

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

25 March 2018

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION
OF THE LORD—YEAR B

Mass Times

Monday—Wednesday: 9:30am

Maundy Thursday: 8:00pm

Good Friday:

Stations of the Cross: 11:30am

The Passion: 3:00pm

Maria Mater Desolata: 7:00pm

Holy Saturday:

The Easter Vigil: 8:00pm

Easter Sunday:

9:00am,

10:30am,

12:00 noon

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday—Wednesday:

One hour before morning Mass

Confessions

Monday—Wednesday:

10:00am—10:30am

7:00pm—8:00pm

Good Friday: 10:00am—11:00am

Holy Saturday: 10:00am—11:00am

The Ultimate Safe Space

Just at my homily's punchline at Monday's Mass some children from our parish schools began to trickle into the church until every pupil and staff member filled the building. Confusion reared its ugly head: had I forgotten they were coming? No. A security alert meant they had come calmly to their designated "safe space" for emergency situations.

Our church will have its usual 1200 people at Mass this weekend and next week our numbers will approach 2000 to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection. But on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday attendance will only be around the 500 mark.

All the liturgies of Holy Week are a seamless garment or one continuous act. Thursday marks the institution of the Mass by re-presenting Our Blessed Lord's actions at the Last Supper. Then we move with Him to the Garden of Gethsemane to watch and pray until He is arrested at midnight. On Good Friday we join Christ on the painful road to Calvary which He travelled out of love for us, in the afternoon we celebrate His death on the cross to free us from sin, and that evening we journey back from the Place of the Skull with His sorrowful mother. On Holy Saturday no Baptisms, no Communion to the sick, no weddings, no funerals can take place— the Church is silent while the Great King sleeps in the earth until in the darkness of the evening the Paschal Candle is lit and we proclaim our Lord as the "Light of Christ" shining in the hopelessness of the grave.

We are often warned in the news that certain reports contain "distressing images" and we speak of creating "safe spaces". Such images are true of the liturgies of Holy Week as we move from the high of the Last Supper, to an extreme low with the death of the Son of God, to the highest point possible at His rising from the dead, the ultimate safe space. Thus there is nothing better than living through this entire drama to assure us that, "All manner of things will be well", regardless of how awful they might seem.

The poet Steve Turner puts it thus, "Easter has whips, blood, nails, a spear...allegations of body snatching...God and the sins of the world. It is not good for people of a nervous disposition. They would do better to think of rabbits, chickens and the first snowdrop of spring. Or they'd do better to wait for a re-run of Christmas without asking too many questions about what Jesus did when he grew up or whether there's any connection."

In a crisis our children and staff were safe and happy in the church. Amidst the betrayal, suffering and death of Christ, the Church offers liturgies which show God's triumph over the deepest human misery. There is no safer space for us to be in *all* this week. *Fr Kevin*

Those who have died recently: Mary Mahoney, Margaret Henry, Canon Digby Samuels, Emmett Blain, Fr Nicholas Kavanagh, Mary McGovern, Fr Sandy Murray, Sheila Curran, Kamala Brereton

Those who are sick: Valerie Crain, Caroline Dolan, Michael O'Reilly, Charmaine Glenn

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Festu Sumuila Yesufu-Eke, Thomas Egan, Oliver Fay

Those Baptised: Francesca Fedorisceva, Leo Dixon Fedoriscevs

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £1,600.68 (excluding standing orders). Standing orders for February amounted to £1,457.00. Thank you very much for your generosity.

Easter Offering envelopes are available on your benches today. Traditionally this was your personal gift to all the clergy while the usual envelope goes towards the regular upkeep of the parish.

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

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.

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

Holy Places Collection. There will be a collection for the Holy Places after the liturgies on Good Friday.

Easter Sunday. Please note there is no evening Mass on Easter Sunday 1 April 2018.

Confirmation 2018. Recommended books as Confirmation gifts are available to order from CTS via the parish office.

Repository. Easter and First Holy Communion and Confirmation cards, prayers books and rosary sets and many other items are available to purchase from the repository. The repository is open before and after all Sunday Masses including the Saturday Vigil.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: My God, my God, why have You forsaken Me?

Acclamation: Praise to You, O Christ, King of eternal glory. Christ was humbler yet; even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised Him high and gave Him the name which is above all names. Praise to You, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Funeral Notices

The Reception and Requiem mass of the late Joseph Connery of Warneford Road will take place on Tuesday 27 March at 11:00am followed by burial at Carpenders Park Lawn Cemetery at 1:00pm

The Reception of the late Bridget Connell of Knightleas Court will take place on Wednesday 28 March 2018 at 7:00pm and the Requiem Mass will take place on Thursday 29 March 2018 at 1:00pm followed by burial at Willesden New Cemetery at 2:30pm

May they rest in peace

Diocesan News

Divine Mercy Apostolate run by Marian Fathers is organising the Divine Mercy Pilgrimage—*Preparation for The Feast of Divine Mercy*—on Saturday 7 April 2018 from 10:00am—4:00pm at The Friars, Aylesford Priory at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mt Carmel Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7BX led by Rt Rev Paul Hendricks and Marian Fathers. For more information please contact Divine Mercy Apostolate—Marian Fathers, 1 Courtfield Gardens, London W13 0EY; telephone 020 8998 0925; email info@divinemercury.org.uk or visit the website at www.divinemercuryapostolate.co.uk. Please see the poster at the back of the church.

Beginning Experience Weekend. There is a healing weekend for men and women who find themselves single again following separation, divorce or the death of a partner from 20—22 April 2018 at the *Domus Mariae* Centre, Chigwell, Essex. For more details please telephone Freda on 01322 838 415 or Sandra on 01293 783 965 or email johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk.

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.

Parish Diary

Monday	7:00pm	Prayer Group—Annexe
Saturday	3:00pm—5:00pm	“The Feast London” - a Catholic prayer meeting of the Light of Jesus Family— Annexe