

Presbytery

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ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MAY - MONTH OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
29 MAY 2016
CORPUS CHRISTI
YEAR C

A Dog Discovers the Real Presence

As Catholics we believe in the Real Presence; the bread and wine are changed into the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ. But do we have doubts about this? Do we wonder how this can be? Is it really true? Do we rejoice at every Mass at the words of consecration knowing that Jesus makes himself truly present among us and in the words of doubting St Thomas say in our hearts "My Lord and My God" as the host is elevated? I came across this account that made a deep impression on me. Here is the story as it was printed:

"On the evening of the last day of his October 1995 visit to the United States, Pope John Paul II was scheduled to greet the seminarians at Saint Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. It had been a very full day that began with a Mass at Oriole Park; a parade through downtown streets; a visit to the Basilica of the Assumption; lunch at a local soup kitchen run by Catholic Charities; a prayer service at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in North Baltimore; and finally a quick stop at Saint Mary's Seminary.

The schedule was tight so the plan was simply to greet the seminarians while they stood outside on the steps. But the Pope wanted to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. When his wishes were made known, security flew into action. They swept the building, paying close attention to the chapel where the Pope would be praying. For this purpose, highly trained sniffer dogs were used to detect any person who might be present.

The dogs are trained to locate survivors in collapsed buildings after earthquakes and other disasters. These highly intelligent and eager dogs quickly went through the halls, offices and classrooms and were then sent to the chapel. They went up and down the aisles, past the pews and finally into the side chapel where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. Upon reaching the tabernacle, the dogs sniffed, whined, pointed, and refused to leave, their attention riveted on the tabernacle, until called by their handlers. They were convinced that they discovered someone there. We Catholics know they were right—they found a real, living Person in the tabernacle! "

God is often testing our Faith, but from time to time He gives us a pearl like this to boost our Faith and help us move onward and upward in our spiritual journey. Today is *Corpus Christi*—the day we celebrate the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. If we have doubts about this reality then hopefully this account of animals sensing a living person will help us.

Deacon Michael

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

Those who have died recently: Teresa Carey, Alan Casey, Kevin Morrison

Those who are sick: William McKeon, Agnes Trimble, Olive Guidera, Mary Mills, Patrick Roddy

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Thomas Carmody

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £2,313.26 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity.

Readers' Rota. The new readers' rota is now available for collection from the rack in the Sacristy.

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

Special Needs Group Summer raffle 2016. The parish Special Needs Group will be holding a summer raffle. First prize—£200 cash donated by *M.P Moran Ltd*, second prize—£150 *Marks and Spencer* voucher, third prize—SDS drill donated by *Discount Builders Supplies*, High Road, Willesden, plus many more wonderful prizes. All proceeds from the raffle will go towards a summer seaside trip for local people with learning disabilities. Raffle tickets will be on sale after all Masses this weekend. Tickets cost £1 per strip. Please see the poster at the back of the church for more details.

Confirmation and First Holy Communion photographs taken by the photographer Martin Breakspear will be available to view/purchase in the Annexe this Sunday 29 May 2016 between 9:30am and 12 noon. Martin can be contacted on 07905 827 194 or 020 8907 9741.

Pioneers' Annual Mass takes place on Friday 3 June 2016 at 6:30pm on the Solemnity of The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The Jubilee Year of Mercy Brent Deanery Catholic Schools Mass takes place on Tuesday 7 June 2016 at 11:00am at St Mary Magdalen's church, Willesden Green. All are welcome.

Can You Spare Just a Couple of Hours on a Sunday Evening Once a Month? We need just one more person to help count the collection and make an extra team to reduce the burden further. Full training on procedures will be given. Please talk to one of the clergy to take part in this important work. Thank you.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: You are a priest forever, a priest like Melchizedek of old.

Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the living bread which as come down from heaven, says the Lord. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever. Alleluia!

Hail Holy Queen

Hail, holy queen, mother of mercy! Hail our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve, to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb Jesus; O clement, O loving, O sweet virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Diocesan News

Spirit in the City is a Catholic Festival of Mercy in the West End of London which takes place from 1—4 June 2016. There is a programme of prayer, talks, and celebrations in Notre Dame de France and an all day festival in Leicester Square Gardens on Saturday. For details please visit www.spiritinthecity.org or telephone 020 7440 2663. For the full programme please visit www.bit.ly/SitCfest2016.

Caritas Westminster Volunteer Evening takes place on Tuesday 7 June 2016 at the Centre for Youth Ministry, 20 Phoenix Road, Euston from 6:00pm until 8:00pm. Refreshments provided. The volunteer evening is a chance for the Catholics in London and Hertfordshire to find out about volunteer training and opportunities in the Diocese of Westminster. Everyone is welcome. Please RSVP to caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk by Tuesday 31 May, to advise if you have any dietary or access requirements.

Principal's Annual Charity Concert at St Dominic's Sixth Form College takes place on Thursday 16 June at 6:30pm. All proceeds to go to St Luke's Hospice and Macmillan Cancer. Tickets cost £10.00. For tickets or more information, please contact Marie Middlemass via email mcm@stdoms.ac.uk or telephone 020 8422 8084. Please also see the poster at the back of the church.

The Passage are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help in their kitchen during breakfast and lunch services for homeless people. Duties will include serving food and drink, helping to prepare food, tidying and washing up. They are looking for regular weekly commitment. Please email volunteering@passage.org.uk or telephone 020 7592 1863. For full details of these and other roles visit the website at www.passage.org.uk/volunteering.

Doors of Mercy. During the *Jubilee Year of Mercy*, you are invited to make a pilgrimage to the shrines in the diocese, many of them hosting a Holy Door. Those making a brief pilgrimage during the year to the Cathedral Holy Door or the others throughout the Diocese (locally at Our Lady of Willesden) may gain the Jubilee Indulgence for themselves or the Holy Souls. Information about events during the *Year of Mercy*, Holy Doors and the Indulgence is available on the Diocesan Website <http://rcdow.org.uk/year-of-mercy/>. May this Holy Year be for all, as Pope Francis wishes, 'a true moment of encounter with the mercy of God.'

Parish Diary

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| Monday | 7:00pm | Prayer Group meeting in the Annexe |
| Wednesday | 8:00pm | <i>Pioneers</i> meeting in the Annexe |
| Thursday | 8:00pm | <i>Padre Pio</i> Group meeting in the Annexe |
| Friday | 7:00pm | Holy Hour in the church |
| Saturday | 7:30pm–9:30pm | Family of God Catholic Community (FGCC) - Charismatic Prayer and Praise in the Annexe |