

Presbytery

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ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

SEPTEMBER—MONTH OF
THE SORROWFUL MOTHER
17 SEPTEMBER 2017

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
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: 8:30pm—9:30am
5:30pm—6:15pm

First Friday: 7:00pm—8:00pm

Confessions

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

The Human Face of God

Turning to face the great west doors of the Cathedral as the coffin of the tenth Archbishop of Westminster was carried to its resting place, you could see above the heads of the congregation and over the grand organ the Union Flag through the window fluttering at half mast in the gentle breeze.

The funeral of Cormac Cardinal Murphy O'Connor was different to that of his predecessor George Basil Hume because the former had died after almost ten years of retirement whereas the ninth archbishop had died in office leaving us without a father-figure. So, not feeling orphaned, I was able to reflect on Cardinal Murphy O'Connor's achievements. They were brought to mind in part by that flag and because of an article in *The Spectator* last week which spoke of the decline in Christianity in the UK. Commenting on Roman Catholicism the editorial concluded that we had suffered only a 1% fall in Mass attendance because of the number of Catholic migrants to our shores.

And yet sitting in the front row was the Duke of Norfolk, a devout Catholic, and the premier duke in the English peerage whose ancestors suffered and died during the Reformation. There was an empty seat next to him and not because the Duchess hadn't turned up but because he was representing both Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. It was a reminder of how Cardinal Cormac had been the first leader of the Roman Catholic Church to preach in a royal chapel for over 400 years and the first ever as a guest of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Sandringham. Indeed, he was offered a seat in the House of Lords and had it come to fruition was planning to begin his maiden speech with the line, "As my predecessor Cardinal Pole was saying..." picking up on the last Catholic bishop there from the 16th century. And his ecumenical work with the established church and other Christian denominations is legendary.

With his gentle affable nature which masked a steely resolve, he brought Catholicism to the fore in our land while tackling head-on threats to the unborn, euthanasia on demand, the closure of Catholic adoption agencies and so on: he never compromised on the unchanging truths of Holy Mother Church and always delighted in encouraging this among his priests and his people too. Thus he embodied the title of his book—the human face of God—comfortable in every circle of society to preach God's truth in love.

May we follow his example and so become gentle but effective tools of evangelisation in our age and in every situation of our lives. And may his soul rest in peace. *Fr Kevin*

Those who have died recently: Anne Maria Hewitt, Johnnie Enright, Paud Moriarty, Noreen Kelly

Those who are sick: Robert Hurry, Margaret 'Ita' O'Neill, Patrick Roddy, Elfriede Singleton, Caroline Dolan

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Catherine Dyra, Bridget Sills, Nellie & Denis Golden, Noel Abeyratne, Cecilia Perpetual Larkin, Sheila Carey

Those Baptised: Adoria Pacheco, Jazzel Valentine Mascarenhas

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £1,822.63 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity.

Home Mission Sunday Collection. The *Home Mission* Office exists to help the Church throughout England and Wales to share the joy of the Gospel. It can seem daunting to share such a personal part of our lives as our faith in Jesus Christ. However, we could pray for the people we carry in our hearts to encounter Him for themselves. Prayer cards and prayer maps for families can be ordered from homemission.org.uk. If you would like to pray for the spread of the Good News on a regular basis, please sign up to the newsletter via homemission.org.uk. Please also consider contributing to today's second collection. The money received from this collection ensures that the Catholic Faith Centre is resourced and is able to respond to those who have questions about the Catholic faith. It is also possible to donate online at catholicnews.org.uk/home/donate.

Tea and coffee. You are welcome in the Annexe after the 9:00am and 10:30am Masses when we will be serving drinks. Do take this opportunity to meet your fellow parishioners.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will not take place before Mass on Wednesday mornings until further notice. We apologise for any inconvenience this might cause.

Stitch Amazingly Sewing Workshop. Would you like to learn how to be creative with fabrics and a sewing machine or are you even a budding fashion designer? Why not take that first step and join the *Stitch Amazingly* sewing workshops here at St Mary Magdalen's? Sessions will be recommencing on Saturdays from 23 September until 28 October 2017, 11:00am to 1:00pm. There is a 10% discount for new students who sign up by 16 September via email only at info@stitchamazingly.co.uk. To book for sessions please visit the website www.stitchamazingly.co.uk or telephone Glenda Brady on 07739 707 564.

Ashford Place. The monthly collection of non perishable food stuffs only, for Ashford Place, takes place next weekend.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols and the auxiliary bishops, takes place on Saturday 7 October 2017. Coach will leave the church at 7:00am and arrive back about 8:00pm. Cost is £20 per person. If you would like to go, please hand in at the parish office for *each* pilgrim 1.) their name, 2.) their contact details, 3.) the contact details for a next-of-kin, and 4.) the full fare. Seats will be allocated as the applications and monies come in but if the cost is prohibitive do have a word with Father Kevin as funding is available to ensure no-one is excluded. Please note that Thursday 21 September is the last day you can book a seat on the coach.

Roman Catholic Secondary School and Sixth Form Applications. On 9, 10, 12, and 23 October 2017 Fr Kevin will be available to sign the Certificate of Catholic Practice for those who attend Mass here every week and have done so for some years. Newer parishioners should bring a letter from their previous parish. Please telephone the parish office this week between 10:00am and 2:00pm, Tuesday to Thursday, to make an appointment.

Funeral Notice

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late Anne Maria Hewitt of Belton Road will take place on
Tuesday 19 September 2017 at 11:00am
followed by cremation at Golders Green Crematorium,
West Chapel at 1:00pm

May she rest in peace

Diocesan News

Human Trafficking—Responding Locally. Join *Caritas* Westminster, Santa Marta Group and the Metropolitan Police to hear about how you can help respond to the issue of human trafficking on Tuesday 19 September, 6:30pm-8:30pm, at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Hall, Stafford Road, NW6 5RS. Please RSVP to caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk or call 020 7931 6077.

Divine Mercy Apostolate run by Marian Fathers is organising the 'Divine Mercy Retreat' on Saturday 23 September from 11:00am—4:00pm at the Bridgettine Convent, Fulmer Common Road, Iver Heath, Bucks SL0 0NR. For more information please contact Divine Mercy Apostolate - Marian Fathers, 1 Courtfield Gardens, London W13 0EY. Email: info@divinemercury.org.uk or telephone 020 89980925 or www.divinemercuryapostolate.co.uk. Please also see the poster at the back of the church.

Bishop Mark O'Toole, head of the Department of Evangelisation and Catechesis of CCBEW, will give a lecture entitled, *How to be a Disciple-Making Disciple: Prayer, Faith, Loving Service and the Sacramental Life*, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the publication of the Catechism on Monday 2 October 2017. Doors of St Patrick's Church, Soho Square will open at 6:30pm and Bishop Mark will begin his lecture at 7:00pm. Admission is £5 at the door. To register email guildofourladyandstjoseph@gmail.com or see the poster at the back of the church.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening: You have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

Parish Diary

Monday	7:00pm	Prayer Group—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