

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

Deacon Michael Jarmulowicz
michaeljarmulowicz@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Office

willesdengreen@rcdow.org.uk



ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MARCH - MONTH OF
ST JOSEPH
YEAR C

13 MARCH 2016

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Silenced Witnesses

Sir George Martin's death received enormous coverage in the media as did the deaths of Sir Terry Wogan and David Bowie. Whatever your personal attitude towards their entertainment value, all three brought happiness to millions. Yet with so much celebrity news coverage other deaths for a greater good get trivialised or completely ignored.

On Tuesday I told our Confirmation candidates about the hundreds of martyrs of these islands who gave their lives for the faith we are free to celebrate in the United Kingdom today. I explained in graphic detail the process of being hung, drawn and quartered and that among the 167 martyred from our Diocesan seminary the eldest was 82 and the youngest just 15. They listened in stunned silence to the trials of our forebears on this very soil just over 400 years ago—it was as if these truths had been airbrushed out of what, no doubt, are otherwise thorough history and RE syllabuses in their schools.

Similarly they seemed surprised to learn that Christians are persecuted for their faith around the world today—in Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, Indonesia, China and so on. In the words of David Cameron, "It is shocking that Christians are being threatened, tortured even killed because of their faith...hounded, driven from their villages, made to renounce their faith and even murdered." I also quoted a Chinese man who, when asked why he risked being found going to Mass in the underground Church said, "Because it is the Lord. We want to be with Jesus." What a witness to the Real Presence of Christ.

And most shocking of all, they had not heard of the murders on 4 March of four Missionaries of Charity (the order founded by Mother Teresa) in Yemen while those very sisters cared for the sick; while they carried out one of the corporal works of mercy. For all their exposure to the *BBC* and *ITN* and various other media our young people had not seen the nuns in their habits lying dead in the blood-spattered dust just last week.

Our statues and other images now are veiled and we are forced to look at ourselves and our sinfulness in the run up to Holy Week. The wrong acts we commit are easy to recognise, own and voice out loud. What is more challenging is to acknowledge our indifference to the suffering of our fellow Christians. Those martyrs of the past and the present did what you do today, said what you are saying today and they deserve at the very least our acknowledgement. Often they do not get even that because their awesome sacrifice for love of Christ and His Church shames us. It shames us when we compare the minor difficulties we refuse to overcome in order to practice our faith in freedom and peace with what they risked for Christ: everything, even their last breath. *Fr Kevin*

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: Paddy Mangan, Josephine Niland, John Cattigan, Peter Corcoran, Jimmy Sullivan, Seamus Carr

Those who have died recently: William Hughes, Eugene "Jeanie" Cusack

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Fr Michael Buckley, Maureen Anderson, Mary Mulhern, Edward Benoit, Mary Williams

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £2,575.64 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity.

Easter Offering envelopes are available on your benches today. Traditionally this Easter offering is your personal gift to all the clergy while the usual envelope goes towards the regular upkeep of the parish.

Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Can you please sign the rota on the table at the back of the church indicating your availability for the Holy Week liturgies. Thank you.

Tea and coffee. You are welcome in the Annexe after the 9:00am and 10:30am Masses when we will be serving drinks.

Mary's Meals will be at our church this Sunday morning only to collect all your unwanted clothing/bedding (no duvets or pillows please). Please bring all your bags before 12 noon today. Please ensure all clothing/bedding is put into tied black sacks. Three full sacks will feed a child one good nutritious meal every school day for a whole year. Thank you for your support.

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

Stitch Amazingly sewing workshop for beginners to intermediate level will recommence on Tuesdays from 19 April to the 24 May 2016 from 7:00pm-8:30pm. Please contact Glenda on 07739 707 564 or email Info@stitchamazingly.co.uk for details. Booking is essential.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham takes place on Saturday 9 July 2016. Those who have signed up should bring their money (£20) to the presbytery by 5:00pm on Sunday 13 March to confirm their seat. After this time seats will be offered to others who wish to go as the coach is now full. Independent pilgrims will find full details on the poster at the back of the church.

Parish Pilgrimage to Rome. Only three places are left so please return the application forms by Monday 14 March.

Planned Giving. As we come to the end of the financial year, please consider using envelopes or a standing order for your offertory donations, and *Gift Aid* your contribution which benefits the parish by 25p for every £1 you give at no extra cost to you. Please contact the parish office for more information on these ways of giving. You can also pay using your mobile phone by texting PARISH WILLG to 70800 to donate £5 which will be added to your phone bill. For further details about 'Text Giving' please take a leaflet. Thank you for your generosity how ever you give.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

Acclamation: Praise to You, O Christ, King of Eternal Glory. Seek good and not evil so that you may live, and that the Lord God of Hosts may really be with you. Praise to You, O Christ, King of Eternal Glory.

Diocesan News

Westminster Cathedral Choir continues its popular concert series in 2016 on Wednesday 16 March at 7:30pm with Bach's monumental St John Passion. This work follows the story of Jesus's Passion and crucifixion and is particularly apt for this season of Lent. It will be sung in German, with renowned soloists Ben Johnson (Evangelist) and Marcus Farnsworth (Christus). First performed in Leipzig in 1724, this choral repertoire still holds audiences in thrall with its familiar German chorales, exquisite arias and flowing orchestral melodies. Tickets are priced from just £10, and are available from the Cathedral Gift Shop and from www.ticketmaster.co.uk or telephone (0844 844 0444). Please see the poster at the back of the church.

Doors of Mercy. During the *Jubilee Year of Mercy*, you are invited to make a pilgrimage to the shrines in the diocese, many of them hosting a Holy Door. Those making a brief pilgrimage during the year to the Cathedral Holy Door or the others through the Diocese (locally at Our Lady of Willesden) may gain the Jubilee Indulgence for themselves or the Holy Souls. Information about events during the *Year of Mercy*, Holy Doors and the Indulgence is available on the Diocesan Website <http://rcdow.org.uk/year-of-mercy/>. May this Holy Year be for all, as Pope Francis wishes, 'a true moment of encounter with the mercy of God.'

Hail Holy Queen

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.

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
Thursday	8:00pm	Family film night— <i>For Greater Glory</i> , the true story of the Catholic martyrs in 1920's Mexico.
Friday	7:00pm	Stations of the Cross in the church
Saturday	7:30pm—9:30pm	FGCC - Charismatic Prayer and Praise in the Annexe