

Presbytery

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ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MAY - MONTH OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
YEAR B
3 MAY 2015
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Please Help Deacon Michael

Many of you will be unaware that I am studying for a Bachelor of Divinity degree. The degree is a Pontifical degree which means that its content is approved and recognised by Rome. My particular degree has a bias in catechesis—i.e passing on the faith. This degree is part time and should have been completed in five years, but as I have been a bit slow in getting the work done it has taken me eight years! However I am now in my final year with only one assignment—a 10,000 word research project—to complete by the end of May. And this is where your help is needed.

As this is an academic degree, in addition to factual knowledge there is also a need to demonstrate that we can conduct research and analyse and draw conclusions from the results. As a permanent deacon it seemed natural that my research topic should be related to the diaconate. Permanent deacons were reintroduced into the Church by the second Vatican council in 1967, with each bishop being left to decide whether his diocese needed permanent deacons. Our own diocese of Westminster delayed the decision to have permanent deacons until the arrival of Cardinal Murphy O'Connor and the first permanent deacons were ordained in 2006. Currently there are only 19 permanent deacons in our diocese and so the majority of parishes in our diocese have never experienced the ministry of a permanent deacon.

My research topic is to examine the knowledge parishioners have about the permanent diaconate, and specifically to compare parishes that have a deacon with those without a permanent deacon, so this questionnaire is also being done in other parishes.

I have tried to make the questionnaire straight forward with answers given in a simple tick box of Yes / No / Don't know (or True / False / Don't know). I invite you please to complete the questionnaire before you leave the church today. You may have picked up a form on your way in, there are others at the end of the benches together with pens. There are some in the Annexe where you can lean on a table if you need to. The questionnaire should only take a couple of minutes to complete.

But there is an important plea—if you feel that you don't know anything about permanent deacons please do still fill out the questionnaire as 'Don't know' answers are just as important as confident 'Yes/No' answers. The results of this project are not just for me personally and my degree, but at the institute where I am doing the degree people are very interested in the findings as it might help across the country in determining how parishes are instructed about the permanent diaconate. So thank you in advance for helping in this study.

Deacon Michael

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

Those who are sick: Michael Connell, Eileen Costelloe, Robert Stewart, Ann Ryan

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Vincent & Bridget Doran, Patrick Cleary, Rose Philips, Jim Philips, Juan Gutierrez, Jim Mullahy, Aman Habtay, Habtay Aibu, Kevin Corbett

Those whom we have welcomed into the church through baptism: Tilly-Rae Ramsay, Alan Joseph Moura.

Parish News

Lenten Alms raised £548.80 which will be split between our own Special Needs Group who do much to help people in the local area who have learning difficulties, and *Aid to the Church in Need* which has always been heavily involved in the Middle East and whose work now is so vital to save the lives of our fellow Christians being persecuted for the faith they share with us.

Collection. Last week's collection was £2,490.33. Thank you very much and may God bless you for your generosity.

75th Anniversary. Thank you to all those who made the church look so beautiful, to the servers, the adult's and children's choirs and others who made the liturgy so prayerful, and to the social events committee and all those who made the reception such a welcoming feast. There are some uncollected dishes in the Annexe. It was a wonderful day and may we build on the legacy of those who went before us and bear spiritual fruit for another 75 years. May God bless you all for your generosity and prayers.

Priest Training Fund collection. To date we have raised £969.26 and all of this money will be used to encourage vocations and to fund the training of priests. If you have not yet made a donation, please give generously using the envelopes you will find in the rack in the porch. You can also make a donation online by visiting www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. Thank you.

Facebook. Follow us at St Mary Magdalen RC Church Willesden Green and please email in your photographs of last Sunday's Mass and reception so that we can create an album on our page.

First Holy Communion. Please note that there is no class this week as it is a Bank Holiday.

Confirmation. Please remember in your prayers our candidates who will be confirmed at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 9 May 2015 at 2:00pm—pray that their hearts will be open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Martin Breakspear is the official photographer on the day and can be contacted on 07905 827 194 or 020 8907 9741 or via mbreakspear@btinternet.com.

Special Needs Group Cake Sale will take place after all morning Masses next week, Sunday 10 May 2015. Donations of cakes and other baked items are needed. You can bring them to the Annexe on the day or deliver them to Kathleen Leonard's home the day before. Contact Kathleen on 07946 783767 or email kathymleonard@yahoo.co.uk for further details. All proceeds from the cake sale will go towards a summer seaside trip and a Christmas party for local people with learning disabilities.

Parish Diary

Monday	7:00pm	Prayer group meeting in the Annexe
Wednesday	8:00pm	<i>Pioneers'</i> meeting in the Annexe
Thursday	8:00pm	Padre Pio Group meeting in the Annexe
Friday	7:00pm	<i>Knights of St Columba</i> meeting in the Annexe

Diocesan News

Faith Matters Question Time: 'The General Election: What's Religion got to do with it?' At the next Faith Matters Question Time, there will be a panel discussion on matters of faith and life which bring together Catholics and others from different walks of life. The event takes place at Farm Street on Tuesday 5 May 2015 at 6:30pm, two days before the General Election. The panel will include Lord Glasman of Stoke Newington and Stamford Hill (Blue Labour), Dr Laura Keynes (journalist and author, *Catholic Voices*, and 'Conservative Woman' blogger), Alex Macqueen (Actor, 'The Thick of It') and Revd Lucy Winkett (Rector, St James', Piccadilly). Recommended donation is £7. Booking is essential. To book please visit www.mountstreet.info.

Come along to the world famous Catholicism course by Fr Robert Barron, being hosted at the Transfiguration Catholic Church, Kensal Rise. It will include the most watched Catholic documentary in history. This free 10 week course is being shown on the following dates: Fridays at 7:30pm from May 8, Saturdays at 7:00pm from May 9 and Sundays at 6:00pm from May 10. Feel free to invite friends and family. You can turn up on the day, but to get an idea of numbers we would be most grateful if you could book a place by calling 020 8964 4040 or email: churchofthetransfiguration@hotmail.com

Morning of Prayer and Catechesis for catechists led by Bishop Nicholas Hudson is on Saturday 9 May 2015 from 9:30am to 12:30pm at Vaughan house, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN and will include Mass and the blessing of catechists. All catechists are very welcome to attend. Please book via the website at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/morning-of-prayer-catechesis-for-catechists-with-bishop-nicholas-hudson-tickets-12490263715?ref=ebapi>. Email catadmin@rcdow.org.uk or call 020 7798 9157.

The May Procession at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden takes place on Sunday 10 May at 3:30pm. A street procession will take place to the Convent of Jesus and Mary where the homily will be preached by Fr William Nicol, Pastoral Director at Allen Hall Seminary. The procession returns to the Shrine Church for Benediction. Come and join us as we pray the rosary for peace, and for the protection of our city and diocese. Close to Willesden Junction on the Bakerloo and Overground lines.

Come and See. The last 'Come and See' meeting this year for men interested in finding out more about the Permanent Diaconate is on Saturday 16 May 2015 from 10:00am to 12 noon at the parish of Sacred Heart of Jesus and St Joseph in Ware SG12 7EJ. No booking needed. Wives welcome. Contact Dcn Anthony Clark 020 8455 9822 or Dcn Adrian Cullen 01920 462140.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty. Alleluia!