

## Presbytery

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## Parish Clergy

Father Kevin Jordan  
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Father Daya Perera

## Parish Office

[willesdengreen@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:willesdengreen@rcdow.org.uk)



## ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER - MONTH OF  
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
18 DECEMBER 2016  
4TH 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

## Room at the Inn?

If you want to know how to lose friends and irritate people in the run-up to Christmas, here is my twofold plan. First, arrive back at work from the Post Office at lunchtime on 14 December clutching a parcel and announce that you have now got your last present and posted all your Christmas cards. Second, go out in the afternoon on the same day with another colleague and tell him that you have printed the orders of service for the carol concert and midnight Mass, and the Mass schedule up to Sunday 8 January, the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. Cries of "You obviously don't have enough to do" are still ringing in my ears. And yes, I have put the sprouts on—on 3 November actually.

It is all too easy to get swept up in the countdown to 25 December—a rising sense of panic creeps in as the number of doors left to open on our Advent calendars decreases. But perhaps we can learn something from the children in our parish schools here.

At the Convent of Jesus and Mary Infant School, Mrs O'Higgins and the staff made a great deal of Pope Francis's *Year of Mercy*. As he suggested, they are not letting the fruits of that wither on the tree and so are continuing to reflect on the Corporal Works of Mercy, particularly welcoming the stranger. This will be done in a simple way by befriending those who appear to be lonely and making them feel included. But as we have been finding out class by class, this can also include remembering the lonely when we receive or send a Christmas card, and thinking about those who will get few—if any—presents this year or enjoy a sumptuous Christmas lunch. This is particularly true for Christians in the Middle East and by coming to our carol concert and nativity play this afternoon and making a donation to *Aid to the Church in Need* we can help them.

And at St Mary Magdalen Junior School we have been looking at the "O Antiphons" which are said at evening prayer from 17 to 24 December and use the titles given to the Messiah in the prophet Isaiah to show that Jesus is the one the prophets had been waiting for. One of those titles is *clavis*, Key of David. Keys are for unlocking and opening doors and in Advent we should open our hearts to Christ. That's easy to say, but when we do, will there be room for him or will the many passing things to which we get so attached leave him with the same welcome as 2000 years ago—there is no room?

This week there are extra confessions: take the time to clear out yours sins and make room of Christ. I'm going on Thursday: I hope to be back by Christmas Day... *Fr Kevin*

**Those who have died recently:** Margaret Doherty, Joseph Cutayar, Marva McNeil, Daphne Lucien

**Those who are sick:** Josephine Niland, Mary Mills, Mary Cahill, Peter Corcoran, James Conroy

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Kevin & Christopher Doran, Lola Toyloy, Denis Mulligan, Antony & Agnes McDermott, Sean Lydon

**Those Baptised:** Romeo Ullas Rodrigo, Jessica Manulya Waduge, Thevin Anthony Pathmaperuma

## Parish News

**Collection.** Last week's collection was £1,914.32 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity. Standing order figures will be published at the end of the year.

**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.

**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.

**Parish Carol Concert and Nativity** takes place this Sunday 18 December 2016 at 3:30pm in the church. Please join us for a joyous afternoon for all. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the concert.

**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.

**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.** If they have not already done so, would Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and readers 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.

**Tea/Welcomers' and Cash Counters 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.

**Ashford Place.** The monthly collection of non perishable food stuffs only, for Ashford Place, takes place next weekend.

**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. Please note that this will be the last newsletter until 8 January.

**Epiphany of the Lord** is on Sunday 8 January 2017, not Friday 6.

## Funeral Notices

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late Joseph Mario Cutayar of Brondesbury Park will take place on Monday 19 December 2016 at 12 noon followed by cremation at West London Crematorium at 1:30pm

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late Margaret Doherty of Ellesmere Road will take place on Wednesday 21 December 2016 at 10:00am at St Mary's Cemetery Chapel, Kensal Green, followed by burial in St Mary's Cemetery, Kensal Green at 11:00am

May they rest in peace

## Diocesan News

**'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](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk) or telephone 0844 844 0444.

**St Rose's Convent Chapel,** 160 Anson Road, Cricklewood, will be holding a day of prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Saturday 31 December from 10:30am until 10:30pm, to thank God for the blessings of 2016 and to pray for His help in 2017. All are welcome.

**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](mailto:houseofprayer@hotmail.co.uk) to reserve a place.

**Annual Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes,** on the World Day of Prayer for the Sick, takes place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 11 February at 2:00pm. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during Mass. If you will be attending in a wheelchair, please let the Parish Office know by 29 January 2017 to ensure that a space is reserved for you. Please also see the poster at the back of the church.

## Parish Diary

Monday	7:00pm	Prayer Group—Annexe
Thursday	7:15pm	SVP—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: Let the Lord enter! He is the King of Glory.

Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. Alleluia!