

Presbytery

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rcdow.org.uk/parish/willesdengreen

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Church Willesden Green

Parish Clergy

Father Kevin Jordan
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Parish Office

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ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

OCTOBER—MONTH OF
THE HOLY ROSARY
8 OCTOBER 2017

27TH 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: 8:30am—9:30am
5:30pm—6:15pm

First Friday: 7:00pm—8:00pm

Confessions

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

'Why are you here?'

Here we go again...I thought to myself, another Sunday morning, Mass again, how quickly the days pass by. As I arrived, everything appeared to be the same; the same awful, faded carpet which covered every inch of the nave and sanctuary, the overly keen organist and tone deaf guitarist, the little old lady who without fail sits in the same place at the back and my brother, cousin and I - the regular servers at the 10:30am Mass.

It was only until I had started setting up for Mass that I realised the Parish Priest was nowhere to be seen. I had come to Mass early, as I usually did, at least 20 minutes beforehand, and so the absence of the priest at this moment in time was not a huge problem. However, as time went on, it dawned upon me that there was only 10 minutes to go, and yet there was still no sign of the Parish Priest and so I went to inquire as to where he might be but alas no one had seen him. How strange I thought, as the parish priest is usually here well before any of us, usually pottering around the sacristy.

As you may have presumed, Mass started later than usual, though the celebrant was not the parish priest but one of the regular supply Priests. I had been serving for over 6 years and so much of what needed to be done was second nature, almost as if on auto-pilot; simply going through the motions.

After the Gospel was proclaimed the Priest gave a rather short homily (if you could call it that) as it consisted of only four words, *'Why are you here?'*. The mere length of it captured my attention and the sheer depth of it demanded a response. At the time, it was quite possibly the most profound four words I had ever heard and to this day I ask myself every time I serve or participate in the Mass this very question.

Sometimes it can often be very tempting to simply turn up, go through the motions, and go home, not paying much attention to the words of the prayers or indeed the gospel but rather patiently waiting for the words of dismissal *'Go in peace, the Mass is ended'*.

To avoid such temptation perhaps in your preparation to receive the Body and Blood of Christ simply ask yourself the question *'Why am I here?'* and to help with your answer here is some food for thought *"There is nothing so great as the Eucharist. If God had something more precious, He would have given it to us"* – St. Jean-Marie Vianney

Seminarian Tim

Those who have died recently: Fr John Bruce Elliott, Nol Langan, Adrian Michael Keogh

Those who are sick: Martin Scanlan, Michael Delahunt

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Beatrice Wallace, Mary Whelton, Bridget Mulhern, Michael Barrett, Anthony & Anna Chalissery, John Trimble, Alberto Chiappetta, Gilda Falcone, Catherine & William Fitzgerald

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £2,217.43 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity.

Newsletter/Order of Mass leaflet. Please take your newsletter home with you after Mass and share it with family and friends. Order of Mass leaflets should be returned to the racks either at the back of the church or in the side porch. Thank you.

Cleaning Rota. The new rota is now available for collection from the rack in the Sacristy.

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.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day. CAFOD works with poor communities overseas on our behalf, helping them to tackle poverty and injustice. Last Friday was Harvest Fast Day. Please return your Fast Day envelope with your donation in this week's collection. Thank you for your continued support and generosity. Please also see the poster at the back of the church and for further details visit the website at cafod.org.uk.

Roman Catholic Secondary School and Sixth Form Applications. On 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.

Magdala the parish magazine Magdala will be on sale after all Masses next weekend 14/15 October 2017.

St Mary Magdalen Parish Special Needs Group will be holding a 'Race Night' on Saturday 11 November 2017 at the 'Willesden Working Men's Club', Villiers Road commencing at 7:00pm. All monies raised from the 'Race Night' will be used to pay for a Christmas lunch and gifts for people in and around the parish with learning disabilities. All are welcome to this wonderful event including children.

Parish Database has been deleted. As such, *everyone* should complete a new parish registration form. Forms can be found in the racks as you enter the side porch and on each pillar at the back of the church. Completed forms should be handed to the parish office or posted through the door of the presbytery. Less than 10% of those who attend Mass here have done this so far.

Parish Newsletter. Any notices for the weekly Sunday newsletter should be given to the Parish Office by Thursday noon. Thank you for your kind cooperation.

Parish Diary

Monday	7:00pm	Prayer Group—Annexe
Thursday	7:15pm	SVP—Annexe
Friday	7:00pm	Knights of St Columba—Annexe

Diocesan News

The Brent Borough Deans in conjunction with London Churches Social Action Network are organising a seminar day: Churches' Response to Hate Crime: Faith and Race, on Thursday 12 October 2017 at 10:00am for 10:30am start, finishing at 3:00pm at the Harlesden Methodist Church, 25 High Street Harlesden NW10 4NE. Lunch is included.

Upcoming Events at the Niland Conference Centre, Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath, Herts. WD23 4EE. 'Scripture from Scratch' exploring *Discipleship in the Old Testament* with Sr Anne Walsh OP on Thursday 12 October 2017. 'Living God's Way: Moses and the People of Israel' 7:30pm—9:30pm (Suggested donation £5). 'Lights Shining in Darkness' with Sr Regina McGarry OP and Sr Teresa O'Donovan OP. Morning reflection Thursday 19 October 10.00am-12:30 pm (Suggested donation £6). 'Mental Health Awareness for Pastoral Ministry' with Fr Malachy Keegan on Wednesday 18 & Saturday 21 October- this course is being run twice to accommodate different work timetables. (Suggested donation £14). Please bring a packed lunch. Refreshments are available at all events. Registration recommended but not required. Please telephone 020 8950 4000 or email nilandcentre@gmail.com.

Divine Mercy Apostolate run by Marian Fathers is organising the Divine Mercy Retreat on Saturday 14 October 2017, 11:00am - 4:30pm at St George's Catholic Church, 970 Harrow Road, Sudbury, Wembley HA0 2QE. For more information please contact Divine Mercy Apostolate - Marian Fathers, 1 Courtfield Gardens, London W13 0EY. Email: info@divinemercury.org.uk, telephone 020 89980925 or visit the website www.divinemercuryapostolate.co.uk. Please also see the poster at the back of the church.

Christmas Card Fair is being held at St Erconwald's Parish Hall on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 October 2017. All are welcome. Please see the poster at the back of the church.

Southwark Sleepout 2017. The event takes place on Saturday 18 November 2017 at Borough Market's covered Market Hall where participants are given the opportunity to raise awareness of youth homelessness by giving up their warm, comfy bed for the night. To distract from the cold, there will be hot soup, talks, live music and a choir. Further information about how you can register your interest can be found at <https://uk.depaulcharity.org/southwark-sleepout-2017>. For further details please also see the poster at the back of the church.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!