

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

DECEMBER - MONTH OF
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
11 DECEMBER 2016
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
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

The Knock

Our Parish Mission in July was lead by the Canons Regular of Premontre from the Norbertine Priory of St Philip in Chelmsford. On Thursday Mass was celebrated there to mark the fact that the Prior, Father Hugh Allen, is now the Apostolic Administrator of the Falkland Islands, Ascension Island, St Helena and Tristan da Cunha. In addition, the General of the Order has appointed Fr Hugh as Titular Abbot of Beeleigh.

To explain, islands off the coast of the British Isles fall under the jurisdiction of the English, Welsh and Scottish bishops—the Isles of Scilly are in the Diocese of Plymouth, the Channel Islands come under Portsmouth and so on. The distant islands over which Fr Hugh will be the Lord's shepherd are also part of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and so Fr Hugh is effectively the bishop to the people living there.

As to his other title, Beeleigh Abbey was suppressed by the state on 6 June 1536, the day when the Canons there should have been celebrating the feast of their founder St Norbert: thus the abbey came to an end as part of the Reformation in these lands. Now a private house, the tile of Abbott remains and since it is close to Chelmsford, Fr Hugh is now Abbott Hugh, filling a post left empty for 500 years. As he says, "It is a humbling privilege to be asked again to take up the crozier laid down on that fateful day." How easily we forget the impact the Reformation had on Catholicism in our country: hundreds of priests, religious and laity, martyred for the faith we treat so lightly today.

That persecution of the Church continues in our time. For example, in 2003 there were 1.5 million Christians in Iraq alone —today that number is around 150,000 after men, women and children were forced to pay huge taxes, flee their homes or be brutally killed. Then there is Syria, China, Pakistan, North Korea and many more places. We must help these Christians who risk their lives daily to celebrate the faith we set aside for trivial reasons. One way of doing this is to support the work of *Aid to the Church in Need* by coming to our Carol Concert next Sunday—there, in safety, we will unite ourselves with those who await their celebration of the Saviour's birth in fear of their lives.

The Middle East seems far away, like the South Atlantic, but as Abbott Hugh's predecessor knew only too well, persecution can come knocking on our own door at any time. We should not forget the past; nor the present—so see you next week in solidarity with those who truly deserve to bear the name of Christian and put us to shame. *Fr Kevin*

Those who have died recently: Harry Reid, John Holohan, Lucrezia Lusignani, Emmanuel Prodano, Margaret Doherty, Michael Kelly

Those who are sick: Robin Tobin

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Vivienne Mangan, Benny Kilcoyne, Pat Breen, Michael Lynch, Mary Langan, Noel Coleman, Habtu Aibu, Nuala O'Brien, Jeremiah & Mollie Moriarty, John Guckian

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £1,843.37 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity. Standing order figures will be published at the end of the year.

Special Needs Group Christmas Cake Sale last Sunday raised a magnificent £379.59 for the parish Special Needs Group. Thank you to all and especially to those who baked and contributed cakes. Proceeds will be used to fund a Christmas lunch and gifts for people in and around the parish with learning disabilities.

Christmas Offering Envelopes are available on your benches this weekend. Your Christmas offering goes directly towards clergy salaries and was traditionally your Christmas gift to them.

Advent and Christmas and New Year 2017 Mass time leaflets are now available in the racks at the back of the church or in the porch. Please take a leaflet home with you.

Christmas Rotas. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and readers should indicate their availability on the lists at the back of the church today. Servers should check with their parents and then indicate their availability on the list in the sacristy. Thank you for your ministry throughout the year.

Cash Counters rotas. New rotas are now available from the rack in the sacristy.

Can You Spare Just a Couple of Hours a Week Once a Month? We would welcome a few people to help count the collections. Full training on procedures will be given. Please talk to Father Kevin to take part in this important work.

Repository. Advent calendars, Advent candles, wreaths, cribs, Christmas cards, Mass bouquets, Christmas story books, the new Westminster Year book and many other items are on sale now in the Repository.

St Mary Magdalen Wednesday Club have arranged to go to Mickie's Christmas Variety Lunch on Thursday 15 December 2016. Cost is £25 (lunch and coach). The coach will leave from St Mary Magdalen's Church, Peter Avenue NW10 at 10:30am. If you would like to join us please contact Barbara on 020 8963 0973.

Parish Carol Concert and Nativity takes place on Sunday 18 December 2016 at 3:30pm in the church (the next Nativity rehearsal is on Friday 16 December at 3:30pm). Please join us for a joyous afternoon for all. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the concert.

Funeral Notice

The Reception of the body of the late John Joseph Holohan of Crest Road will take place on Tuesday 13 December 2016 at 7:00pm and the Requiem Mass will take place on Wednesday 14 December 2016 at 10:30am followed by burial at St Mary's Cemetery, Kensal Green, at 12 noon.

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late Emmanuel Edwin Gerry Prodano, formerly of Harlesden Road, will take place on Friday 16 December 2016 at 11:00am followed by burial at Greenford Cemetery at 12:30pm

May they rest in peace

Diocesan News

The St Vincent de Paul Society is distributing 12,000 Vinnie Packs to the homeless over the winter, mostly in the Westminster diocese. Please visit the website at svp.org.uk/node/330 for more information. They cost about £3.20 to produce. Any contribution will be very welcome. Donations can be made by texting VIMP33 £[AMOUNT] to 70070 or by making out a cheque to SVP and sending it to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, SW1P 9EZ.

CJM – Alumni Event. Did you attend the Convent of Jesus and Mary, Crownhill Road, Willesden, London NW10? If so there will be an Alumni event on Tuesday 13 December 2016 between 6:00pm and 7:00pm to meet and greet other Alumni followed by attendance at our Annual Christmas Carol Concert at 7:00pm. Please contact Beverly Lawrence at blawrence101@cjmhc.co.uk or telephone 020 8965 2986 ext 204.

'Christmas Celebration' at Westminster Cathedral. An evening of Christmas music and readings, and words from Cardinal Vincent Nichols, will take place on Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 December at 7:30pm at Westminster Cathedral. Tickets available from www.ticketmaster.co.uk or telephone 0844 844 0444.

Epiphany Retreat, 'Deserts, Journeys, Wise-men and Stars' takes place from Friday 6—Sunday 8 January 2017, led by Sister Anne Dunne and Sister Melanie Kingston. The wise men made their journey through the desert following a star and bringing their gifts. At the beginning of the New Year, what journey will you make? What gift will you bring? What will you need for the journey towards God? Arrive on Friday in time for supper at 7:00pm and leave on Sunday at 4:00pm. Cost £150. Advance booking essential. Please telephone 020 8941 2313 or email houseofprayer@hotmail.co.uk to reserve a place.

Parish Diary

Monday	7:00pm	Prayer Group—Annexe
Saturday	11:30am— 1:00pm	Play and Prayer Group— Annexe
Saturday	7:30pm— 9:30pm	"The Feast London" - a Catholic prayer meeting of the Light of Jesus Family in the Annexe

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: Come, Lord, and save us.

Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!