

Presbytery

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ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH JANUARY —MONTH OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS 13 JANUARY 2019 THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD YEAR C

Mission Envisioned

So in this Christmas what have you done? I hope you have fun with the near and the dear one, the old and the young. Another year is over and the new one just begun. Let us hope it is a good one without any fear. So take down the stockings, take back the sweaters. Take down the lights and the star and the tree but don't let this world take your joy after Christmas. Even when Christmas is over the light of the world is still here.

Baby Jesus then grew in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and all the people (Luke 2:40). Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him and a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:16-17). An open heaven is something that was prophesied in Isaiah 64:1. It's a prayer, a prophecy with an intercessory cry, where the prophet cries out "*Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down*". Here is this cry for God to tear the Heavens open and to come down to see the plight of his people. When Jesus uttered His last words while dying on the cross, God tore the veil in the Temple from top to bottom. It is one of the most powerful images in the entire Bible; with this act, God told the world that everything had changed. Humanity's relationship with Him would never be the same, nor would our relationships with each other. It is all about union and the establishment of the favour of God.

The descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove is another significant occurrence. In the narrative of Noah's Ark, the two birds are mentioned together in a symbolic context. The crow is the symbol of the devil who is the liar, the ego-God, the lower nature, he who "lives by bread alone," and eats and drinks of this world. The dove is the symbol of the Holy Spirit, and therefore of the indwelling Lord. The olive branch is a symbol of peace and victory. Hence Noah's dove in the Hebrew Bible, who "announced to the world the assuagement of divine wrath, when she had been sent out of the ark and returned with the olive branch is bringing the peace of God, sent out from the heavens.

The voice from heaven said "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). God commands Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice (Gen 22:2-8). God loved the world in this way: he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). Isaac and Yeshua are both called the "one and only" sons of their fathers. Isaac is Abraham's yachid (Hebrew). Yeshua is God's monogenes (Greek). Both words mean unique. In the Greek Bible (the Septuagint) the word is referred as the loved one (agapetos). Hence it is clear that as Abraham was asked to sacrifice his only son Isaac, Jesus the beloved son of the Father was sent to offer His life as a ransom for many.

There is a clear meaning of His Baptism. It is to reconcile man with God, to restore peace on earth and offer his life as a sacrifice. What is the meaning of our own baptism? Fr. Sudham

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

Those who have died recently: Patrick Normoyle,

Those who are sick: Ella Evans

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Eoin Leavy, Sean Hendry, Rita Boyle, Elizabeth & Christopher Doran, Pat Hegarty, Maximus Janza, Peggy O'Donoghue, Alfred Cuff, Michael Doyle, Frank Donnellan

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £2,171.99 (excluding standing orders). Standing orders for December amounted to £1,604.00. Thank you for your generosity.

Children's Liturgy of the Word. We now welcome all children from reception up to year six to join the Children's Liturgy of the Word at 10:30am Mass. Thank you very much to those who have already volunteered to run this but we would very much like more catechists. Please speak to Monsignor Roger or leave your details with Kathleen in the parish office if you are able to help.

White Flower Appeal. The *Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC)* will be holding its annual appeal this weekend. *SPUC* is currently campaigning to stop the decriminalisation of abortion, which means taking abortion outside the law. This is the most dangerous threat to unborn children and their mothers in decades. Please be as generous as you can to help us defeat this latest attack on unborn babies and their mothers, and to stop abortion getting even worse in this country by decriminalisation. Please see the poster at the back of the church.

Father Kevin Jordan Collection. There will be a collection after all Masses this weekend and next weekend to thank and show our appreciation to Father Kevin for all his hard work and dedication to our parish in the last seven and a half years.

Father Kevin Jordan Farewell Mass of Thanksgiving and Celebration takes place on Friday 25 January 2019. Father Kevin will celebrate Mass here at 6:30pm. A celebration will follow at St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Junior School, Linacre Road NW2 5BB. Please sign up on the food and helpers' lists on the table at the back of the church today. Servers should check with their parents then indicate their availability to serve for this Mass by signing the list on the noticeboard in the sacristy. Everyone is welcome to attend both the Mass and the celebration.

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.

Parish Newsletter. Any notices for the weekly Sunday newsletter should be given to the Parish Office by no later than Wednesday noon. Thank you for your kind cooperation.

Funeral Notice

The Reception of the late Patrick Normoyle of Peter Avenue will take place on Monday 14 January 2019 at 7:00pm and the Requiem Mass will take place on Tuesday 15 January 2019 at 12 noon followed by burial at St Mary's Cemetery, Kensal Green at 1:30pm

May he rest in peace

Diocesan News

St. Rose's Chapel and Prayer Garden 160, Anson Road, Cricklewood, NW2 6BH. Exposition and Holy Hour will resume on Thursday 17 January 2019 from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. Come and let us celebrate the New Year with Adoration, Reflection and prayer. The Crib in The Chapel and the beautiful outdoor Crib will remain erected until 2 February, The Feast of The Presentation of Our Lord. Let us visit and pray for our families and all our intentions.

Social Enterprise Ideas Development (SEIDs). On behalf of His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols, *Caritas* Westminster warmly invites you to the launch of *SEIDs*, a family of new social enterprises delivered by *Caritas* Westminster, on Tuesday 29 January 2019 at 6:00pm at the *SEIDs* Hub, Empire Way, Wembley HA9 0RJ. *SEIDs* is committed to providing decent and dignified employment and training through social enterprises, for people of all backgrounds and abilities. The launch will be an opportunity to learn more of how *SEIDs* can contribute through social enterprises and the Hub across north London. The Hub will be open from 5:30pm, giving you time to explore the facilities and enjoy some light refreshments. At 6:00pm, John Coleby, Director of *Caritas* Westminster, will formally open the event, and will be followed by other speakers, including a keynote speech given by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to caritaswestminster@rcdow.org.uk.

Annual Mass in Honour of Our Lady of Lourdes takes place on Saturday 9 February at 2:00pm in Westminster Cathedral. The Sacrament of the Sick will be administered during Mass. All are welcome to attend. A special invitation is extended to all who are sick or infirm, all hospital chaplains, doctors, nurses, healthcare assistants and all who work in healthcare. If you or someone you know plan to attend in a wheelchair, please let Kathleen in the parish office know by Sunday 27 January 2019.

Parish Diary

Monday	5:30pm— 6:30pm	First Holy Communion class at St Mary Magdalen's Junior School
Monday	7:00pm— 8:30pm	Confirmation class at St Mary Magdalen's Junior School
Monday	7:00pm	Prayer Group—Annexe
Saturday	3:00pm— 5:00pm	"The Feast London" - a Catholic prayer meeting of the Light of Jesus Family in the Annexe

Readings at Mass

First Reading:	Isaiah 40:1— 5. 9—11
Psalms Response:	Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.
Second Reading:	St Paul to Titus 2:11— 14, 3:4—7
Alleluia Verse:	Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
Gospel:	Luke 3:15—16. 21—22