

Presbytery

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Parish Clergy

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Parish Office

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ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

NOVEMBER—MONTH OF
THE HOLY SOULS
5 NOVEMBER 2017

31ST 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: Not this week

Saturday: Not in the morning
5:30pm—6:15pm

First Friday: 7:00pm—8:00pm

Confessions

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

Retirement—One of the Church's Little Jokes

It won't have escaped your notice that no matter which Mass you came to on Sunday for seven of the last eleven weeks you have been burdened with me. That is because Fr Gemunu (Fr Daya's replacement) had problems with his visa. These problems have now been resolved—his visa has been declined definitively and he will not be coming.

Thus for those three weekends you have been able to fulfil the Sunday obligation because of Canon Stuart Wilson, Fr David Ardagh-Walter, Fr Martin McPake, Fr Frank Wahle, and Fr Tony Pellegrini with Fr Natalino Mignolli also helping out during the week while I took my summer leave. But can you guess what they all have in common? No? They're all over 70 (one is over 80) and all bar two are officially retired.

When I entered the seminary a retired priest living in parishes was not uncommon. We had one in Kenton and he might concelebrate at a Mass on a Sunday if he wasn't away justly enjoying his retirement. Now we have to ring these "retired" priests weeks—even months—in advance so they can consult their diaries and see if they can fit us in because they are flying all over the diocese covering for what is rapidly becoming the norm—one-man parishes. To wit, when I got here in 2011 the Sunday attendance over five Masses was 1030 with three priests and a permanent deacon. This year's attendance is 1063 over five Masses and you know the rest if you look at the parish clergy list.

I say all this because next week we will have the annual collection for the sick and retired clergy. Put simply, without those good priests named above we would be in the situation of many parishes in our diocese—when the parish priest takes his annual leave there are no weekday Masses, the church is locked up Monday to Friday, and even the Sunday schedule is cut back. And there are a further 80 retired and ill priests being supported by the Sick and Retired Priests' Fund to pay for their housing and other unforeseen or extra expenses as well as to support their health and convalescence needs.

We owe them a great deal—they Baptised us, counselled us in times of sorrow and worry, and celebrated with us in times of joy. We have received so much from their generosity and now it is our turn to assist them in their older age when they *still* minister to us and ensure we don't have to go to any great lengths to fulfil our Sunday Mass duty.

So take home an envelope today, dig deep (and *Giftaid* your donation) and give to these fine priests with the same generosity and love that they still have for God, His Church and you after so many years. Above all pray for each and every one of them. *Fr Kevin*

Those who have died recently: Betty O'Brien, Patrick Hickey, Anne Hewitt, David Jones, Sean Healy, Kathleen O'Connor, Matthew Coughlan, Joseph Henry, Julie Taylor-Rankin

Those who are sick: Joe Regan, Frank Gormley, Tim Ryan

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Tom Mahoney, Fr Anthony Slack, Theresa McGovern, John O'Sullivan

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £1,840.26 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity.

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.

Monday 6 November—Saturday 11 November. The church will not open until 9:00am and there will not be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament before Mass. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

The Bi-Annual Concelebrated Requiem Mass at St Mary's Cemetery, Kensal Green, will be on Monday 6 November 2017 at 11:30am. Father Kevin will be celebrating a Requiem Mass on 25 November 2017 at 12 noon at St Mary's Chapel, Kensal Green for all the loved ones of parishioners who are buried there, in Kensal Rise Cemetery and in the West London Crematorium Gardens.

Convent of Jesus and Mary Catholic Infant School, Park Avenue, NW2 5AN, Reception Open Day is on Tuesday 7 November at 9:15am and at 1:45pm. Nursery Open Day is on Friday 10 November at 9:15am. Application forms are available from the school office or to download from the website at cjminfantschool.co.uk. Deadline for applications is Monday 15 January 2018.

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

Sick and Retired Priests Collection 2017. Next week our parish will take up a second collection to support the sick and retired priests of the Diocese of Westminster. Your generous donation helps ensure that priests, who have followed their vocation and given their lives to the Church, are cared for and supported when they are sick and when they retire. The Sick and Retired Priests' Fund helps cover the medical, housing, convalescence, and personal needs of these priests, as well as helping them in an emergency. They have been here for us; let us be there for them. Donation leaflets are available at the back of the church today. Please take one home, read about this important work, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for the wellbeing of all of our clergy—active, retired and ill. Please also see the poster at the back of the church.

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.

St Mary Magdalen Training Day for Altar Servers 2017 takes place on Saturday 18 November at 4:00pm and Saturday 25 November at 11:00am. All servers are encouraged to attend one session. If however you are unable to come please speak with our Seminararian, Tim. All servers should please sign up for their chosen date on the list which is on the noticeboard in the Sacristy.

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.'

St Mary Magdalen's RC Junior School Linacre Road Willesden Green NW2 5BB, currently has some spaces available in Year 3, Year 4 and Year 5. If you are interested in a school place for your child, please contact the school office on 020 8459 3159.

Diocesan News

Lourdes Christmas Concert event takes place on Thursday 7 December 2017 at 7:00pm at the Church of Our Lady of Victories, High Street Kensington. The Lourdes pilgrimage relies on donations and fundraising efforts and events in order to help less able pilgrims and their carers to participate in the pilgrimage and be provided with appropriate medical and volunteer support. This year's Lourdes Christmas Concert fundraiser event is followed by an after-concert reception but please note that admission to both the event and the reception is by pre-booked ticket only. A copy of the booking form as well as a poster detailing the event can be found at the back of the church.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: Keep my soul in peace before You, O Lord

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
Thursday	7:15pm	SVP—Annexe
Friday	7:00pm	<i>Knights of St Columba</i> —Annexe
Saturday	3:00pm—5:00pm	'The Feast London' - a Catholic prayer meeting of the Light of Jesus Family—Annexe