

Presbytery

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Parish Clergy

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Parish Office

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**ST MARY MAGDALEN
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
**NOVEMBER—MONTH OF
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**
2 December 2018
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YEAR C

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

Monday—Friday:
One hour before
morning Mass

Saturday: 8:30am—9:30am
5:30pm—6:15pm

First Friday (Holy Hour):
7:00pm—8:00pm

Confessions

Saturday: 10:00am—10:30am
5:30pm—6:15pm

Santa Baby vs. St. Nicholas

“Dashing through the snow, on a one-horse open sleigh, over the fields we go, laughing all the way; bells on bob-tail ring, making spirits bright.....” He comes over the fields dashing through the snow on a one-horse open sleigh. He makes spirits bright laughing all the way. Why.....? St. Nicholas was a Bishop who lived in the fourth century in a place called Myra in Asia Minor (now called Turkey). He was a very rich man because his parents died when he was young and left him a lot of money. He was also a very kind man and had a reputation for helping the poor and giving secret gifts to people who needed it. “But when you do merciful deeds, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand does” (Matthew 6:3).

There are several legends about St. Nicholas. Because of his kindness Nicholas was made a saint. St. Nicholas is not only the Saint of children but also of sailors. One story tells of him helping some sailors who were caught in a dreadful storm off the coast of Turkey. The storm was raging around them and all the men were terrified that their ship would sink beneath the giant waves. They prayed to St. Nicholas to help them. Suddenly, he was standing on the deck before them. He ordered the sea to be calm, the storm died away, and they were able to sail their ship safely to port. This reminds us about how Jesus calms the storm (Mark 4:35-41).

In the UK, particularly in England, he became ‘Father Christmas’ or ‘Old Man Christmas’, an old character from stories and plays during the middle ages in the UK and parts of northern Europe. In France he was then known as ‘Père Noël’. In some countries including parts of Austria and Germany, present giver became the ‘Christ kind’ a golden-haired baby, with wings, who symbolizes the new born baby Jesus. In the USA his name was ‘Kris Kringle (from the Christkind). Later, Dutch settlers in the USA took the old stories of St. Nicholas with them and Kris Kingle and St. Nicholas became ‘Sinterklaas’ or as we now say ‘Santa Claus’. The most famous story about St. Nicholas tells about the custom of hanging up stockings to put presents in began.

But today.... “Santa cutie, and fill my stocking with a duplex and checks, sign your 'x' on the line, Santa cutie. Santa baby, and hurry down the chimney tonight”. It is high time for us to win for him once again his sacred place profaned by the market economy. People of God : Awake! The day is coming soon when you shall see God face to face. Christ calls you out of darkness to walk in the light of His coming. Fr. Sudham Perera.

Those who are sick: Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Pat Doyle, Pierre Timon, Lorenzo Aureli, Julia Egan, Mona Daroux

Those who have died recently: Maria De Ville, Teresa Mahon

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Michael McAndrew, Evelyn & Tom Dunne, John & Margaret Murphy, John Boland, Edward Leeson, James McGrath, Sr Gabriel Hogan, Cathy Kirwan, Benedict Tugbobo, Mariano Fernandes

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £1,939.97 (excluding standing orders). Standing orders for October amounted to £1,665.00. Thank you very much for your generosity.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation 2019. Applications are now closed. For all those who have registered there is a meeting for children and parents in the church on Monday 3 December 2018 at either 5:30pm—6:30pm or 7:00pm—8:00pm for First Holy Communion, and at 8:00pm—9:00pm for Confirmation. We are also looking for volunteers to assist with our First Holy Communion programme and would encourage parents whose children are preparing for this Sacrament to consider putting themselves forward.

Requiem Mass for the late Valerie Crain will take place in the church on Saturday 8 December 2018 at 11:00am.

Nursery, Infant, and Primary School Applications. On 10, 13 & 14 December 2018, Fr Kevin will be available to sign the Certificate of Catholic Practice. The bishops of England and Wales have decreed that he can only sign this for those who attend Mass here every week and have done so for at least five years. Newer/irregular parishioners should bring a letter from their previous/alternative parish. Please telephone the parish office between 10:00am and 2:00pm to make an appointment.

Children's Nativity Play. This will take place as part of the Parish Carol Concert on Sunday 16 December 2018 at 3:30pm. We are looking for as many children as possible to take part in this wonderful event and all are welcome. We also need parents/carers to help prepare the children for the play. Rehearsals will take place in the church on Wednesday 5 December and Thursday 13 December at 4:00pm. Please leave your details with the parish office if you can assist in any way. Thank you.

Christmas Rotas. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and readers should indicate their availability on the lists at the back of the church today. Servers should check with their parents and then indicate their availability on the list in the sacristy. Thank you for your ministry throughout the year.

Repository. Advent calendars, Advent candles, wreaths, cribs, Christmas cards, Mass bouquets, Christmas story books, church art calendars, cribs, candles, a wide selection of cards to suit all occasions and many other items religious items are on sale now in the Repository. The Repository is open before and after all Sunday Masses, including the Saturday Vigil.

APF Mill Hill—Local Secretary, "The Red Box Needs You." Would you like to help the Missions by becoming your parish APF-Mill Hill local secretary? The role is on a voluntary basis, with help from other volunteers called promoters. Together you would count monies collected by parishioners in their red boxes, bank it and ensure members receive their copy of the quarterly *Mission Today* magazine. It really should not entail more than a few hours of volunteering a month. Do not worry you will not be left on your own, there is an induction pack and plenty of support available from staff working at offices in Liverpool, London and Maidenhead. You would be joining a dedicated team of

volunteers and staff throughout England and Wales. In turn you would be fulfilling your own call to mission and have the opportunity to meet many interesting people along the way. If you are interested please let Father Kevin know or contact the parish office on 020 8451 4677. Antonio Teixeira was our previous local secretary for many years and today at 12 noon Mass we will present him with a certificate and medal from *Missio* and the Mill Hill Missionaries in recognition of his devoted service to the mission of the Church throughout the world.

Breda and Sean Hough would like to thank all those who have offered their get well wishes and masses for Breda's recovery. A mass will be offered for your intentions.

Diocesan News

Westminster Youth Ministry. On Saturday 8 December at 3:00pm at St. Dominic's Priory, Southampton Rd, Belsize Park, London NW5 4LB, Westminster Youth Ministry will be celebrating its annual diocesan Youth Mass. Led by Bishop John Wilson, young people from all parishes are welcome. The music for the Mass will be provided by Catholic artist Edwin Fawcett and the Young Music Ministry Scholars who spent a year preparing for this day. For more information about the Youth Mass, as well as to apply for next year's free music scholarship, visit dowym.com.

Ealing Abbey Choir. On Saturday 22 December 2018 at 7:30pm Ealing Abbey Choir will perform *Carols by Candlelight: A Sequence of Music and Readings for Christmas* at Ealing Abbey. Entry includes a programme and a festive reception after the concert. At the end of the evening there will be a retiring collection to support the work of *Caritas*. Tickets are available online at www.seetickets.com or telephone 0871 230 0010. Tickets may also be purchased on the door before the concert. Please see the poster at the back of the church.

Parish Diary

Monday	7:00pm	Prayer Group—Annexe
Tuesday	7:00pm—8:30pm	<i>Stitch Amazingly</i> —Annexe
Thursday	8:00pm	<i>Padre Pio</i> Group—Annexe
Saturday	3:00pm—5:00pm	"The Feast London"—a Catholic prayer meeting of the Light of Jesus Family—Annexe

Readings at Mass

First Reading:	Jeremiah 33:14—16
Psalm Response:	To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
Second Reading:	I Thess 3:12—42
Alleluia Verse:	Let us see, O Lord, Your mercy and give us Your saving help.
Gospel:	Luke 21:25—28. 34—36