

Presbytery

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Parish Clergy

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**ST MARY MAGDALEN
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
MAY—MONTH OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
21 MAY 2017
6TH 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

Party Games

We all get those cold calls which begin, “Mr Jordan? How are you today?” And then we promptly put down the ‘phone. If I have a moment, I switch the kettle on and answer the question: “Oh thank you—no-one ever asks me that. And I’m having an awful day... blah, blah, blah” They soon put the ‘phone down. Perhaps you give canvassers for the election short shrift and swiftly shut the door? But what if we were to really engage with them on our doorsteps? With that in mind, the UK bishops have produced some questions we might ask the various candidates who are touting for our votes.

How will the candidate protect the sacred dignity of each human life from conception to natural death? Will they oppose moves to liberalise the abortion laws, to extend embryo experimentation and to legalise assisted suicide? As the bishops say, laws which permit the wilful ending of life are reprehensible and are always morally unacceptable.

The love of man and woman in marriage and their openness to new life is the most basic cell upon which society is built. The wellbeing of society depends on the health of family life and MPs should respond to this with policies that create economic and other advantages for families with children. What do they propose for the flourishing of traditional family life and values which are an integral part of Britain’s Christian patrimony?

Poverty continues to be a scourge and many people struggle to make ends meet. This cannot and should not endure in our country in the twenty-first century. How will they support the lowest earners including the sick, disabled, and dying? Have they plans for the homeless and better social housing? What is to be done about health and social care and to improve care for the mentally ill? How will all this be funded? What can encourage philanthropy and support charity? Our concerns should also extend to providing international assistance so will they protect and enhance the international development budget and ensure it is not used to support immoral antilife practices?

Will they support parental choice for Catholic schools and what that education entails? Will they protect freedom of conscience and religion at home and abroad and promote a welcoming society for refugees, abhorring all belief-based hate-crimes? As we leave the EU, will they fight for its citizens rights in whatever country they find themselves? Will ethical considerations be a priority in forming new international relationships?

Pope Francis says, “The greatness of any nation is revealed in its effective care of society’s most vulnerable members.” Our nation, our parliament, and our government will be judged on how it treats its poorest and most vulnerable citizens. So ask. *Fr Kevin*

Those who have died recently: Myrtle Bannis, Patrick Keenan, Ned Lynch, Jusza Fernandes

Those who are sick: Ray Sweeney, David Kane

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Agnes McNamara, Bernadette McHugh, Matthew Cooke, Mary Kathleen Ashton, Josie McManus, Peter McMenemy, John McMenemy, Mary Ferguson Carroll, Chu Chin Ooi

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £1,971.05 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day 2017 raised a total of £2,090.38. *CAFOD* have written to thank us for our generous gift. This incredible amount will help *CAFOD* stand alongside poor communities, working with them to end poverty and injustice across the world.

Aid to the Church in Need Appeal at the end of April raised a total of £891.19. *Aid to the Church in Need* have written to thank us for our generosity and continued support of this Catholic charity which works in 140 countries, helping persecuted and oppressed Christians through prayer, information and action.

Parish Pastoral Council agenda items. Do you have anything you would like your Parish Pastoral Council to discuss or address, or any ideas for building up our parish community? Please submit any items for the next meeting on Tuesday 23 May 2017 to Clergy House or by talking to one of the PPC members.

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

Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College Lourdes Appeal. The Westminster Archdiocese has organised a pilgrimage to Lourdes for the last 28 years. This year one of our parishioners is participating in this valuable service with 13 other students from her school who are volunteering as Red Caps to aid the elderly and wheelchair-bound on their week-long trip, with the aim of serving God and to serving Christ in one another. The girls from the Convent of Jesus and Mary will be selling home-baked cakes in the Annexe after the morning Masses on Sunday 28 May 2017. Thank you for your support and keep them in your prayers.

Deacon Michael will be ordained to the Sacred Priesthood at 10:30am on Saturday 24 June at Westminster Cathedral. Many parishioners have already enquired about a gift for him. Having been a deacon for several years, Michael says that he does not need anything in the way of books, vestments or other items associated with liturgies. However, like many priests, he has mentioned that he would like to have his own chalice—this is an extremely personal thing. Therefore we suggest that any parishioners who would like to get him something contribute towards a collection so that he can buy a chalice of his own choosing. It will then be a gift in whole or in part from the community which greatly encouraged his vocation, and be used at his first Mass here at 12 noon on Sunday 25 June to which we hope you will all come. Indeed, we will be remembered in a particular way at every Mass Michael celebrates with it just as Fr Kevin thinks of his family whenever he uses the chalice they bought for him. Donations should be placed in an envelope marked, "Deacon Michael's Collection" and handed to one of the priests or the parish administrator. Thank you.

Altar Servers. If you have been serving for over a year but have not yet been enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen (i.e. got your medal) please write your name on the list on the noticeboard in the sacristy.

Funeral Notices

The Reception of the body of the late
Edmund Owen Lynch of Melrose Avenue will take place on
Thursday 25 May 2017 at 7:00pm and the Requiem Mass will take
place on Friday 26 May 2017 at 11:00am followed by burial at
St Mary's Roman Catholic Cemetery at 12:30pm

May he rest in peace

Diocesan News

Thy Kingdom Come Global Prayer Movement takes place from 25 May—4 June 2017 and invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. What started out as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in 2016 to the Church of England has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer. Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Joint President of the Council of Churches for England writes, 'To have a week of prayer for Christian mission is just a wonderful thing. Please do join in before Pentecost, this drive to pray together for the gift of God's spirit for our mission. We know how rich Pentecost is in the life of the Church from its very beginning. That richness can be ours too - if we ask God for it.' Register your 'Pledge to Pray' at: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>. Please see the poster at the back of the church and pick up a Novena Prayer Card to guide you through the nine days of prayer.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: Cry out with joy to God all the earth.

Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: 'If anyone loves Me he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We shall come to him'. Alleluia!

Parish Diary

Monday	5:30pm— 6:30pm	First Holy Communion class—St Mary Magdalen's Junior School
Monday	7:00pm	Prayer Group—Annexe
Tuesday	7:00pm- 8:30pm	<i>Stitch Amazingly</i> sewing workshop—Annexe
Tuesday	8:00pm	Parish Pastoral Council—Presbytery
Thursday	7:15pm	<i>SVP</i> —Annexe
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