

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

MARCH—MONTH OF
ST JOSEPH

11 March 2018

4TH 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

What's Love Got to Do With it?

It is tempting to question why God does or wills something or why He allows certain things to happen. It is entirely possible that we may never truly know why God does anything since as the prophet Isaiah reminds the people of Israel God's ways are not our ways and God's thoughts are not our thoughts. However in today's Gospel from St. John we do know why Christ became incarnate. John 3:16 is one of the most memorable quotes from the New Testament "*For God so loved the world that He sent His only Son*". This text gives us an insight into the mind of God and helps us to understand why God chose to enter our temporal existence. The answer is love. But it is not a love that we can fully comprehend since our human understanding of love often comes with conditions. *I will do this if you do something for me or if I do this for you, what is in it for me?* Does this sound familiar? However God's love is unconditional; it is selfless and knows no limits.

We are more than halfway through Lent; it is understandable that at this point we can become tired and impatient; tempted to look for shortcuts or simply glad that the end is in sight. However this is a crucial time for our faith; it is during these moments that we grow in holiness; we learn patience and try to persevere through the difficulties and challenges that confront us, in other words, we pick up our cross and follow Him.

At the beginning of Lent, on Ash Wednesday, the Church professed that this holy season is a time of spiritual warfare. In order to do battle the Church gives us the necessary weapons: prayer, fasting and almsgiving to help us in our struggle with the devil. If we are faithful and make use of our artillery then we will be able to stand up to the devil; strong in faith. Pope Benedict XVI suggests that in this way we will be able to celebrate Easter in truth and be ready to renew the promises of our Baptism. Our Mother Mary is a powerful intercessor, so let us ask her for her prayers not only for strength during Lent but also for our mothers whom we cherish and remember today.

You may be thinking at this point that Lent is merely doing good things more often; that is true, but it is more profound. Lent is an opportunity for us to prepare our hearts to receive the love of God which manifested itself explicitly through Jesus' death on the Cross. However, if we are to prepare our hearts, we must first repent, acknowledge our sins, ask for forgiveness and undergo the process of conversion because if we really understood the mercy of God we would not return to our old ways; on the contrary we would rejoice in the fact that we have been forgiven and become a new creation striving to please and glorify God.

Seminarian Tim

Those who have died recently: Noreen Carolan, Neville Bryan

Those who are sick: Valerie Crain, Agnes Trimble, Bridget Connell, Steven Barnard, Francis Maguire, Alfriede Singleton, Josephine Niland, Peter Corcoran, Anthony Gallagher

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary Theresa Ryan, Patrick McDyer, Augustine Daroux

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £1,879.55 (excluding standing orders). Standing orders for February amounted to £1,457.00. Thank you very much for your generosity.

Passage Appeal. There will be an appeal at the end of all Masses this weekend for the work of *The Passage*, followed by a retiring collection. *The Passage* works with people who are homeless on the streets of Central London through street outreach work, a day time resource centre, provision of hostels, and befriending and support for those who are resettled. Over the course of a year *The Passage* helps more than 3,000 individuals. *Gift Aid* envelopes are available for tax payers.

Lenten Alms. This weekend please take a Cardinal's Lenten Appeal donation leaflet as you leave Mass. The Cardinal's Lenten Appeal funds the work of Catholic parishes, schools and charities in London and Hertfordshire contributing to three fundamental mission areas of the Church: marriage and family life – enriching and supporting marriages, the essential building block of society and the Church; youth and evangelisation – supporting young people, the future of the Church, as they grow in their relationship with God and deepen their Catholic faith; and the Church's social outreach within civil society – putting our faith into action through projects that serve the poor, the lonely and the marginalised. Please consider making the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal part of your Lenten almsgiving and sacrifice for the benefit of others, and to support the Church's dynamic efforts to increase outreach in these three focal areas of ministry.

Planned Giving envelopes for the new tax year 2018/2019 for existing users are available for collection at the back of the church today. Please consider using envelopes or a standing order for your offertory donations, and *Gift Aid* your contribution which benefits the parish by 25p for every £1 you give at no extra cost to you. Please contact the parish office for more information. Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Can you please sign the rota on the table at the back of the church indicating your availability for the Holy Week liturgies. Thank you.

Altar Servers. Please sign the rota on the notice board in the sacristy confirming your availability for Holy Week. Also please take a note of the relevant rehearsal times. Thank you.

Holy Week and Easter Week Timetables are available in the racks either at the back of the church or in the side porch.

Stations of the Cross in Konkani will be held next Sunday 18 March 2017, at 3:00pm, in St Mary Magdalen's church.

Confirmation 2018. Recommended books as Confirmation gifts are available to order from CTS via the parish office. The parish office is open from 10:00am until 2:00pm, Tuesday to Friday. Alternatively please telephone on 020 8451 4677 or email willesdengreen@rcdow.org.uk for more information.

Annual Financial Return. The document we send to the Diocese has been summarised to show the significant changes in income/expenditure for 2017 and is available in the newsletter racks. The

Parish Benchmark—which compares us with other similarly sized parishes—is on display in the Annexe. Fr Kevin would be happy to answer any questions you might have about either document. On your behalf, he thanks the Finance Committee and the Parish Administrator for another year of sound management of your incredible generosity—under budget again! God bless you all.

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

Diocesan News

The Young Catholics Consultation Evening takes place at Our Lady of Willesden church, 1 Nicoll Road NW10 9AX on Tuesday 13 March 2018 with Bishop John from 6:30pm—8:30pm. Aimed at 18—30 year olds, this is part of the preparation for the next Synod in Rome.

Lent Retreat Day. "We want to see Jesus" with Sister Anne Walsh OP and Sister Teresa O'Donovan OP takes place at the Niland Conference Centre, Rosary Priory, 93 Elstree Road, Bushey Heath, Herts. WD23 4EE on Thursday 15 March at 10:00am and ends with Holy Mass in the Priory Chapel at 2:30pm. Please bring a packed lunch. Refreshments from 9:30am and throughout the day. Suggested donation £14. Registrations welcome. Please email nilandcentre@gmail.com or telephone 020 8950 4000).

The next World Meeting of Families with Pope Francis takes place in Dublin from 21–26 August. This gathering brings together couples, families and individuals from all over the world to celebrate, pray, and reflect on the joys and challenges of marriage and family life. To find out about joining our Westminster Diocesan Group please email family@rcdow.org.uk, and visit the World Meeting of Families website www.worldmeeting2018.ie.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember You not!

Acclamation: Glory and praise to you, O Christ! God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son; everyone who believes in Him has eternal life. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

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 |
| 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— Annexe |