magdala magazine will be on sale next weekend.

Tyburn Convent. There will be a charity auction in aid of the Tyburn Convent and its Mission Foundations on Saturday 5 March 2016 at 2:00pm at the Tyburn Convent, 8 Hyde Park Place, London W2 2LJ. Donations of items of good quality and suitable for auction would be most appreciated.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham in this *Year of Mercy* is being planned for Saturday 9 July 2016. Could you please sign the list at the back of the church today if you are interested in attending so we have an idea of numbers.

Text Giving. A new way to support St Mary Magdalen's is now available from the Diocese through text giving on your mobile phone. Just text PARISH WILLG to 70800 to donate £5 automatically which will be added to your phone bill. This is an easy way to make offerings or to top-up your regular giving or to give if you're visiting. No more searching your pocket or purse for loose coins either. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Diocesan News

A Gala Concert in aid of the Corpus Christi Convent Garden Restoration Appeal takes place on Friday 19 February 2016 at 49 Queen's Gate Terrace, London SW7 5PN. The programme includes songs and duets by Mendelssohn, Schubert, Brahms, Rubinstein & Britten. Drinks reception is at 7:00pm and the concert starts at 7:30pm. Tickets cost £95 including wine & canapés and can be obtained by emailing vernon@vef.org.uk. For full details please see the poster at the back of the church.

Solid Foundations: Initiation into the Spiritual Life. Are you looking to grow in your spiritual life? If so you might be interested in a course called 'Solid Foundations' taking place over eight Saturdays, commencing on the 27 February 2016, at St Mary of the Angels church, Moorhouse Road, Bayswater, London W2 5DJ. The course provides a practical introduction to the spiritual life through the teaching of saints such as John of the Cross and Teresa of Avila. The course costs £25 per day. For more information please email schoolofmarylondon@gmail.com.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.

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!

Hail Holy Queen

Hail, holy queen, mother of mercy! Hail our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve, to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley, of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb Jesus; O clement, O loving, O sweet virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Parish Diary

Monday	7:00pm	Prayer Group meeting in the Annexe
Tuesday	7:00pm— 8:30pm	<i>Stitch Amazingly</i> sewing workshop in the Annexe
Thursday	11:00am— 1:00pm	<i>Stitch Amazingly</i> sewing half term workshop in the Annexe
Thursday	8:00pm	Family film night 'No Greater Love'
Friday	7:00pm	Stations of the Cross in the Church
Saturday	2:30pm— 4:00pm	<i>Stitch Amazingly</i> sewing workshop in the Annexe