

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
ashleyvincent@rcdow.org.uk

Seminarian Tim Mangatal
timmangatal@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Office

willesdengreen@rcdow.org.uk



ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MARCH—MONTH OF
ST JOSEPH

18 March 2018

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT
YEAR B

Hide and Seek

The request in today's Gospel to see the Lord would be hard to fulfil at the moment as the crucifixes and statues are veiled in our church. Indeed, St Patrick just got in under the radar for his feast day. It might seem strange that during the most sacred time of year we cover everything that is beautiful, even the crucifix. Shouldn't we be looking at the painful scene at Calvary while we listen to the Passion next week on Palm Sunday?

The *Roman Missal* instructs, "The practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from [the fifth] Sunday [of Lent] may be observed. Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil." However, veiling from the Fifth Sunday of Lent onward is nothing compared to what was once practiced: for example, in Germany there was a tradition to veil the altar from view throughout all of Lent!

All this aids our participation in the liturgical season so if we can't go to Mass during the week and only see the veiled images in church once or twice before Easter it has less of an effect on us. Therefore it is also a good tradition to veil your statues at home—who knows, your children who may even glance up from their iPhones as you do this.

But why do it? Firstly, the veils alert us to the special time that we are in: when we see everything covered, we know that something is different. These last two weeks of Lent are meant to be a time of immediate preparation for the Sacred *Triduum*—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday— and the veils remind us to get ready.

Secondly, the veils focus our attention on the words being said at Mass. When we listen to the lead up to the Passion and the Passion narrative itself, our senses are forced to really listen to the striking words from the Gospel and truly enter into the scenes.

Thirdly, you don't want the veils to be there because they are hiding some very beautiful images when you attend daily Mass or just pop into the church: thus the Church uses them to produce a heightened sense of anticipation for Easter Sunday.

And therein lies the whole point: the veils are not meant to be there forever. The images need to be unveiled; it is unnatural for them to be covered. And the unveiling before the Easter Vigil is a great reminder of our own life on earth: we live in a "veiled" world, in exile from our true home. It is only through our own death, the permanence of which is destroyed by the Resurrection, that the veil is lifted and we are finally able to see the beauty of everything in our lives that we took for granted for so long. Hence the veiling.

But don't veil yourselves—the Lord wants to see *more* of you these two weeks. *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: Fr Timothy McCarthy, Joseph Connery, Bridget Connell, Noreen Carolan, Mary Mahoney, Hannah Riordan, Margaret Henry

Those who are sick: Valerie Crain, Fr Danny Horan, Maria Phelan, Caroline Dolan

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Miles & Eileen Hollowed, Mary Killian, Maureen Anderson, Thomas Dias, Festu Sumuila Yesufu-Eke, Eddie Cunniffe

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £2,011.14 (excluding standing orders). Standing orders for February amounted to £1,457.00. 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.

Planned Giving envelopes for the new tax year 2018/2019 for existing users are available for collection at the back of the church. 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. Please sign the rota on the table at the back of the church indicating your availability for the Holy Week liturgies and check you can still do what you said you'd do last week. 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.

Lenten Alms. Do please support the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal, information on which can be found at the back of the church.

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

Church cleaning. To facilitate the polishing of the floors, the church will be closed immediately after 9:30am Mass on Wednesday 21 March 2018. Thank you.

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

Marble Cleaning. The volunteers who cleaned the marble in the sanctuary and the Lady Chapel before Christmas suggested doing this again before Easter. So please bring a mop or sponge and a bucket to the church after 9:30am Mass on Monday 26 March. All ages are welcome and we will provide the cleaning materials, and the hot cross buns and drinks. Many hands will make light work.

Good Friday Children's Workshop: calling all children and parents to participate in our annual Good Friday workshop on Friday 30 March 10:00am—12 noon. This will consist of The Stations of the Cross led by the children and parents, arts and crafts, and a scriptural reflection by Seminarian Tim. Information and a sign-up sheet can be found at the back of the church.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: A pure heart create for me, O God.

Acclamation: Praise to You, O Christ, King of eternal glory. If a man serves Me, says the Lord, he must follow Me; wherever I am, My servant will be there too. Praise to You, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Diocesan News

Prayer for Peace. In response to Pope Francis' request for prayers for peace there will be a day of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Rose's Chapel, 160, Anson Road, Cricklewood, on the Feast of St. Joseph, 19 March, from 10:00am—10:00pm. Please do come at some time and join in. Also, the last Holy Hour on Thursdays' at St. Rose's before the *Triduum*, will be on 22 March and they will resume again on 12 April.

Eucharistic Retreat with the Relics of St Mary Magdalene takes place from 7—10 April (Divine Mercy weekend) when the relics of St Mary Magdalene will be visiting St Patrick's, Soho Square. Please see the poster at the back of the church for full details.

Prayer Vigil for Life. The *March for Life* is coming to London. It will take place on Saturday 5 May. To prepare for this act of Pro-Life witness in the streets of our capital city, the Rosary Shrine – "Mary's House" in London – is delighted to host the *Prayer Vigil for Life*, organised in collaboration with 'March for Life UK' and 'Signs of Life'. Since the 16th-century, Popes have entrusted the Church, and the defence of her rights and of life itself, to the prayers and intercession of the Mother of God, specifically under the title of Our Lady of the Rosary. Our Lady of the Rosary appeared at Fatima to encourage us to do penance and pray for peace and for the family. So, on the night before the *March for Life*, on Friday 4 May, we invite you to come to the Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary, and to pray the Rosary in a candlelit Eucharistic Procession, adore the Blessed Sacrament, and pray for the culture of life, love, and mercy to be established in our country. Please visit the website at <http://rosaryshrine.co.uk> or see the poster at the back of the church.

Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony in 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 such an anniversary, please give your details to the Parish Office including husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address, email, or telephone number by Friday 23 March.

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	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— Annexe