

Presbytery

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ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

APRIL—MONTH OF
THE HOLY EUCHARIST

30 APRIL 2017

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER
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

Mother Mary in May

The month of May is customarily a special moment of reflection and prayer on the role of the Blessed Mother in the Church. Some of our fondest childhood experiences of faith revolve round the figure of this Heavenly Mother whom Jesus Himself entrusted to us, and we to her, just before He offered up the final sacrifice on the cross. In this sense it is the greatest gift Jesus gave us, next in value to His own life - the Eucharist. How privileged we should feel that the mother's love and care which He received, and then He wanted us to enjoy and behold, as the Gospel of St. John tells us: "from that hour the disciple took her unto his own home" (Jn. 19:27). Taking the mother to our homes, our lives and to the realities of the world around us is what we ought to do, if we really love and care for her more than that of anyone else. Mary represents to us not so much the cold calculating theology of Pharisaism and today's fundamentalism which renders God a "heartless" figure set on rules and regulations and a rationalizing philosophical outlook. She is the loving, merciful face of God. Pope Benedict XVI stated: "Mariology has expressed the inmost feelings of Christianity. Here people can have direct experience of Christianity as the religion of trust, of certainty. And these really ancient and simple prayers which developed within popular piety have never lost their freshness and immediacy, keep them steady in the faith, because through the Mother they find God so close that religion is no longer a burden, but a matter of trust and a help in coping with life" (God and the World, Ignatius Press, San Francisco 2002:299).

Mary realizes in herself the tenderness of God through a loving, merciful and human closeness to us. The Gospels are clear in what Mary's unique role was. It was the role of having become through her profound faith in God the Christ bearer to the world, and now she continues to show us Jesus, the redeemer, and encourage us to seek communion with Him. We cannot speak of Jesus while separating Him from Mother Mary and we cannot speak of Mother Mary while separating her from Jesus.

We have a profound habit of saying the rosary. Let this month be a month we take our rosaries to our hands and start praying the rosary. Our example is the best teacher for our children. Let's carry the rosary in our pockets and bags, more than the interest to take our mobile phones. Let us encourage our faithful to return to the practice of family rosary, special Marian prayers and even novenas to the Blessed Mother. "Virgin most merciful" Pray for us .

Fr. Daya

Those who have died recently: Thomas Clough, Patrick Walshe, Jose Francisco Fernandes, Girdy McLaughlin

Those who are sick: Ray Sweeney, David Kane, Margaret Duffy, Mary Cahill, Josephine Niland, Peter Corcoran, Patrick Roddy

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Vincent & Elizabeth Doran, Rose & Jimmy Phillips, Robert Clare, Michael O'Toole, Patrick Gavahan, Anthony Barrett, Annie Dempsey, Jonathan Dempsey, Arthur Crumly

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £1,608.19 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity.

Aid to the Church in Need Appeal. This weekend we welcome John Ravi, the area secretary for *Aid to the Church in Need* for the Archdiocese of Westminster, who will speak during all Masses. *Aid to the Church in Need* is a Catholic charity which works in 140 countries, helping persecuted and oppressed Christians around the world through prayer, information and action. At the moment it is involved in frontline works in Syria and Iraq. If you wish to find out more about the charity, which is a pontifical foundation of the Catholic Church, or if you wish to be a parish representative, please contact John on 07727 442 510 or 020 8642 8668 or you can go online www.acnuk.org.

First Holy Communion Catechists. Worksheets for sessions 10, 11 and 12 are 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.

Padre Pio Prayer Group. On Thursday 4 May 2017 there will be a Mass, rosary and prayers for the sick at 8:00pm in the church, followed by individual blessings with the *Padre Pio* mitten. All are welcome.

Parish Pilgrimage to Stonor (which is of great significance to Catholicism in England) takes place on Saturday 6 May 2017. The coach will depart from the church at 8:15am and return at approximately 6:00pm. Please bring a packed lunch. If you have signed up for the trip but have not yet paid this must be done as soon as possible. Monies can be left at the Parish Office, Tuesday to Friday, between 10:00am and 2:00pm. Alternatively, you can put your payment in an envelope marked with your name and 'Stonor Pilgrimage' and post it through the inner presbytery door.

Priest Training Fund. Next weekend is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for vocations, especially vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place next weekend. The Fund helps pay for training seminarians (there are currently 39), further studies of our priests for specialised ministries, and for ongoing enrichment to strengthen priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd. Donation leaflets are available at the back of the church. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please also pray for vocations; take home a prayer card for vocations and pray it daily. You can donate online at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations.

Mary's Meals will be at our church next Sunday morning the 7 May 2017. Please remember to bring along all your unwanted clothing/bedding (no duvets or pillows please). Put all clothing/bedding into tied black sacks and bring them with you when you come to church – the cut off time is 12 noon. *Mary's Meals* is a no-frills charity committed to spending 93p in every £1 received on its charitable activities with only 6p spent on fundraising and 1p on governance.

Funeral Notice

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late
Thomas Clough formerly of Chapter Road
will take place on Friday 5 May 2017 at 11:00am
followed by burial at Carpenders Park Lawn Cemetery at 1:15pm

May he rest in peace

Diocesan News

The Daily Call to Truth with Sr Regina McGarry OP and Sr Teresa O'Donovan OP. A necessary virtue today, especially in the election of new national leadership, takes place on Wednesday 10 May at 10:00am—12:30pm. Suggested donation £6. Event takes place at the Niland Centre at Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath WD23 4EE. For information telephone 020 8950 4000 or visit the website at www.nilandconferencecentre.co.uk.

Persecuted Christians. An Eastertide Marian evening of prayer for persecuted Christians, of all denominations, will take place on Friday 12 May 2017 at 6:30pm—9:30pm at the Tyburn Convent, 8 Hyde Park Place, London W2 2LJ (nearest tube is Marble Arch station). Free admission. At this event, we will remember and pray especially for persecuted children and families. A period of silence will be held in remembrance of PC Keith Palmer and other victims of the terrorist attack at Westminster on 22 March. This event is on the eve of the 100-year anniversary of the first apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Fatima, Portugal, and will be held in honour of Our Lady. It includes Rosary, Mass, entrustment and intercessional prayers, Stations of the Cross, and what you can do to help persecuted Christians. A publicity leaflet for the event and more information, including map to the venue, are available from the website at comptium.com/dfpc or you can email george@comptium.com.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: Show us, Lord, the path of life.

Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us. Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us. Alleluia!

Parish Diary

Tuesday	7:00pm-8:30pm	<i>Stitch Amazingly</i> sewing workshop—Annexe
Wednesday	8:00pm	<i>Pioneers</i> —Annexe
Friday	7:00pm	Holy Hour—Church
Saturday	11:00am—12:30pm	<i>Stitch Amazingly</i> sewing workshop—Annexe
Saturday	3:00pm—5:00pm	"The Feast London" - a Catholic prayer meeting of the Light of Jesus Family— Annexe