

Presbytery

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**ST MARY MAGDALEN
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
DECEMBER —MONTH OF
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
23 DECEMBER 2018
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YEAR C

Surprise!

Although he is often overlooked, it is important to try and understand how St Joseph must have felt at the coming birth of Christ. Everyone else, from Mary to the shepherds, got clear explanations of what was going on: St Joseph only received instructions in dreams. And yet he completely abandoned himself to God's will.



That is why this painting by Guido Reni always moves me. The worries and cares of life are evident on the face of Christ's earthly father and yet surprised joy emerges from him as the Light of the World smiles lovingly at this saintly man.

Now that Christmas is upon us we all go into autopilot and tread those familiar worldly steps that mark this most holy time of the year—planning our Mass time around cooking a great family feast and finding the right

time to place our gifts of love unseen beneath the tree, and so on. It's a real operation.

But let us not forget to share in the wonder and awe of God becoming man. Let us, like St Joseph, bask in the glow of the Saviour born out of God's love for each one of us.

Until the New Year then, thank you for your kindnesses, help, encouragement and prayers in the past year. We wish you and your loved ones a most happy and holy Christmas and may God abundantly bless you all. *Fr Kevin, Fr Sudham, Seminarian Robert & Milo*

Mass Times

Monday: 9:30am & 12 Midnight

Tuesday: 9:00am, 10:30am &
12 noon

Wednesday: 12 noon

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

Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday & Friday:
One hour before
morning Mass

Saturday: 8:30am—9:30am
5:30pm—6:15pm

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

Confessions

Monday: 10:00am—10:30am

Saturday: 10:00am—11:00am
5:30pm—6:15pm

Those who have died recently: Father Robert Barry, Michael McHugh, Agnes O'Boy

Those who are sick: Fr Agustin Paunon, Pierre Timon, Lorenzo Aureli, Julia Egan

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Ciaran Mallon, John & Josephine Savage, Agnes & Anthony McDermott, The Henry Family

Those Baptised: William James Carroll

Parish News

Collection. Collection. Last week's collection was £1,796.28 (excluding standing orders). Standing orders for November amounted to £1,619.00. Thank you for your generosity.

The Family of the late Pat Joe Daly would like to thank most sincerely all those who have given them support, expressed their sympathy, and sent Mass cards following their recent bereavement. A total of £433.93 was raised for *Cancer Research UK*. Thank you all for your generosity. A Mass will be offered for your intentions on Sunday 24 February 2019 at 12 noon.

Thank you from Pact (Prison Advice and Care Trust) for the Christmas gifts for prisoners' children. "We would like to say how moved we have been by your overwhelming enthusiasm and generosity during *Operation Elf*. Through your parishes we collected over 1500 presents for children visiting their loved ones in prison this Christmas! With this unprecedented abundance of gifts we have been able to expand *Operation Elf* to cover 10 prisons in London and the South East. You should all be very proud of the joy you will bring to over 1000 families in the next few weeks. All our grateful thanks again for your help in making *Operation Elf* a huge success!"

Christmas Offering Envelopes are available on your benches this weekend. Your Christmas offering is not taxed by the Diocese and was traditionally your Christmas gift to the clergy.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation catechists' worksheets have been emailed to you. Paper copies are available to collect today from the rack in the sacristy. Also, if you have not already done so, in line with the new data protection regulations which came into effect on 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.

Cleaning Rota. A new rota is available in the rack in the sacristy.

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.

Newsletter/Order of Mass leaflet. Please take your newsletter home with you after Mass and share it with family and friends and note that this will be the last newsletter until 6 January 2019. Any of the 15,000 Order of Mass leaflets put out in the last few years may be returned to the racks either at the back of the church or in the side porch. Thank you.

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

Requiem Mass for the late Maria De Ville will take place in the church on Saturday 5 January 2019 at 10:30am.

Epiphany of the Lord is on Sunday 6 January 2019.

Monsignor Roger Reader is delighted to have been appointed as your new parish priest. He will be here from the weekend of 12/13 January 2019 and looks forward to meeting you and building the Kingdom of God with you in Willesden Green.

Crib Offering 2018. This Christmas our crib offering will be donated to the *Catholic Children's Society* to provide family support, emergency grants and mental health services for vulnerable children in our Diocese.

What happens if you go into hospital? In light of strict data protection rules it is essential that on entering hospital you indicate that your details or those of your relative are to be passed to the Roman Catholic chaplain. Also state that you or your relative would like the Roman Catholic chaplain to visit you. Chaplains visit the wards during the week and provide an on-call service in case of emergencies.

Diocesan News

The 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 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 so much for your support.

New Beginnings takes place on Saturday 5 January 2019 from 11:00am—4:00pm with Lynne Galloway at the Mount Street Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, W1K 3AH. Take time to pause for prayerful reflection on the road you travelled in 2018, becoming more aware of God's presence within all the ups and downs of life, and to prayerfully consider what God might be inviting you to at this time of a new beginning. There will be input, times of guided prayer, and silent prayer and sharing and listening in small groups. For more information email admin@mountstreet.info or telephone 020 7495 1673.

Readings at Mass

4th Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Micah 5:1—4

Psalm Response: God of hosts, bring us back; let Your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5—10

Alleluia Verse: I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me.

Gospel: Luke 1:39—44

Christmas Day Alleluia Verses:

Midnight: Today a Saviour has been born to us; He is Christ the Lord.

9:00am & 10:30am: This day new light will shine upon the earth: the Lord is born for us.

12 noon: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.