

Presbytery

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Parish Clergy

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**ST MARY MAGDALEN
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
FEBRUARY —MONTH OF
THE HOLY FAMILY
25 February 2018
2ND SUNDAY OF LENT
YEAR B

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

Faith = True Knowledge and True Knowledge = Faith

Whilst Science can go a great way in answering the questions of 'How' things come to be, it can never answer questions of the 'Why' order, which are philosophical and in themselves without God, can never be answered sufficiently. This great 'why' can only be answered by faith, which warns us of the sinister reality of sin. When Christ is not welcomed, sin fills us with pride and self-desire, which clouds our reason and prevents us from submitting to the demands of Truth. St Peter warned of such, in the form of "Scoffers, scoffing and following their own desires." (II Pet 3:3) Today these come in the form of atheists such as Francis Crick who say that no matter what they observe, "Biologists *must constantly* keep in mind that it was *not* designed!" Or Richard Dawkins who must hold that "the complexity of organic life merely gives the *appearance* of having been designed for a purpose." Such a view is like saying to two mathematicians solve 1+1 but no matter what, the answer cannot be 2—even if it appears to be, you must keep in mind that it actually is not! Crazy!

For Catholics however, we know that God willed, that from the beginning, man through genuine examination of the laws and order within nature, would be able to use his reason to understand the need for a necessary and loving law giver and creator that is God. Truth cannot contradict itself and in recognising God as the author of all Truth, we can be certain that *true* science can only lead us back to Him. Conversely, if any claim made by science claims to do the opposite or claims to disprove the infallibility of our faith and morals, we can be certain that it is false. Therefore once we are able to accept *true* science as true we can do nothing but embrace Catholicism!

That brings an end to our brief *apologia* on Science and Faith. As Catholics we are truly blessed: we have the Truth and the fullness of Faith, and we can be confident that such will stand up to any challenge from the world! For anyone who would like to deepen their knowledge of our beautiful Faith I cannot recommend The School of the Annunciation highly enough. Please contact either Father Kevin or myself if you would like more information. God Bless.

Justin Osuji

Annual Financial Return

Copies of the 2017 accounts are now available. Thanks to your incredible generosity and the good stewardship of those you entrust with your donations, we came in under budget and increased our surplus on last year. God bless you all for your care of the temporal needs of our parish and of the people of Willesden Green.

Fr Kevin

Those who have died recently: Harry Uzoka, Kathleen Cummings, Alf Hennigan, Patrick Roddy, June Savage, Reverend Billy Graham

Those who are sick: Valerie Crain, Josephine Niland, Anthony Gallagher

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Dennis O'Connor, George & Beatrice Wallace, Fr Mick Lally, Brian Patrick Monahan, Annie Cronin, Teresa, Jim & Nora Cafferkey, Royer Bannis, James & Annie Mahon

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £1,968.73 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity.

CAFOD Lent Fast Day 2018. At all Masses this weekend we will have guest speakers to talk more about *CAFOD*. Please return your *CAFOD* Fast Day envelope in this week's collection, or make a pledge to give regularly. 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 and twice the number of children can have the opportunity to grow up healthy and strong. If you are a UK taxpayer, please *Gift Aid* your donation so that *CAFOD* can claim an extra 25% at no extra cost to you. Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity.

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

Lenten Alms. This year the Cardinal has asked that the Lenten Alms collection be directed to the Cardinal's Appeal fund. The funds raised will go to support parishes or groups in their work to further the mission of the Church: to serve the evangelisation of youth, to develop marriage and family life projects, and to provide service in society, especially to those on the margins. Envelopes are available at the back of church today – you can make a Lenten Gift by placing the envelope in the weekly collection or by placing money in the box at the back of the church. Please be as generous as you can.

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.

10:30am Choir would like to invite new members to join and would especially like any musicians i.e. flute or violin. If you are interested please come and speak to one of us after Mass.

Diocesan News

A Call to Young Adults - Your Bishops Want to Hear From You.

Cardinal Vincent and the auxiliary bishops of the diocese are inviting Catholic young adults, aged 18 to 30, to meet with them to discuss the theme of the next Synod of Bishops—'Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment'. In particular, they would like to hear about how you see your place in the world, how faith impacts your life and how the Church can best accompany you as you work out God's plan for your life. The Cardinal is hosting two meetings at Archbishop's House in Victoria and the auxiliary bishops are hosting meetings across the diocese. You are invited to attend one of these meetings. They will involve discussion of the synod theme, an opportunity to question your bishops, and light refreshments. Please do consider making your voice heard and playing your part in the shaping the Church's approach to young people in the future. Local meetings will be held on: 27 February and 7 March with Cardinal Vincent Nichols at Archbishop's House, Ambrosden Avenue, London, SW1P 1QJ from 6:30pm—8:30pm; and 13 March with Bishop John Sherrington at Our Lady of Willesden, 1 Nicoll Road, London, NW10 9AX from 6:30pm—8:30pm. If you would like to attend, please register at <http://dowym.com/events/> where you can find details of all events.

Walsingham Retreats. There are two retreats next month at the new retreat centre in Walsingham, Dowry House. 'Men's Silent Retreat: Finding God in Daily Life' from 8—11 March. This retreat is for adult men, single or married, of any age. It will be directed by a priest and a lay man from *Opus Dei*. Meditations and talks will be given on the central themes of the Catholic faith. For more information, please visit www.dowryhouse.org.uk. 'Walsingham Spirituality Retreat I' from 16—18 March. Join us for the first of a series of four weekends on Walsingham spirituality. Accompaniment and talks will be given by the sisters of the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham enabling retreatants to enter more deeply into the spirituality of Walsingham and, in particular, what it means to accept God's will in one's life. For more information, please visit www.dowryhouse.org.uk.

Catechesis on Liturgy of the Word with Children takes place on Saturday 17 March at 10:00am—1:00pm at Our Lady Refuge of Sinners & St Catherine of Sienna, 177 Bow Road, Bow E3 2SG. Please see Fr Kevin if you can help restart this important ministry in our parish.

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	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

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Acclamation: Praise to You, O Christ, King of eternal glory!
From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: "This is My Son, the Beloved, Listen to Him!" Praise to You, O Christ, King of eternal glory!