Presbytery

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Parish Clergy

Father Kevin Jordan
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Father Daya Perera

Deacon Michael Jarmulowicz
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Parish Office

willesdengreen@rcdow.org.uk

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



St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

February - Month of The Holy Family

Year C

7 February 2016

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Don't Give Up

After 1200 Noon Mass today we will be burning last year's palms in Saint Mary Magdalen school to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday. Yes, because for those of you like Kevin from *Home Alone* on our *Facebook* page who haven't noticed, Lent begins this week! Now you may be wondering why I'm suggesting *not* giving up since we normally go without something we enjoy for the next 40 days to identify more closely with Christ's prayer, fasting and temptation in the desert before His public ministry began...

One reason I say this is because Pope Francis' call in the *Year of Mercy* is for us to exercise the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. These are not about sitting in our rooms consumed with agony because we're off the chocolate, crisps, TV, games console, booze or whatever. And beyond our Holy Father, this is Christ's call in the Gospel of Ash Wednesday—no-one is to know we are fasting, giving or praying more but God Himself. Therefore, let's make sacrifices by all means but let them lead to something positive.

It can be hard to fast cheerfully so try linking it directly to almsgiving. All too easily our giving after a fast day is an afterthought and comes from our excess. This year see what it is like to plan a menu, put aside the money for it, fast and then place the money in a charity envelope. As hungry as you might feel after fasting (which is actually more like abstinence anyway) it will surprise you how little you have saved. And yet for lack of that paltry sum millions in our world have completely empty stomachs. We can do the same with clothing and cheerfully put that money too in the Poor Box at the back of the church which will be for *Aid to the Church in Need* during Lent, a charity which helps the most forgotten refugees in our world who get little media attention. In reaching out to them by these works of mercy Pope Francis says we "touch the flesh of Christ."

Focus on the spiritual works of mercy too. Visit the Blessed Sacrament as you pass, pray the rosary daily (it takes only 15 minutes), or come to the Stations of the Cross on Fridays. Do the Lenten activity calendars as an individual or together, and from next week learn with your children about the works of mercy on a Thursday afternoon, or come to our weekly family film nights on living the faith. Be bold and go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Door in Harlesden or the Cathedral or travel to *World Youth Day* . Preach the Gospel by lovingly teaching or correcting someone in error. The possibilities are endless.

Pope Francis warns of the "isolation and alienation" in which we can get stuck because of our overly personal Lenten disciplines. Hence he says, "Let's not waste this season, so favourable a time for conversion." Let's not. Let's not just give up. Let's also do. *Fr Kevin*

Those who are sick: Una Maguire, Carmel Whelan, Josephine Niland

Those who have died recently: William Power, Bill Doherty, Vasantha Rajasekara, Fr Stanislaus Rodrigues, Savio Fernandes

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bridget McNulty, Tom Taylor, Cecilia & James Lindford, Dolores Kane, Lucita Benoit, Mrs Doyle, Maria Agrela, Horace Frantz

Those Baptised: Julia Athena Mercado

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £1,958.01 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity.

Tea/Welcomers Rotas. New rotas are now available 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.

***Mardi Gras* Celebration.** Please join us after the 12 noon Mass when your palms will be burned in the grounds of St Mary Magdalen Junior school to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday. Let us make this a truly wonderful celebration before we enter into the penitential joys of Lent.

First Holy Communions 2016 will be on Saturday 14 May at 12 noon, Sunday 15 May at 2:00pm and Saturday 21 May at 12 noon. Please indicate today on the lists at the back of the church which date you would like. The date you choose will be your confirmed date.

Ash Wednesday Masses on Wednesday 10 February 2016 will be held at 9:30am and 7:00pm when ashes will be distributed.

Pioneers. Thinking of taking the pledge for Lent? Non pioneers are invited to take the short term pledge for the duration of Lent. Conditions for the enrolment are: to abstain from all intoxicating drink, to recite the prayer daily and to wear the *Pioneer* emblem. For further information contact the Pioneers on 020 8459 6952 who will be happy to enrol you in their register for Lent.

***Stitch Amazingly* Sewing Half Term Workshop for Kids & Parents** at St Mary Magdalen's church (Annexe) on Thursday 18 February from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Places are limited. Please contact Glenda at www.stitchamazingly.co.uk, or telephone 07739 707 564 or see the poster at the back of the church.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham in this *Year of Mercy* is being planned for Saturday 9 July 2016. Could you please sign the list at the back of the church today if you are interested in attending so we have an idea of numbers.

Bidding Prayers

Hail, holy queen, mother of mercy!
Hail our life, our sweetness, and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished
children of Eve, to thee do we send
up our sighs, mourning and weeping
in this valley, of tears.
Turn, then, most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us; and
after this our exile show unto us the
blessed fruit of thy womb Jesus;
O clement, O loving, O sweet virgin Mary.
Pray for us, O holy Mother of God
that we may be made worthy of the
promises of Christ.

Funeral Notices

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late William Power of Dean Road will take place on Thursday 11 February 2016 at 11:00am followed by cremation at West London Crematorium at 12:45pm

May he rest in peace

Diocesan News

***Caritas* Westminster** would like to invite you to their first 'Volunteer Day' of the year on Saturday 5 March 2016 at Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue, London SW1P 1QJ, from 10:00am until 2:00pm. The 'Volunteer Day' is a chance for Catholics in the Diocese of Westminster to find inspiration, motivation, and opportunities to volunteer in their community. Lunch will be provided. Everyone is welcome to this event. Please contact caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk by Friday 29 February if you have any special dietary requirements.

Beginning Experience There is a healing weekend for men and women who find themselves single again following divorce, separation or the death of a partner from 15 to 17 April 2016 at the Emmaus Centre, West Wickham, Kent. For details please contact either Sandra 01293 783 965, Freda 01322 838 415 or John 01992 642 443 or email johnabrotherton@hotmail.co.uk.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon:	Before the angels I will bless You, O Lord.
Acclamation:	Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

Parish Diary

Monday	5:30pm—6:30pm	First Holy Communion class at St Mary Magdalen's Junior School
Monday	7:00pm	Prayer Group meeting in the Annexe
Tuesday	7:00pm—8:30pm	Confirmation class at St Mary Magdalen's Junior School
Tuesday	7:00pm—8:30pm	*Stitch Amazingly* sewing workshop in the Annexe
Thursday	8:00pm	*St Vincent De Paul* Society meeting in the Annexe
Friday	7:00pm	Stations of the Cross in the Church
Friday	7:00pm	*Knights of St Columba* meeting in the Annexe
Saturday	2:30pm—4:00pm	*Stitch Amazingly* sewing workshop in the Annexe