

Presbytery

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Parish Clergy

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Parish Office

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**ST MARY MAGDALEN
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
NOVEMBER —MONTH OF
THE HOLY SOULS
26 NOVEMBER 2017
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING
OF THE UNIVERSE
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

Can a Catholic Believe in Evolution?

Firstly it is important to note that Darwin's *theory* of evolution is not a fact. Even though most now believe that all species have in fact evolved, there is actually strong scientific evidence to support the counter-claim that it did not. Perhaps the most compelling argument is that evolution cannot explain DNA. Without DNA a protein cannot form, and conversely DNA cannot replicate without pre-existing proteins. This would infer that one could not have evolved from the other and so both must have been created simultaneously. This is referred to as the problem of irreducible complexity and there are many other examples of these in nature such as chickens, and the complex cellular motor called the flagellum. Since Darwin himself said "If such complex organs could be found then my theory would absolutely break down" - it would appear that at the very least, evolution is in trouble!

With that said, if it is to overcome these obstacles and a host of others then by no means is evolution incompatible with the Catholic Faith. A Catholic's main concern is not how the *body* came into being, but how the *soul* came into being for it is the human soul that is the image of God', and Scripture tells us that God breathed it into us. 'Therefore the body could have indeed evolved from lower forms'. After all, 'The Bible does not say God created (*bara*) each species by a separate act' but 'Let the *earth* bring forth living creatures.' The Hebrew word "*bara*" is also only used for the creation of God *ex nihilo* (from nothing), as apposed to "*kal*", the word used for the *forming* of man.

Whichever way God chose to bring about life—whether as an agent effecting the development of species over time or as creator of all species at once—is irrelevant to the Faith. What matters is that in every case God remains the sole and efficient cause of all life—God is the thing that brings something (indeed everything) about but He has no discoverable cause Himself.

However this automatically rules out the possibility of natural selection, but such a theory can never be proved by science anyway. Therefore until science can prove conclusively the biology of what happened, 'a Catholic thinker is perfectly free by his faith to select the view that seems more rational to him.' Thus there is no real conflict concerning evolution and matters of faith.

Justin Osuji (Catechist)

This is part of a serialization of Justin's dissertation for the Diploma in Catechesis.

Those who have died recently: Marion O'Connell, Augusto Pesqueira, Canon Louis Thomas, Wanda Kowalczyk, Paul Etuka, Mgr George Tutto, Charlie Earls, Susan Clark, John Sean Flaherty

Those who are sick: Sandra Ferreira

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Evelyn & Tom Dunne, John Boland, Edward Leeson, James McGrath, Michael McAndrew, Rohan Moore, Enos Moore

Those Baptised: Frank Leo Mohan

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £1,775.06 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity.

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

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.

Nursery, Infant, Primary School Priest's Reference Forms. Please telephone the Parish Office, Tuesday to Friday, between 10:00am and 2:00pm, to arrange an appointment.

The Friends of the Convent of Jesus and Mary Catholic Infant School and Nursery are holding their annual Christmas Fair on Saturday 2 December 2017 from 12 Noon—3:00pm. All are welcome at this fantastic fundraising event. Please come along and ask friends and family too. The event includes: Christmas stalls, festive music, face painting, festive games and crafts, family photography shoot, Christmas wreaths, kids' tombola, mulled wine, tea and coffee, hot food, festive cakes, traditional sweets stall, bottle tombola, raffle, auction and much more. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Repository. Advent calendars, Advent candles, wreaths, cribs, Christmas cards, Mass bouquets, Christmas story books, Church art calendars, a wide selection of cards to suit all occasions and many other items religious items are on sale now in the Repository. The Repository is open before and after all Sunday Masses, including the Saturday Vigil.

Parish Database has been deleted. As such, *everyone* should complete a new parish registration form. Forms can be found in the racks as you enter the side porch and on each pillar at the back of the church. Completed forms should be handed to the parish office or posted through the door of the presbytery.

Parish Newsletter. Any notices for the weekly Sunday newsletter should be given to the Parish Office by Thursday noon. Thank you for your kind cooperation.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on Him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!

Parish Diary

Monday	7:00pm	Prayer Group—Annexe
Friday	7:00pm	Holy Hour—Church
Saturday	3:00pm—5:00pm	'The Feast London' - a Catholic prayer meeting of the Light of Jesus Family— Annexe

Funeral Notices

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late Paul Ginikanwanne Olisemeke Etuka of Craven Terrace will take place on Monday 27 November 2017 at 10:30am followed by burial at St Mary's Cemetery, Kensal Green at 12 Noon

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late Augusto Pesqueira of Conley Road will take place on Tuesday 28 November 2017 at 10:15am followed by cremation at West London Crematorium at 12 Noon

The Cremation Service of the late Charlie Earls of Willesden will take place on Friday 1 December 2017 at 12 Noon at the West London Crematorium

May they rest in peace

Diocesan News

The Passage is raising funds through the *Big Give* from 12 Noon Tuesday 28 November until 12 Noon Tuesday 5 December to support its work with homeless people this winter. Double your donation, double your impact: this is a matched giving scheme for online donations. If someone (it can be a company, individual or trust) gave £10 online, matched giving of £10 would bring the Gift up to £20 (and for individuals to £22.50 with Gift Aid and with higher rate tax relief it may cost the donor less than £10). For more information please ring Andrew Hollingsworth on 020 7592 1855 or email at andrew.h@passage.org.uk.

Marriage Enrichment Day at Ealing Abbey. For the 10th anniversary of the Marriage Preparation Course at Ealing Abbey, a one-day talk 'Add Some Sparkle to Your Marriage' for young married couples takes place in the Abbey Hall on Saturday 2 December from 2:30pm, ending with Mass and renewal of wedding vows. For details please email the Ealing Abbey parish office: parishoffice@ealingabbey.org.uk or call Maggi on 020 8862 2160.

Lourdes Pilgrimage Christmas Concert. The Lourdes Christmas Concert in aid of the Westminster pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place on Thursday 7 December 2017 at 7:00pm at the Church of Our Lady of Victories, High Street Kensington W8, followed by an after-concert reception. Tickets are £15 each for the concert and £25 each for the reception, and must be purchased in advance by emailing lourdescarol@mail.com. The Lourdes pilgrimage relies on donations and fundraising efforts, including this concert, to help less-able pilgrims and their carers to participate in the pilgrimage and be provided with appropriate medical and volunteer support. Please see the poster at the back of the church.

Ealing Abbey Choir. On Saturday 16 December 2017 at 7:30pm Ealing Abbey Choir will perform 'Carols by Candlelight': a sequence of music and readings for Christmas at Ealing Abbey. Entry includes a programme and a festive reception after the concert. At the end of the evening there will be a retiring collection to support the work of *Caritas*. Tickets are available on line at www.ealingabbeychoir.org.uk or by telephoning 0871 230 0010. Please also see the poster at the back of the church.