

Presbytery

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**ST MARY MAGDALEN
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
**FEBRUARY —MONTH OF
THE HOLY FAMILY**
18 February 2018
1ST SUNDAY OF LENT
YEAR B

Don't Give Up

In his message for this time of year Pope Francis says "Lent summons us and enables us to come back to the Lord...in every aspect of our lives." He continues, "We must learn to look closely, beneath the surface, and to recognize what leaves a good and lasting mark on our hearts, because it comes from God and is truly for our benefit."

How do we go about marking our hearts this way? First, "By devoting more time to prayer, we enable our hearts to root out our secret lies and forms of self-deception, and then to find the consolation God offers." This comes through private prayer but that is complimented by public prayer so why not come to Mass and the Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings, or Mass on Saturday morning as an additional spiritual exercise?

Second, we should give alms. In the coming weeks you will hear more about the Cardinal's Lenten appeal. But as well as giving to "big" charities, the Holy Father says, "In our daily encounters with those who beg for our assistance, we would see such requests as coming from God Himself. When we give alms, we share in God's providential care for each of His children. If through me God helps someone today, will He not tomorrow provide for my own needs? For no one is more generous than God." So start locally.

But we might also consider *how* we give. Making an offering from our excess is easy but if we start with what we have saved by some self-denial then our giving is more real. We could also plan our giving and *Giftaid* it so that the charities end up with an extra 25 pence for every pound we donate to help those most in need. Thus, think ahead.

Moreover, we might consider *what* we give. When Deacon Michael went to the seminary there were not enough catechists to run the children's Liturgy of the Word at 1030 Mass. There is a training day on this on 17 March from 10:00am until 1:00pm—could you give this as part of your Lent? Equally, our wonderful St Vincent de Paul Society visitors, our magnificent cleaners, our patient counters and so on are always glad of some extra hands. There is so much we can give in so many ways. Small gestures count.

Third, fasting, "Expresses our own spiritual hunger and thirst for life in God...It makes us more attentive to God and our neighbour. It revives our desire to obey God, who alone is capable of satisfying our hunger." In other words, Lent isn't a health farm.

That said, he finishes with the following, "If, at times, the flame of charity seems to die in our own hearts, know that this is never the case in the heart of God! He constantly gives us a chance to begin loving anew." So don't give up. And happy Lent. *Fr Kevin*

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

Stations of the Cross

Friday: after 6:30pm Mass

Those who have died recently: Nora Maguire, Patrick Power, Harry Ozuka, Bose Modinatu Yesufu

Those who are sick: Valerie Crain, Suzanne Afshar, Rose McKenna, Eleni Soupiona

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Daniel & Peter Mulhern, John Sullivan, Benny & Margaret McDade, May McClay, Siobhan Clifford, John Sullivan, Kevin Walshe, Steven Bougouneau, Fitzroy Bougouneau

Those Baptised: Alice Albright Autran Binder, Joaquin Francisco Portillo Collins

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £2,014.03 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity.

Tea and coffee. You are welcome in the Annexe after the 9:00am and 10:30am Masses when we will be serving drinks. Tea and coffee is now being served on a monthly basis so do take this opportunity to meet your fellow parishioners.

Confirmation and First Holy Communion 2018. Catechist worksheets for the remaining sessions are available to collect from the rack in the sacristy.

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.

Magdala, the parish magazine, will be on sale after all Masses this weekend.

First Holy Communion 2017. The children are ready now to make their First Confession. Parents can bring them to the church between 10:00am and 10:30am or 5:30pm and 6:15pm on a Saturday or can make a separate time with Fr Kevin or Fr Ashley that suits them better. Please come as a family—children will follow your example.

CAFOD Family Fast Day is on Friday 23 February 2018. This Lent is an opportunity to support our brothers and sisters who don't have enough to eat. On Friday you can give up a meal, or eat a simple meal in solidarity. With malnutrition still killing almost three million children a year, your fasting, prayers and donations will ensure more of God's children have enough good food to eat. This Lent your donation will make double the difference. For every pound you donate to CAFOD, the UK Government will also donate a pound, up to a total of £5 million, meaning twice the number of lives can be transformed; twice the number of children can have the opportunity to grow up healthy and strong. Please collect your CAFOD Fast Day envelope from church this week, fast this Friday and give as much as you can in next week's collection. Please give generously and do *Giftaid* it.

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

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: Your Ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep Your covenant.

Acclamation: Praise to You, O Christ, King of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to You, O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Diocesan News

National Novena to St Joseph will take place from 10—18 March 2018 at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead and at Herbert House, Freshfield, Liverpool. Each year the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society and the missionary outreach of the Church, as well as for the intentions of all those who support their work. You are invited to send in your petitions and/or to request a novena booklet to enable you to join from home by praying the daily novena prayer. Please write to Fr Liam Cummins MHM, St Joseph's Missionary Society, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7HT, or email novenamhm@gmail.com.

World Youth Day 2019 in Panama. In January 2019 the Diocese of Westminster Youth Ministry will be taking a group of young Catholics to the Central American country of Panama for World Youth Day (WYD). It promises to be an exciting adventure as they join millions of other young people in meeting Pope Francis, making new friends, celebrating their faith and having a life-changing experience. The pilgrimage to Panama is going to be packed so make sure you get the best value, both and spiritually and financially. Included in the trip with the Diocese are return flights to Panama, 10 nights in a 4* hotel (Riande Granada), WYD Pilgrim Pack (passes, booklets etc.), WYD Pilgrim Pack (t-shirt, booklet etc.), all meals catered, travel around Panama, including airport transfers, ATOL protected travel agents, seeing the Pope, plus more. To find out more about the trip, as well as options to support you financially, visit the website at dowym.com. Please also see the poster at the back of the church. And do not let the cost put you off—the parish can help you with fundraising and grants.

Parish Diary

Monday	5:30pm— 6:30pm	First Holy Communion class at St Mary Magdalen's Junior School
Monday	5:30pm- 6:30pm	First Holy Communion parents meeting at St Mary Magdalen's Junior School
Monday	7:30pm— 8:30pm	First Holy Communion parents meeting at St Mary Magdalen's church (for those unable to make earlier meeting at school)
Tuesday	7:00pm— 8:30pm	Confirmation class at St Mary Magdalen's Junior School
Thursday	7:15pm	SVP—Annexe
Friday	7:00pm	Stations of the Cross—Church
Saturday	3:00pm— 5:00pm	"The Feast London" - a Catholic prayer meeting of the Light of Jesus Family in the Annexe