

Presbytery

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**ST MARY MAGDALEN
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
**NOVEMBER - MONTH OF
THE HOLY SOULS**
27 NOVEMBER 2016
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YEAR C

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

Confessions

Saturday: 10:00am—10:30am
5:30pm—6:15pm

Jams and Jerusalem

No we're not setting up a branch of the *Women's Institute*, not least because we already have the wonderful *Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM)*. Yet Jerusalem is fitting as we are now in Advent. Actually, with the decorations and promotions we've been bombarded with for the past weeks you might think it was already Christmas. Nevertheless, for the purpose of the Church's liturgical year this is Advent, a season split into two halves. The first part, until 17 December, focuses on the Second Coming of Christ and our preparedness for it. It is only from 18 December onwards that the readings at Mass begin to tell the story of the build-up to the historical birth of Christ our Saviour. So for now our minds should be on the renewal of creation and the new Jerusalem.

In the past, Advent was known as St Martin's Lent and therefore, in keeping with that most holy season before Easter, we were encouraged to commit ourselves to prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It is still the same today and we should prepare ourselves for judgment by avoiding sin or, having committed them, alleviate the eternal punishments they merit by going to confession and carrying out spiritual exercises. Fasting also is important not just so that we can over-indulge on Christmas Day but so that our secular celebrations for Christ's birth echo the outburst of liturgical joy on that day.

Almsgiving is equally vital especially as the Holy Father is encouraging us to continue some aspects of the *Year of Mercy*: these include the Corporal (bodily) Works of Mercy among which are feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked and sheltering the homeless or welcoming the stranger. One of the simplest and neighbourly ways of doing this is linked to one the stalwarts of our *UCM*, Norrie Fox, who organised a monthly collection for Ashford Place in Cricklewood. This centre embodies those works of mercy as it offers shelter to the homeless, training for work, help with substance abuse, and companionship for those who feel isolated—people who are just about managing, or JAMS, as they seem to be called by the media these days.

That collection of non-perishable foodstuffs occurs today and I encourage you to raid your cupboards. Rather like that television cookery programme where random ingredients are presented to chefs in bags marked with a red tomato or green pepper, the centre's cooks conjure up a lovely meal everyday with what is available for those who benefit from the place. In the midst of this relentless rush to 25 December let us also consider our future in the heavenly Jerusalem. So: Ready? Steady. Donate! *Fr Kevin*

Those who have died recently: Conceicao D'Abreu, Guiliano Lombardi, Harry Reid

Those who are sick: Clodagh Dollery, Paddy & Bridie Scanlon, Robin Tobin, Rhonda Felice

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Evelyn & Tom Dunne, Michael McAndrew, Sean Higgins

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £2,076.04 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity. Standing order figures will be published at the end of the year.

Sick and Retired Priests' Collection. The clergy of this parish thank everyone who donated to the Sick and Retired Priests' Collection. To date £1,730.01 has been raised. This important collection helps cover the expenses of frail, elderly, infirm and chronically ill priests dependent on the Diocese for basic living needs. Thank you for your prayers for all our Catholic priests and especially for those concluding a lifetime of service to the Church. For more information please visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations.

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.

Repository. Advent calendars, Advent candles, wreaths, cribs, Christmas cards, Mass bouquets, Christmas story books, the new Westminster Year book and many other items are on sale now in the Repository.

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

Holy Hour. Please note there will be no Holy Hour on Friday 2 December 2016.

The Convent of Jesus and Mary Catholic Infant School and Nursery Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 3 December from 12 noon until 3:00pm. This year's fair is going to be full of festive cheer with carol singing, festive games, drama classes, visiting stalls, delicious food, cakes, mulled wine and mince pies! We look forward to seeing the Mayor of Brent and being dazzled by another amazing display by Adelle's dancers! As always we will have our great raffle and auction, which this year features a mini iPad and a central London hotel break for two! All the money raised will be invested in our great school!

Special Needs Group Christmas Cake Sale will take place after all morning Masses on Sunday 4 December 2016. The money raised from the cake sale will be used to fund a Christmas lunch and gifts for people in and around the parish with learning disabilities. Donations of festive cakes/biscuits would be greatly appreciated. Contact: Kathleen 020 8451 4677.

St Mary Magdalen Wednesday Club have arranged to go to Mickie's Christmas Variety Lunch on Thursday 15 December 2016. Cost is £25 (lunch and coach). The coach will leave from St Mary Magdalen's Church, Peter Avenue NW10 at 10:30am. If you would like to join us please contact Barbara on 020 8963 0973.

Children's Nativity Play. This will take place as part of the Parish Carol Concert on Sunday 18 December 2016. We are looking for as many children as possible to take part in this wonderful event and all are welcome. We also need parents/carers to help prepare the children for the play. Rehearsals will take place in the church on Thursday 8 December and Friday 16 December at 3:30pm. Please leave your details with the Parish Office if you can assist in any way. Thank you.

Funeral Notices

The Reception of the body of the late Conceicao Maria Pestana D'Abreu formerly of Geary Road will take place on Tuesday 29 November 2016 at 7:00pm and the Requiem Mass will take place on Wednesday 30 November 2016 at 11:00am followed by burial at Willesden New Cemetery at 12:30pm

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late Guiliano Lombardi formerly of Beaconsfield Road will take place on Thursday 1 December 2016 at 12 noon followed by Cremation at West London Crematorium at 1:30pm

May they rest in peace

Diocesan News

Love in Action Launch. On Thursday the 1 December, Caritas Westminster will be launching Love in Action, an engagement programme based on the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, which enables you to start your own social action projects. The launch begins at 6:30pm at Our Lady of Victories Church Hall, Kensington. For more details or to RSVP please email caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk. Refreshments provided.

Retreat for Advent led by the Retreat Team takes place on Friday 2 December until Sunday 4 December at the House of Prayer, 35 Seymour Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 0PB. This is a weekend silent residential retreat with an individual guide for each retreatant. As well as time for personal prayer, there will be community prayer, with Scripture, poetry and music. Arrive on Friday in time for supper at 7:00pm and leave on Sunday at 4:00 pm. Cost is £140 and advance booking is essential. To reserve a place please telephone 020 8941 2313 or email houseofprayer@hotmail.co.uk.

The annual Diocesan Youth Mass will be celebrated on Friday 9 December at St Aloysius Church, Somers Town (next to Euston). Mass will begin at 7:00pm followed by a reception in the hall. Bishop Nicholas Hudson will be leading the celebration. Please see the poster at the back of the church.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, Your mercy and give us Your saving help. Alleluia!

Parish Diary

Monday	7:00pm	Prayer Group—Annexe
Thursday	8:00pm	<i>Padre Pio</i> Group—Annexe
Saturday	7:30pm– 9:30pm	"The Feast London" - a Catholic prayer meeting of the Light of Jesus Family in the Annexe