

Presbytery

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ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

APRIL—MONTH OF
THE HOLY EUCHARIST
9 APRIL 2017

PALM SUNDAY OF THE
PASSION OF THE LORD

YEAR A

Mass Times

Monday—Wednesday: 9:30am

Maundy Thursday: 8:00pm

Good Friday:

Stations of the Cross:

11:30am

The Passion 3:00pm

Mater Maria Desolata:

7:00pm

Holy Saturday:

The Easter Vigil 8:30pm

Easter Sunday:

9:00am

10:30am,

12:00 noon

Eucharistic Adoration

Weekdays: One hour before
morning Mass

Confessions

Monday: 10:00am-10:30am

Wednesday: 10:00am-10:30am

Good Friday: 10:00am-11:00am

Holy Saturday: 10:00am-11:00am

Not A Three Act Tragedy

For those of you old enough to remember the play *Cats* in the West End, the theatre listing had a peculiar tag-line: "Latecomers will not be admitted once the auditorium is in motion." But before you panic, I'm not proposing to make our liturgies [more] theatrical. On the contrary I'm a firm believer in sticking to the instructions so that the personality of the priest doesn't obscure the mystery with which we are presented at every Mass. But that slogan from Theatreland has a particular relevance for Holy Week.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday evening begins in the normal way but there is no formal end to it. Rather we process to the Altar of Repose in the Lady Chapel where we watch and pray with Christ just as the apostles were commanded to do in the Garden of Gethsemane. At midnight as we creep away silently we once again imitate those closest to the Lord who abandoned Him at His time of greatest need.

On Good Friday morning we follow the Stations of the Cross, journeying with the Lord from the judgement hall to the hill of Calvary. Then in the afternoon we have the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord. Following directly on from Maundy Thursday's Mass and the slog up the mountainside, this liturgy has no beginning as the First Mass when Christ offered bread and wine is now realised in the giving of His Body and the shedding of His Blood. This is portrayed magnificently in Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*: as Christ is stripped of His garments there is a flashback to Him unwrapping the bread of the Last Supper, and as His blood pours from the wounds made by the nails we are returned in time to when He hands the chalice to the Twelve. These two moments in human history are one in God's time and we are brought into that mystery at every Mass. Again we depart in silence with no dismissal and return later to walk back through the Stations of the Cross with Our Lady, our hearts and hers pierced with sorrow.

Holy Saturday is a day with no sacraments save Confession and the Last Rites for "there is a great silence over the earth...and stillness...because the Great King sleeps...in the flesh". This ends with the great joy of the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night when the fire of the Risen Lord shared among us brightens the darkness of the tomb when the horrors of sin and death are overcome. Thus begins the unbridled joy of the first Mass of Easter.

Three days but one act of our salvation. Of course latecomers will be admitted, but experience all three for it is the great work of the Church at its most beautiful. *Fr Kevin*

Those who have died recently: Nora Walker

Those who are sick: Noreen Joy, Una Maguire, Tony Teixeira, Ned Lynch, Pat & Colin Edwards

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Agnes Cleary, Joseph Ryan, Henryk Nowicki, Ronnie McClay, Jeremiah Nagle, Eileen Jordan, Joe Walsh

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £2,089.66 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity.

CAFOD's East Africa crisis appeal collection last weekend raised £710.19. Your donation will get food, clean water and healthcare to people in desperate need. Thank you. For more information please visit the website at cafod.org.uk/eastafrica.

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

Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. For all those who have signed up, the rotas for Holy Week are available for you to view on the noticeboard in the Sacristy. Thank you.

Holy Week and Easter Week Timetables are available today.

Tea/Welcomers Rotas. New rotas are available in the Sacristy.

Church cleaning. To facilitate the polishing of the floors, the church will be closed immediately after 9:30am Mass on Tuesday 11 April 2017. Thank you.

Easter Sunday. Please note there is no evening Mass on Easter Sunday 16 April 2017.

Parish Pilgrimage to Stonor (which is of great significance to Catholicism in England) takes place on Saturday 6 May 2017. Cost is £25. If you have signed up to go please now confirm and pay for your seat. There are a few places left. You can book by calling Melissa on 07968 564 632 or Tom on 07947 620 271. Alternatively, please contact the Parish Office.

Mary's Meals will be coming to our parish in four weeks' time to collect all your unwanted clothing, blankets, shoes, belts and bedding (no duvets nor pillows please). Please put everything into tied sacks and then bring them to the church before 12 noon on Sunday 7 May 2017 for *Mary's Meals* to pick up. Not only will you be getting rid of unwanted clothes/bedding and giving yourself a little more space but you will also benefit a really worthwhile charity. *Mary's Meals* sets up school feeding programmes in some of the world's poorest communities and currently feeds over 1 million young children every school day.

First Holy Communion 2017. The children are ready now to make their First Confession. Parents can usually bring them to the church between 10:00am and 10:30am or 5:30pm and 6:00pm on a Saturday although there are extra times this Holy Week. Please come as a family—children will follow your example.

Repository. Easter and First Holy Communion and Confirmation cards, prayers books and rosary sets and many other items are available to purchase from the Repository. The Repository is open before and after all Sunday Masses including the Saturday Vigil.

Parish Diary

Monday	7:00pm	Prayer Group—Annexe
Friday	10:00am	Children's workshop—Church
Friday	11:30am	Stations of the Cross—Church

Funeral Notice

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late Nora Walker of Charlton Road will take place on Wednesday 12 April 2017 at 10:30am followed by cremation at West London Crematorium at 12 noon

May she rest in peace

Diocesan News

Divine Mercy Apostolate run by the Marian Fathers is organising a Divine Mercy Pilgrimage to Aylesford Shrine, Kent ME20 7BX on Saturday 22 April 2017 in preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday. Please see the poster at the back of the church for full details.

Jesus Christ—The Almost Complete Biography takes place on Saturday 22 April from 11:00am—4:00pm with Fr Mike Smith SJ at the Mount Street Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, W1K 3AH. Website: pathwaystogod.org; telephone number 020 7495 1673. Jesus Christ's life comes in three chapters. Each one is different. In the first, we look especially at His role in creation, and the events leading up to His birth. Then we follow the life of a man like us in everything but sin as He lives His life and carries out His mission. Finally we look at how He continues His work today, but in a more mysterious way, as we work with Him to build the Kingdom of God.

Niland Conference Centre. *'Mindfulness in the Christian Tradition'* with Fr Malachy Keegan, on Wednesday 26 April 10:00am—3:00pm. How does it differ from secular mindfulness? What is its place in our life of faith and prayer? Suggested donation £14. Please bring a packed lunch. Part two is on Wednesday 24 May. *'The Daily Call to Truth'* with Sr Regina McGarry OP and Sr Teresa O'Donovan OP. A necessary virtue today, this takes place on Wednesday 10 May 10:00am—12:30pm. Suggested donation £6. The Niland Centre is located at Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath WD23 4EE. For information please telephone 020 8950 4000 or visit www.nilandconferencecentre.co.uk.

Come and See. Men wanting to know more about the permanent diaconate are invited to come to a two hour meeting at Ealing Abbey Parish Centre, Charlbury Grove, W5 2DY on Saturday 29 April from 10:00am to 12 noon. No booking needed. Wives welcome. Contact Deacon Adrian Cullen 07961 594 725 or Deacon Anthony Clark 07545 373 548.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?

Acclamation: Praise to You, O Christ, King of Eternal Glory. Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised Him high and gave Him the name which is above all names. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.