

Presbytery

Peter Avenue, Willesden Green,
London, NW10 2DD

Tel: 020 8451 4677

rcdow.org.uk/parish/willesdengreen

Facebook: St Mary Magdalen RC
Church Willesden Green

Parish Clergy

Father Kevin Jordan
kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk

Father Ashley Vincent

Seminarian Tim Mangatal
timmangatal@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Office

willesdengreen@rcdow.org.uk



ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

JANUARY —MONTH OF
THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS
28 JANUARY 2018

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR B

God Is Written In The Stars!

According to the Second Law of Thermodynamics, the odds of the Big Bang producing the Universe's perfect conditions by chance are highly improbable at best. For whenever do explosions create perfect order? Do they not do just the opposite? Chaos doesn't need an explanation, but order does, because it implies design. Reason demands therefore that the Big Bang must have a rational cause. If not then we are left to assume that a miracle took place similar to if I threw a bomb into a junkyard and created a Rolls Royce Dealership! Sounds impossible right? Well not so for the Atheist, who must also believe that just by accident, the bomb created itself and exploded itself!

Then there are the Universe's Space Time Constants that are all so finely tuned to permit life that if just one of these were out by a hair's breath, there would be no life whatsoever. For example, if the gravitational constant was out by less than 0.01% the entire universe would collapse into a black hole. Or if the Strong Nuclear Force constant were increased by only 2% there would be no hydrogen, no water, no life! There are at least 20 more of these that hold the balance of life on a razor's edge. Is this by accident?

These and countless other variables such as the unique arrangement of our Solar System, the Earth's unusually stable orbit, its perfect location to the sun, its life permitting yet protective *transparent* atmosphere, force us to ask: is this all just by chance? Roger Penrose of Oxford University has calculated that the odds of our Anthropic Universe (*NB The anthropic principle is a philosophical consideration that observations of the Universe must be compatible with the conscious and sapient life that observes it*) arising by chance alone are in the order of 1:1010(123) (if written out would fill a large portion of the universe!) Therefore it is far more probable that it was by design. (*NB It is hard even to imagine what this number means. The value 10^{123} means 1 followed by 123 zeros. This is, by the way, more than the total number of atoms [10^{79}] believed to exist in the whole universe. But Penrose's answer is vastly more than this: It requires 1 followed by 10^{123} zeros. Or 10^3 means 1,000. 10 to the 10^3 power is 1 followed by 1000 zeros. If there are six zeros, it's called a million; if nine, a billion; if twelve, a trillion and so on. There is not even a name for a number that has 1 followed by 10^{123} zeros...Get it?*)

We only have to look as far as ourselves to find scientific evidence of a Creator. A single DNA cell contains biological information that if stretched out would span the length of 7 feet! Who wrote these complex instructions, and who put them there? For information must imply a pre existing intelligence. If not we could rationally assume for example that the Sumerian tablets inscribed themselves! But of course we do not. Instead we endeavour to know more about the intelligence behind the artifacts. Thus we can even use DNA as a means to reason to the existence of God.

Justin Osuji

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: Carmel Murphy, Catherine Hawkins, Theresa Hodgins, Harry Uzoka

Those who are sick: Valerie Crain, Sam Samaden, Tim Ryan, Harriet Theresa Mooney, Patrick Roddy

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Michael Cronin

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £2,034.66 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity.

White Flower Appeal for *The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC)* raised £387.09. Thank you.

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

First Holy Communion catechists. The worksheets for First Holy Communion session five are available to collect from the rack in the Sacristy.

Day of Recollection for Readers and Extraordinary Ministers takes place on Saturday 17 February 2018. This day aims to provide the time and space to reflect on the importance of proclaiming the Word of God worthily and an opportunity for all to deepen their love of the Blessed Sacrament especially those who are Extraordinary Ministers. If you are unable to attend please make sure you speak with our Seminarian, Tim. For more details please take a copy of the flyer at the back of the Church.

Pact—Prison Advice and Care Trust send their thanks to those who kindly donated Christmas presents to children who have a loved one in prison. These gifts have enabled *Pact* to bring happiness to children at Christmas who may have found this time particularly difficult due to separation from a family member. Imprisonment affects all those around the prisoner so through giving to these children you have enabled their joy to be extended to those around them. Thank you for bringing happiness to the less fortunate this Christmas. *Pact* asks us all to continue to keep those affected by imprisonment in our prayers.

Newsletter/Order of Mass leaflet. Please take your newsletter home with you after Mass and share it with family and friends. Order of Mass leaflets should be returned to the racks either at the back of the church or in the side porch. Thank you.

Parish Database. Can *everyone* who has not yet done so 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.

Funeral Notice

Reception and Requiem Mass of the late Catherine Mary Anne Hawkins of Cutlers Green

will take place on Friday 2 February 2018 at 11:00am followed by burial at Kensal Green cemetery at 12:30pm

May she rest in peace

Diocesan News

Marriage and Family Life. UK Marriage Week runs from 7 to 14 February each year. The theme for 2018 is Think Ahead! Focus on Planning Your Future Together. For further information visit <http://marriageweek.org.uk>. Please visit Marriage and Family Life web pages at <http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/marriage-and-family-life/resources/> for up and coming news.

A Biblical Journey through the Mass by Brian Purfield. The Mass is the centre of our faith. We celebrate it every day. We know all the responses and all the gestures. But do we know what it all means? In this short course we will take a tour of the liturgy and explore the biblical roots of the words and gestures we experience in the liturgy and reflect on their profound significance. It is hoped that this will help to renew our faith and deepen our love for and devotion to the Eucharist. Talks take place on 20 February, 28 February, 24 April, and 21 May 2018, 7:00pm—8:00pm at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN. Suggested donation is £4.00. Registration is required. Please email living-faith@rcdow.org.uk. Alternatively, please leave a message on 020 7931 6078.

Love Heals Body Mind and Spirit Ministry invite you to a seven day retreat at Mem Soares, Castelo De Vide, Retreat House, Portugal. Two dates are available, Thursday 10 May—Wednesday 16 May 2018 or Thursday 13 September—Wednesday 19 September 2018. The cost will be £620.00. For full details of the retreat please see the poster at the back of the church. Please secure your booking now to make sure you get a place. Email: loveheals-bodymindspirit@gmail.com or for more information please telephone David or Eileen on 020 8542 2476.

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2018: Volunteer Recruitment. The Diocesan Pilgrimage Office is looking to recruit volunteers for medical/practical support of sick pilgrims for the 30th annual Lourdes pilgrimage this summer from 21 to 27 July 2018. Interested applicants are asked to telephone 020 7798 9173 or email lourdes@rcdow.org.uk, or westminsterstfrai@gmail.com. Please also see the poster at the back of the church.

Parish Diary

Monday	5:30pm—6:30pm	First Holy Communion class at St Mary Magdalen's Junior School
Monday	7:00pm	Prayer Group—Annexe
Tuesday	7:00pm-8:30pm	Confirmation class at St Mary Magdalen's Junior School
Thursday	8:00pm	<i>Padre Pio</i> 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 in the Annexe

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: O that today you would listen to His voice! Harden not your hearts.

Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the Kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!