

Presbytery

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ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

FEBRUARY —MONTH OF
THE HOLY FAMILY

11 February 2018

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR B

Cleanliness is Next to Godliness.

Every now and then I find myself using phrases or idioms that my Aunt used to say when I was a teenager (many, many years ago). (*Not as many years ago as it is for some of us in the presbytery*). One of the sayings I remember is *apropos* to this Sunday's gospel concerning the man with leprosy and his encounter with and miraculous healing by Jesus. When trying to encourage my brother and I to keep clean and tidy rooms she would often finish by saying "Now remember cleanliness is next to Godliness" and more often than not my brother and I would succumb quickly to her reasonable demands.

In today's Gospel, Mark presents us with an extraordinary exchange between God and man, creature and Creator; the impure and the pure.

Leprosy in the time of Christ was not just another disease—it was understood to be a curse from God and such a person was ostracised by the community. Anyone who came in contact with a leper was considered unclean and had to distance themselves from the community until they were examined and given the all-clear by the priests.

Pope Francis, constantly reminds us that we should evangelise on the peripheries of our societies and reach out to those who are marginalised. Why? Because that is what our Lord Himself did whilst on earth and our Gospel today is but one example of this.

The leper's request to be healed by Jesus was not as straightforward as we might imagine. We know that anyone who would come into contact with a leper was thus declared unclean; note too that even the Son of God was not exempt from these laws and customs. If we look closely at the text we would soon learn that this request is a win/lose opportunity. A win for the leper who is now cured and welcomed back into the community but a loss for Christ who having been in contact with the leper is now himself deemed 'unclean' and so is forced to live outside the camp.

This is of course a dramatic irony in Mark because in reality we know the true identity of Jesus. It is absurd to think that Christ's reward in curing a leper is complete rejection from the community- how unjust and untimely!

The leper who was considered cursed by God and despised by men is made clean and welcomed back into society; Christ on whom God's favour rests and the angels adore, shoulders the lepers curse and lives in isolation loathed by men and rejected by society.

"I would rather feel compassion than know the meaning of it." – St. Thomas Aquinas

Seminarian Tim

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 Lynch

Those who are sick: Valerie Crain, Sam Samaden, Eleni Soupiona

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Peggy Corboy, McGerty Family, Cecilia & James Lindford, Sean Donagher, Caroline Ikazoboh, Frank McNaboe, Joseph Sacheng, Patrick Brendan Coogan, Jack Maher, Robert Kennedy

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £1,934.64 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity.

Ash Wednesday—the start of Lent. Please join us outside after the 12 noon Mass when your palms will be burned to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday. Masses on Wednesday 14 February 2018 will be at 9:30am and 7:00pm when ashes will be distributed. Don't forget to do something extra as well as giving things up during Lent—perhaps a weekday Mass or pray the Stations of the Cross on Fridays after 6:30pm Mass. Happy Lent!

Children's Calendars for Lent are available—please take one home with you and carry out the suggested activities. Adults, please think about and plan your extra prayer, fasting and almsgiving for Lent *now* to make the most of this holy season.

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.

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.

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 Seminarian Tim. For more details please take a copy of the flyer at the back of the Church.

Magdala the parish magazine, will be on sale after all Masses next weekend 17/18 February.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: You are my refuge, O Lord; You fill me with the joy of salvation.

Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope His call holds for us. Alleluia!

Parish Diary

Monday	7:00pm	Prayer 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

Diocesan News

Divine Mercy Apostolate run by Marian Fathers is organising in February 2018 two Divine Mercy Retreats: Saturday 17 February 2018, 11:00am— 4:30pm at St Francis de Sales, 729 High Road, Tottenham, London N17 8AG and Saturday 24 February 2018, 11:00am— 4:30pm at St John Fisher Church, 207 Cannon Hill Lane, Merton, London SW20 9DB. All are welcome. For more information please see the poster at the back of the church or contact Divine Mercy Apostolate Marian Fathers at 1 Courtfield Gardens, London W13 0EY, telephone 020 8998 0925, email info@divinemercury.org.uk or visit the website at www.divinemercuryapostolate.co.uk.

Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral takes place on Saturday 19 May 2018 at 3:00pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2018. During the liturgy the couples will be invited, in a simple way, to renew their marital commitment and we shall pray for them and their families. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your details to the Parish Office including husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) by Friday 23 March 2018.

The World Meeting of Families (WMOF) 2018 was started by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1994 and is held every three years. This major world event celebrates the family as the cornerstone of our lives and the fundamental building block of society and the Church. In 2015 this event was held in Philadelphia when over a million people attended the final event of the programme. At the end of the concluding Mass in Philadelphia Pope Francis announced that the next WMOF would take place in Dublin from 21—26 August 2018. The Diocese of Westminster are looking to take a group of participants from across parishes and communities. To find out registration details and general information on the WMOF 2018 please email family@rcdow.org.uk or telephone 020 7931 6064 and speak with Charlotte.

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 to 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 4* hotel (Riande Granada), WYD Pilgrim Pack (passes, booklets etc.), WYM 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.