

Presbytery

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ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

FEBRUARY - MONTH OF
THE HOLY FAMILY
26 FEBRUARY 2017

8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
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

Serious Givin' Up (No G)

For those of you who listen to *Steve Wright in the Afternoon* on BBC Radio 2, you will know that on Fridays at around 4:00pm they have "Serious Jockin' (No G)". The other day Steve was talking about going on a diet starting this Wednesday, Ash Wednesday for us. I have no idea of Mr Wright's religious affiliations but he certainly seemed to link the beginning of Lent with the start of a time for some abstinence.

Of course Lent is meant to be a spiritual health farm not a physical one but if we feel better in our bodies at the end of it that is an added advantage. However, there is much to be said for giving up something different and the Rev Phil Ressler has some great ideas of things to give up which will make us feel better in mind, heart and soul.

First he suggests fear—we should deepen our faith that God really is on our side as St Paul says to the Romans. Alongside this we should not worry so much but remember that God is in control and being anxious will not change the past nor alter the future.

In relationships, he suggests not trying to please everyone: I know this is futile because I'm a parish priest! Instead, focus on the only One we should strive to please. Being envious denies an acknowledgement of God's blessings in our lives and places our value in possessions rather than our relationship with God, while bitterness and resentment only hurt us and definitely not the one who we envy. In the same way, our sense of entitlement can be false—the world doesn't owe us anything and neither does God so we should live in humility as the Lord has asked us to do in the Gospel in recent weeks.

And consider God's patience with humanity over the centuries—why should we be so impatient? Our sense of superiority also causes us to pass the buck and never take responsibility for our actions—we should accept our failures and learn from them. Feeling we're better than others also causes gossip and negativity, something Pope Francis detests and sees as the real work of the Devil. Instead, we should put the best spin on everything when it comes to others and would do well to minimize contact with people who are negative and whose toxicity just serves to constantly bring other people down.

Other things he says we can do without are comparison—each contribution to life is unique—and fearing failure and feeling unworthy deny our wonder in the eyes of God.

So there's a different take on Lent which should deepen our love for God and our neighbour. And don't forget to pray, fast and give alms. Happy Lent one and all! *Fr Kevin*

Those who have died recently: John Sullivan, May McClay, Joseph P.Sag-Heng, Josephine Imelda Doherty, Brian Monahan, Manuel Garcia Sonora

Those who are sick: Noreen Kelly, Jean Wadsworth, Lydia Pambakian, Mary Ellen Mills, Anton Simon, Pat McDyer, Matt Bickers

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Royer Bannis

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £1873.61 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity.

The Family of the late Josephine Imelda Doherty would like to thank you all for your prayers, attendance and support following the death of their mother. It was greatly appreciated.

Mardi Gras. Please join us in the Annexe after the 9:00am, 10:30am and 12 noon Masses, when your palms will be burned to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday. Let us celebrate before we enter into the penitential joys of Lent.

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

Children's Calendars for Lent are available from the rack in the porch—please take one home with you and carry out the suggested activities. Adults, please think about and plan your extra prayer, fasting and almsgiving for Lent *now* to make the most of this holy season.

First Holy Communion Catechists. The worksheet for session five is available for collection from the rack in the Sacristy.

Magdala, the parish magazine, will be on sale after all Masses this weekend priced £1. Do buy a copy to find a review of what has been happening in our parish in the last few months and to read other interesting articles about life in and around St Mary Magdalen's.

Stitch Amazingly Sewing Workshop. Are you someone who would like to learn to be creative with fabrics and a sewing machine or are you even a budding fashion designer? Why not take that first step and join the *Stitch Amazingly* sewing workshops at St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Church in Willesden Green? Sessions are recommencing on Tuesdays from 28 February until 4 April 2017, 7:00pm to 8:30pm, and Saturdays from 4 March until 8 April 2017, 11:00am to 1:00pm. If you would like to book for sessions, please visit the website at www.stitchamazingly.co.uk or telephone Glenda Brady on 07739 707 564. Alternatively please email info@stitchamazingly.co.uk.

Ash Wednesday. Masses on Wednesday 1 March 2017 will be at 9:30am and 7:00pm when ashes will be distributed.

Parish Pilgrimage to Stonor (which is of great significance to Catholicism in England) takes place on Saturday 6 May 2017. The coach will depart from the church at 8:30am and return at approximately 6:00pm (depending on traffic). Cost is £25. Members of our Parish Pastoral Council will be available at the back of the church after all Masses on the weekend of 11/12 March to tell you more about the Pilgrimage and to take bookings and payment. Alternatively, contact the Parish Office for information, Tuesday to Friday, between 10:00am and 2:00pm.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: In God alone is my soul at rest
 Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

Everything ...

...You Always Wanted to Know about Faith but Were Afraid to Ask is an open forum which Justin Osuji and Fr Kevin are offering to deepen our understanding of the truths of Christ and His Church on Thursday 16 March at 8:00pm in the church with refreshments in the Annexe. You can ask anything you like, anonymously, either online at <https://bit.ly/EYAWTKAF> or by completing one of the forms at the back of the church and dropping it in at the Parish Office. Whether you have a question or not, do come along—Catechesis is good for all of us at every stage of life.

Funeral Notices

The Reception of the body of the late May McClay of Hamilton Road will take place on Thursday 2 March at 7:00pm and the Requiem Mass will take place on Friday 3 March at 11:00am followed by burial at St Mary's Cemetery, Kensal Green at 12:30pm

The Reception of the body of the late John 'Paddy' Sullivan of Ivy Road will take place on Thursday 2 March at 7:00pm and the Requiem Mass will take place on Friday 3 March at 10:00am at St Mary and St Andrew church, 216 Dollis Hill Lane NW2 6HE, followed by burial at Paddington Old Cemetery at 12 noon

May they rest in peace

Parish Diary

Monday	5:30pm— 6:30pm	First Holy Communion class at St Mary Magdalen's Junior School
Monday	5:30pm- 6:30pm	First Holy Communion parents meeting at St Mary Magdalen's Junior School
Monday	7:30pm— 8:30pm	First Holy Communion parents meeting at St Mary Magdalen's church (for those unable to make earlier meeting at school).
Monday	7:00pm	Prayer Group—Annexe
Tuesday	7:00pm— 8:30pm	Confirmation class at St Mary Magdalen's Junior School
Tuesday	7:00pm- 8:30pm	<i>Stitch Amazingly</i> sewing workshop—Annexe
Wednesday	8:00pm	<i>Pioneers</i> —Annexe
Thursday	7:15pm	<i>Padre Pio</i> Group-Annexe
Friday	7:00pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday	11:00am- 1:00pm	<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 in the Annexe