

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

OCTOBER - MONTH OF

THE HOLY ROSARY

2 OCTOBER 2016

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR C

Going Underground

On Thursday a group of pilgrims from our parish were doing just that in the Catacombs of St Callistus just outside Rome. These catacombs (one of many dotted around the Eternal City) contain the graves and some of the mortal remains of early Christians, most of whom were martyred in the first few centuries of our faith's existence. By a remarkable coincidence Allen Hall Seminary was marking the 448th anniversary of its foundation on the same day. And the altar stone which the clergy venerate at the start of every Mass there contains relics from those very catacombs.

When the late Cardinal George of Chicago was asked what he was thinking about standing on the balcony of St Peter's after the election of Pope Benedict XVI, he replied, "I was gazing over toward the Circus Maximus, toward the Palatine Hill where the Roman Emperors once resided and reigned and looked down upon the persecution of Christians, and I thought, 'Where are their successors? . . . But if you want to see the successor of Peter, he is right next to me, smiling and waving at the crowds.'"

Just think, our seminarians—including Deacon Michael—are witnessing to the same truths of faith today revealed by Christ to St Peter and passed on through his successors for which those early martyrs gave their lives, and are doing so in their very presence.

Of course, the challenges facing us are not so great as the threat of martyrdom but it can still be uncomfortable to be countercultural in our daily lives: by making small sacrifices to attend Mass, living chaste lives, sanctifying the day by saying prayers at set times and before meals, fasting when surrounded by people feasting and thus standing up for the poor and oppressed, making the time to do something a little extra for the church and so on. Yet it is these very things that enable us to fulfil Pope Saint John Paul II's call for all of us to become saints. As Pope Francis says, the saints "lived normal lives marked by sadness and joy, hardships and hopes before reaching the joy of heaven."

It was some of such people who we thanked at our volunteers' party just a week ago and what a marvellous occasion it was—so to the Parish Council, members of the Friends of Saint Mary Magdalen School, and others, thank you for a wonderful tribute.

Each of you, in different ways, keeps the Church alive today and inspires thoughts such as those of Cardinal George. Be confident in your witness in our time but to truly unite with the members of the early church, make it public: bring your faith above ground for all to see since we have much less to fear than they did but the same reward. Fr Kevin

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

Those who have died recently: Mgr Peter Anglim, Richard O'Sullivan, Denis O'Flaherty, John Cassidy, Jimmie Shelton, James Sheehan, Sean Reilly, Gerry Prodano

Those who are sick: Noreen Joy, Ester Power, Donal Guffin, Kathleen & Pat Hughes, Kathy Doyle

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Agnes Harrison, Bridget Kevane, Liam Coleman, Bridie Farrell, Emilia Coia, Catherine & William Fitzgerald

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £2,389.84 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity.

Rebuilding England's Nazareth collection last weekend raised the sum of £92.85. The monies will be used to help in the development of England's National Shrine to Our Lady. Details can be found by visiting the website at www.walsingham.org.uk and please see the poster at the back of the church.

Volunteers' Party. Thank you to the Parish Pastoral Council for organising such a wonderful event for our volunteers' last Saturday. Everyone enjoyed themselves enormously. Thank you also to all those who gave help and donated food. There are still a few uncollected plates etc. in the Parish Office. If they belong to you please kindly arrange to pick them up.

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 and Confirmation 2017. All children due to receive First Holy Communion (currently year three and above) and make their Confirmation (currently year nine and above) next year (2017) will need to obtain an application form which will be available after Mass this weekend from Father Kevin. Please note that Confirmation application forms will be given to candidates only. Fully completed application forms including Baptismal certificates, and for Confirmation sponsors, their Confirmation certificate and a letter confirming Mass attendance from a parish priest, need to be returned to the Parish Office, Tuesday to Friday between 10:00am and 2:00pm, no later than 12 noon on Tuesday 4 October 2016. Application forms cannot be accepted without the required documentation. The first meetings for children and parents will be in the church on Thursday 6 October 2016 at 7:00pm for First Holy Communion, and 8:00pm for Confirmation. We are also looking for volunteers to assist with both our First Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes and would encourage parents whose children are preparing for these Sacraments to consider putting themselves forward.

Blessing of Pets will take place this Sunday 2 October 2016 at 4:30pm in the church. The blessing of pets will mark the feast of St Francis of Assisi on the 4 October 2016. All species, breeds, shapes and sizes of pets are welcome.

Secondary School Priest's Reference Forms. Please telephone the Parish Office Tuesday to Friday, between 10:00am and 2:00pm, to arrange an appointment.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day is Friday 7 October 2016. This Harvest Fast Day we are invited to fast in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world and join 32-year-old Nicanora, from Bolivia, on her journey from poverty to abundance. We can stand alongside Nicanora as she learns new skills and receives materials and seeds that will enable her to grow enough food to feed her family. Please pick up a Fast Day envelope at Mass and give what you can. Please return the Fast Day envelope with your donation and place it in next weekend's collection. Please also see the poster at the back of the church and for further details visit the website at cafod.org.uk.

Funeral Notice

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late James 'Jimmy' Sheehan, formerly of Hamilton Road, will take place on Friday 7 October 2016 at 11:00am followed by burial at Hendon Cemetery at 12:30pm

May he rest in peace

Diocesan News

The Torchlit Procession in honour of Our Lady of Willesden takes place this Sunday 2 October from 7:00pm at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden. Cardinal Vincent will lead the procession. All are warmly invited to join the procession in this Jubilee Year of Mercy. Please see the poster at the back of the church.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon:	O that today you would listen to His voice! Harden not your hearts.
Acclamation:	Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, Your servant is listening: You have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

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 vale 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—Annexe
Tuesday	7:00pm-8:30pm	<i>Stitch Amazingly</i> sewing workshop in the Annexe
Wednesday	8:00pm	<i>Pioneers</i> meeting in the Annexe
Thursday	7:00pm	First Holy Communion—church
Thursday	8:00pm	Confirmation meeting—church
Thursday	8:00pm	<i>Padre Pio</i> Group in the Annexe
Saturday	11:30am-1:00pm	Play and Prayer Group—Annexe
Saturday	2:30pm-4:00pm	<i>Stitch Amazingly</i> sewing workshop in the Annexe
Saturday	7:30pm-9:30pm	"The Feast London" - a Catholic prayer meeting of the Light of Jesus Family in the Annexe