

Presbytery

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Parish Clergy

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Parish Office

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**ST MARY MAGDALEN
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
**DECEMBER—MONTH OF
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**
9 December 2018
2ND 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

Exit, Pursued by a Dog

In a parish I know, Raj (a Hindu) only goes to Christmas Midnight Mass with his Catholic wife and children but always helps with the collection. Once, when the basket returned to him having already been passed along the aisle, he held it out to one parishioner for a second time and said, "Peter, I'm your accountant. You can give more than that."

No-one likes to "ask" people for money never mind stretching across others to do so. Hence our wonderful collectors have great difficulty in finding new volunteers for their invaluable ministry. And each week a couple of people thrust their offering into my hand at the doors after Mass because they were sitting in the middle of a bench and somehow missed out on the collecting bags—that is a rare Catholic complaint!

Perhaps a solution at one Mass implemented at all the others can help: when the collector holds the bag out to you at the end of the row, pass it along to whoever is next to you. And if you're the last person in the row, hand it to the bench in front of you in the rear block, or behind you in the front block. Then it should pass along that bench back to the collector. By the way, if you have nothing to put in, just take the bag, smile and pass it on saying "Standing order". I can give you forms to help this come true...

Change is always hard and since 2011 we've had the new translation and instructions of the *Roman Missal*, plus new safeguarding, financial and administrative regulations rolled out across the Diocese. Over time, with your great love for the Church, and your patience and understanding, these new words and actions have become second nature. No doubt the process of collecting will be the same in time after fine-tuning to suit our needs. Equally, our dedicated catechists (more are welcome) for the children's Liturgy of the Word will develop the wonderful work they have begun; the servers will become ever more reverent and efficient now that their tatty grey albs (so drab in the brighter and softer new lighting) have been replaced by cassocks and cottas; and the new organ, more suitable for a church of our size, will enhance our prayerful singing.

Sadly I won't see all this as the Cardinal has given me a new appointment from next September and with untaken sabbatical time Milo and I shall be leaving you in January. "The times change and with them many things" wrote Pope Saint John Paul II, "but man's heart remains the same—it always needs love." It has been a great privilege to try and share that love of God with you as your parish priest in the last seven and a half years. For past failings to do that, please forgive me; for now, and the future, pray for me as I shall pray for you. May God bless you all. And thank you for having me. *Fr Kevin*

Those who are sick: Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Pat Doyle, Pierre Timon, Lorenzo Aureli, Julia Egan, Tom Kinahan, Peter Corcoran

Those who have died recently: Fr Michael Lambert, Teresa Mahon, Stephen O'Brien, Mary Ennis, John Doona

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Benny Kilcoyne, Patrick & Delia O'Sullivan, Stephen Moriarty, Noel Coleman, Julian Adumuah Bossman, Vital Giraud, Pat Liston, Maureen Hennessy, Olga Daly

Those Baptised: Joshua Champion Brown, Astrid Eabha Angela Lafferty, Nhyira Christina Esi Ghapson

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £1,842.84 (excluding standing orders). Standing orders for November amounted to £1,619.00. Thank you very much for your generosity.

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 Thursday 13 December at 4:00pm. Please leave your details with the parish office if you can assist in any way. Thank you.

Big Clean of the church and especially the sanctuary wall marble. If you'd like to join Fr Kevin in giving an added sparkle to our well-kept church and sanctuary, please bring a bucket and a sponge or squeazy mop to the church at 10:30am on Saturday 15 December. He'll bring the mince pies.

Christmas Rotas. If they have not already done so, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and readers should indicate their availability on the lists at the back of the church. Servers should check with their parents then indicate their availability on the list in the sacristy. Thank you for your ministry throughout the year.

Advent and Christmas 2018 and New Year 2019. Leaflets giving the times of Masses and other services over this period are now available in the racks at the back of the church or in the porch.

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.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation catechists. Thank you for undertaking these important ministries in our parish. In line with the new data protection regulations which came into effect on the 25 May 2018, please could all those serving as First Holy Communion and Confirmation catechists complete and sign the lists on the table in the sacristy. You can read our full privacy policy on rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy.

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.

Thank you from Ashford Place. "I would like to say a very sincere thank you for the food which you collect and deliver to us. This food helps us to provide meals for those who are homeless, and for disadvantaged people in our community. We are deeply grateful for your generosity especially in these difficult times".
Danny Maher CEO.

Funeral Notices

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late Teresa Mahon of Hawthorn Road will take place on Thursday 13 December 2018 at 1:30pm followed by repatriation to Ireland.

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late Stephen O'Brien of Tennyson Road will take place on Friday 14 December 2018 at 12:45pm followed by cremation at West London Crematorium at 2:15pm

May they rest in peace

Diocesan News

The Little Sisters of the Poor Carol Service takes place on Sunday 16 December at 3:00pm at St. Anne's Home, 77 Manor Road, London N16 5BL. Please see the poster at the back of the church.

Catholic History Walks at Christmas and in the New Year. On Sunday 16 December 2018 and Wednesday 2 January 2019, both at 3:00pm. Join up for seasonal walks through Westminster and Victoria. Meet at Westminster Cathedral. Nearest Tube: Victoria. Please see the poster at the back of the church.

Christmas Celebration at Westminster Cathedral will be held at 7:30pm on Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 December 2018 featuring the Westminster Cathedral Choir. The evening includes music, celebrity readings and a reflection. For tickets please visit the Cathedral Gift Shop or the website www.ticketmaster.co.uk.

SVP are distributing 11,500 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Each pack contains thermal gloves, two pairs of socks, gloves, wet wipes, toothbrush, toothpaste, information sheet and pen. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £3.50 per pack. Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP. Thank you.

Parish Diary

Monday	7:00pm	Prayer Group—Annexe
Tuesday	7:00pm— 8:30pm	<i>Stitch Amazingly</i> —Annexe
Friday	7:00pm	Knights of <i>St Columba</i> —Annexe

Readings at Mass

First Reading:	Baruch 5:1—9
Psalm Response:	What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.
Second Reading:	Philippians 1:3—6. 8—11
Alleluia Verse:	Prepare a way for the Lord, make His paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
Gospel:	Luke 3:1—6