

Presbytery

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ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

OCTOBER—MONTH OF
THE HOLY ROSARY
29 OCTOBER 2017

30TH 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

Has the Church Really Stood in the Way of Science?

It will no doubt disappoint the skeptics to learn that the evidence supports the contrary view; one that would suggest that 'science was even born out of Christianity'. Why? Well in antiquity Christianity was unique in its Revealed understanding of the cosmos as finite, with a beginning and end. This was in stark contrast to the other principle cultures of the age that held it as infinite and cyclic in nature. Such views would have hindered the development of science, if not for the belief in the unique incarnation of Christ. Thereafter time and history was seen as linear with a beginning and an end, which science would later prove to be true thanks to a Jesuit priest named George Le-maître (1894-1966) who fathered the Big Bang theory.

Additionally In 1277, the Catholic bishop, Stephen Tempier's decision to condemn 219 Aristotelian propositions would mark the birth of modern science. The philosophical implications of this action enabled medieval minds to break free from prior deterministic and necessitation views of creation and thus for the first time, the cosmos was seen as contingent, dependent on, and called into being by a divine choice. The Christian vision demythologized the universe from voluntarism, pantheism and pagan deities and allowed it to be seen as good, like its Creator and thus attractive to study. God's nature as Reason and Truth was now evidenced in the rationality and consistency of what could be observed in the universe, and this ignited the spark beyond armchair philosophy towards empirical verification by experimentation.

Indeed it is no exaggeration to say that science is a child of the Catholic Church, and ever since, many Catholic scientists have been instrumental to its progress. For example, historical evidence supports the claim that Copernicus (1473-1533)—whose theory Galileo was trying to prove—actually became a Catholic Priest later in his life! Gregory Mendel (1822-1884) who founded the modern science of genetics was an Augustinian Friar! And then there's Nicolaus Steno (1636-1686), the Catholic Bishop, who is noted for making great strides in geology and anatomy. Perhaps more interestingly, is that he is also the founder of the study of fossils which is important as next month we will be taking a closer look at the theory of Evolution, and what exactly the Church teaches us on this matter.

Catechist Justin Osuji

This is the second in a series which summarises Justin's dissertation for his diploma from the School of the Annunciation. More on what the Church has contributed to the modern world can be found in the CTS booklet Lumen—the Catholic Gift to Civilisation.

Those who have died recently: Joyce Katuarre, Ann McGuinness, Bob Barnes, Mary Ann Shea, David Jones, Mary Mills, Nuala Dolan

Those who are sick: Joe Regan, Martin Dolan, Olga Lucia Habanec, Andrew Heath, Ethel Cuff, Catherine Delsol.

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Joseph Flaherty, Mary Enright, Eric, Anne & Stanley Lindford, John, Francis, James & Kevin Cassidy, Dennis Dempsey, Chris Dempsey, Kevin Hennessy

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £1,926.97 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity.

This Harvest Fast Day our parish raised £804.16 for *CAFOD*. Thank you for your generous support and prayers. *CAFOD* works with poor communities overseas on our behalf, helping them to tackle poverty and injustice. Please continue to pray for this work and for the gifts of God's earth to be shared by all.

The St Mary Magdalen Parish Prayer Group has raised £400.00 and sent the money to the 'Sisters of Charity' of *St Vincent De Paul*, Mill Hill. The money is being spent by the sisters to help the 'Alecuk Kindergarten' school in Ethiopia. This school is in need of support as most of the students cannot afford to pay for their education and are in desperate need of funding. To all our members and supporters a great thank you for your very generous support.

Remembrance. Poppies are on sale in the repository—wear yours with pride. The proceeds go to the Royal British Legion.

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.

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.

Solemnity of All Saints. Wednesday 1 November 2017 is the Solemnity of All Saints, a Holiday of Obligation when we must attend Mass - not to do so is the same as missing Mass on a Sunday, a mortal sin. There will be Mass at 9:30am as usual and also at 7:00pm when the wonderful Byron Consort from Harrow School (under the direction of Philip Evans who played the organ for the Cardinal's visit in 2014) will sing. The poster at the back of the church gives details of the music for the Mass. Do put this date in your diaries as a magnificent way to celebrate all those unknown to us who have been found worthy of a place in the Kingdom of Heaven and ask their prayers to help gain for us the same reward.

All Souls' Day will be celebrated on Thursday 2 November 2017 with Masses at 9:30am and 6:30pm. During November four Masses a week will be said for the Holy Souls. Please write the names of your deceased relatives and friends on one of the sheets which can be found on the table at the back of the church, place the sheet in the envelope provided along with any offering you might like to make, and post it through the inner presbytery letterbox or give it to one of the clergy.

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 evening will be used to pay for a Christmas lunch and gifts for people in and around the parish with learning disabilities. All are welcome, including children.

Bethany Bereavement Group Mass for all those whose funerals

have taken place in the parish, particularly in the past year, will be celebrated at 7:30pm on Friday 17 November 2017. All are welcome to come and offer the greatest prayer we have—the Mass—for their deceased loved ones.

Accommodation. A parishioner is looking for accommodation. Non-parish-based references can be provided and the parish cannot take responsibility for any agreement entered into: '26-year-old violin professional and parish reader is looking for accommodation. Preferably a studio flat. Please contact me on 07402 133 287 for more information. References and email can be provided, too. I am a very dedicated and serious musician and Catholic, building a career in London.'

Diocesan News

Caritas Westminster: 'The Poverty of Loneliness'—The Importance of Befriending. Come and hear about the 'epidemic of loneliness' in the UK, how we can address it, and a short introduction to befriending the elderly. The event takes place on Tuesday 7 November 2017, 6:30pm—8:30pm at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street SW1P 1QN. Please RSVP to caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk, telephone 020 7931 6077, or search 'The Poverty of Loneliness' on Eventbrite.

Divine Mercy Apostolate run by Marian Fathers is organising the Divine Mercy Retreat on Saturday 11 November 2017, 11:00am—4:00pm at the Roman Catholic Church of St Agnes, 35 Cricklewood Lane, Cricklewood London NW2 1HR. For more information please contact Divine Mercy Apostolate - Marian Fathers, 1 Courtfield Gardens, London W13 0EY, telephone 020 8998 0925, email: info@divinemercury.org.uk, or visit the website at www.divinemercuryapostolate.co.uk. Please also see the poster at the back of the church.

Coping with Loss workshop takes place on Saturday 25 November from 11:00am—4:00pm with Margaret Philpot at the Mount Street Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, W1K 3AH. The sense of loss has many forms and is an integral part of our journey through life. During the day they will look at the theory of loss, the dynamic aspects of the grief process, and also raise awareness of your own unique experiences. For further information please visit the website at pathwaystogod.org or telephone 020 7495 1673.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: I love You, Lord, my strength.

Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of Your Son. Alleluia!

Parish Diary

Wednesday

8:00pm

Pioneers—Annexe