

Presbytery

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Church Willesden Green

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Parish Office

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**ST MARY MAGDALEN
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
**APRIL—MONTH OF
THE HOLY EUCHARIST**
22 APRIL 2018
4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
YEAR B

Money-Back Guarantee

I seem to have dealt a lot with wills in the past year. Two people left legacies to our parish, both bequeathing a significant percentage of their estates. And just before Easter 2017 I distributed my parents' estate to their named benefactors and remade my own.

This Sunday sees the annual collection for the Priest Training Fund and more information about what it provides for—i.e. your future parish priests—can be found on the envelopes in which you place your donations. And do please *GiftAid* your contribution if you are a tax payer. Pictures and biographies of some of our diocesan seminarians are included and among them is Francis from our own parish and known to many of you.

You could also remember this fund in your will—or leave something to the parish by using the forms available on the newspaper stand. Such funds do not form part of a budget and so are great when unexpected expenses arise. Moreover, the items thus restored or purchased remind me to pray for the deceased donor whenever I use them.

Whatever you give today will help form a priest. But in order for it to be spent there needs to be someone to spend it on. In 1999 there were 450 Westminster Diocesan priests: now there are 330, a quarter of them retired. Eight men were ordained to the priesthood in 2017 but fifteen aged or sick priests stepped down from active ministry.

Numbers on a page are meaningless. So some context: at this rate, in 10 years there will not be enough priests for every parish to have one. Thus our parish's priest could live elsewhere and drop in for a couple of Sunday Masses and maybe once or twice during the week. Funerals will take place as and when his schedule at the other churches permits. Visits to classes in our schools will become whole school assemblies once a term. Seeing if Father "has a minute" as you pass his house?—you're living in la-la land. And he'll be exhausted and retire by the time he is 60. Is your head out of the sand now?

Widening the goal posts for ordination is not an option and wouldn't solve the problem anyway—just look at other Christian churches. The solution lies in praying for and encouraging vocations—planting the seed with just a word as Tim and Francis witness to, and as Bishop Hopes does in East Anglia—hence his amazing number of seminarians.

My parents' gift to form a priest was, "In case the Cardinal wants a refund." But that's not a luxury he has just now. So, best you start to encourage vocations...today. *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

Those who have died recently: Beulah Charles, Anne Daly

Those who are sick: Valerie Crain, Alan Smith, Elenice Ribeiro, Josephine Niland, Peter Corcoran, John Murphy, Charmaine Glenn

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Christopher & Elizabeth Doran, Anthony James O'Donnell, Santana Mascarenhas, Paddy & Gladys McGowan, Edward Benoit, Eugene Lee

Those Baptised: Jovial Emmanuel Fernandes, Finley Michael James Waugh

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £1,947.69 (excluding standing orders). Standing orders for March amounted to £1,424.00. Thank you very much for your generosity.

Good Shepherd Sunday - Priest Training Fund. Today is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the Priesthood. Today's second collection will support the Priest Training Fund. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic Priesthood. There are currently 45 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 28 of whom are for our own diocese, and last year eight men were ordained to serve as our future priests. The fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your gift ensures we can provide training for these men responding to Christ's call to dedicate their lives to serve God's people. Please be as generous as you can. Please also pray for vocations and for all our priests. If you do not have a donation leaflet, plenty are still available at the back of the church. You can also donate online anytime at www.rcdow.org.uk/donations.

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

Welcomers' Rota. New rotas are available to collect today from the rack in the sacristy.

Mary's Meals will be coming to our church in a couple of weeks' time to take away your unwanted clothing and bedding (no duvets or pillows please). Over the next few weeks please collect your unwanted clothes and put them in tied sacks. Then before 12 noon on Sunday 6 May bring them with you when you come to Mass. Not only will you be getting rid of unwanted clothes/bedding and giving yourself more space but you will also benefit a really worthwhile charity. If you haven't worn it in a year, bag it and bring it here. *Mary's Meals* feeds children one good meal every day at school in over 14 countries and because of their low costs they do this for as little as £13.90 per child per year.

Pilgrimage to Malta. Our parish will be following in the footsteps of St. Paul on pilgrimage from 9—13 October 2018 to Malta. For more information please take a copy of the leaflet from the back of the church. Closing date: Friday 27 April.

Parish Diary

Monday	7:00pm	Prayer Group—Annexe
Thursday	7:15pm	SVP—Annexe
Friday	5:30pm—6:30pm	First Holy Communion rehearsal in the church. (For those children receiving Communion on 28 April 2018)
Saturday	3:00pm—5:00pm	"The Feast London" - a Catholic prayer meeting of the Light of Jesus Family in the Annexe

Funeral Notice

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late Beulah Charles of Brownlow Road will take place on Friday 27 April 2018 at 12 noon followed by cremation at West London Crematorium at 1:30pm.

May she rest in peace

Diocesan News

Catholic History Walks. St George's Day in the City on Monday 23 April at 6:00pm is a special walk around our nation's capital, discovering the fascinating ancient story of the City of London. Meet at the church of the Most Precious Blood, Borough, SE1 1TA. Nearest tube is Borough or London Bridge. The King's Good Servant, Tuesday 1 May at 6:00pm tells the heroic story of St Thomas More who bravely defended the faith under King Henry VIII as we walk around his Chelsea estate. Meet at the church of Our Most Holy Redeemer and St Thomas More, Cheyne Row, SW3 5HS. Nearest tube is South Kensington.

Love Heals Body Mind and Spirit Ministry invite you to come to a one day retreat of quiet reflection on Saturday 28 April 2018 from 11:00am—5:00pm at the Catholic Church of our Lady of Assumption and St Gregory, Warwick Street, Piccadilly, W1F 9JR. Please bring your own lunch, tea and coffee will be available. For more information please visit the website at www.lovehealsbodymindspirit.com or email lovehealsbodymindspirit@gmail.com or telephone 020 8542 2476. Please also see the poster at the back of the church.

Slaves On Our Doorsteps is an evening of practical advice on combatting human trafficking and modern slavery in your community. Speakers will include Bishop Paul McAleenan, Mick Duthie from the *Santa Marta Group*, the Hertfordshire Constabulary, the Shiva Foundation and *Caritas Westminster*. The event will be on Tuesday 1 May from 7:00pm—9:00pm at Our Lady Immaculate and St Andrew's Hall, Hitchin, SG5 1QS. RSVP to caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk or telephone on 020 7931 6077.

CAFOD Share the Journey Campaign. Thanks to your support, CAFOD's campaigning tackles the causes of poverty and injustice, not just the symptoms. When the Catholic community speaks out together, we have a powerful voice. Could you become a Campaign volunteer and help enable and inspire others to take action as part of CAFOD's campaigns? Find out more at the new volunteer day in Central London on Saturday 28 April 2018. Alternatively please contact Tony via email at westminster@cafod.org.uk or telephone 020 8449 6970.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

- Antiphon: The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
- Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord; I know My own sheep and My own know me. Alleluia!