



St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church Archdiocese of Southwark

61 North Worple Way, London, SW14 8PR Tel. 020 8876 1326 then follow options
Parish Priest: Fr Adrian Patrick McKenna-Whyte Parish Email: Mortlake@RCAOS.org.uk
Part-time Parish Administrator: Nicola Jones (Wed. to Fri. 10.30 am-4.00 pm)
Web stmarymags.org.uk † Web rcsouthwark.co.uk † Twitter [@MortlakeParish](https://twitter.com/MortlakeParish)



ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK CIO REGISTERED
INCORPORATED CHARITY NUMBER 1173050

Baptisms and Weddings by arrangement
Please see Fr Adrian after Mass to make an appointment for a preparation course.

Parish Office Open:

Wednesday to Friday 10.30 am to 3.30 pm

Our Cemetery is open daily from 9 am to 3 pm
365 days a year (except for emergency call outs).

17th Dec. 2023 to 7th Jan. 2024

Sunday Masses: 9.30 am and 11.00 am

Weekday Mass: the church opens at 9 00 am with Mass at 9.30 am, but please check below for details.

Please note the church is closed on Tuesday.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays from 9.00 am, ending with Benediction before 9.30 Mass.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturdays from 9.00 am to 10.30 am and by request.

THE PARISH COLLECTION UP TO SUNDAY 10th December.

Our weekly income was £731 [an average of the last 4 weeks]

We are all in such extreme circumstances, many with reduced incomes that it is a blessing to be able to receive any donation you are able to give.

Please Note: no one is asked to give a specific amount as it all depends on individual income.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

We can receive donations via the following methods:

- Download a Standing order form
www.stmarymags.org.uk/community
- Online Banking using the Parish Bank details:
NatWest Richmond, Surrey (A) Branch
NAME: RCAS Mortlake
Account number: 20224311
Sort Code: 60-07-20

(Please quote your Gift Aid Number if you have one.)

- The Donation Button on our website's Homepage:
www.stmarymags.org.uk
- Gift Aid Envelopes or Cash can be deposited in the blue donation buckets at the exit of the Church.
- Contactless Cards can be used at the Payment Points located by the Calvary Statue & Sacristy.

3rd Sunday Advent, 17th December 2023

Mass Book p 87-89



On the third Sunday of Advent we particularly remember that Advent prepares us for a time of joy; with the colour rose acting as a symbol of the mix of the purple of penance and preparation joined with the white of the expectation and joy of Christmas. Our Jesse Tree symbols this week have continued to remind us of the Old Testament stories of salvation in the history of God's people. On Monday, we had Jacob's ladder as a reminder that Heaven and Earth are united in God's care; then came a Ram's Horn to symbolise how Joshua brought down the walls of Jericho in response to God's call and the Pitcher used by Gideon to shelter the light that guided his people;. Next we had a Shepherd's Crook to remind us how David was to look after his people, but which also represents Jesus as the true Shepherd who seeks and cares for us always. On Thursday, we had Hezekiah's Tent to remind us of God's presence in difficult times through our union with the suffering and Sacrifice of Christ. Next we had the Ember and Tongs to represent how we too, like Isaiah, can be cleansed of our sins by the Lord and speak out his word to others; with the symbol of Jeremiah's Tears representing his grief at how God's people had sinned and needed to turn back to the Lord. At today's Family Mass we place Habakkuk's Watchtower to symbolise our watchfulness in waiting upon the day of the Lord's coming and at the 11am Mass, Nehemiah's Wall around Jerusalem symbolised God's holiness and protection. Sadly, we know the current war between Hamas and the people of Israel make the Holy Land and the Gaza strip places of grief and division, with the security wall around Jerusalem dividing the land. Let us to continue to pray for the innocent who suffer and the guilty who inflict suffering, so that people of peace will rise-up to bring an end to such dreadful violence.

ON-GOING SUPPORT OF THE PARISH

Thank you for your continued support of the Parish, especially whilst we are unable to take basket collections in church as we used to. If you haven't yet signed up to contribute by Standing Order or online, then please help our 'Maintenance and Mission' fund by [clicking on this link](#) in the online version of the newsletter. **Thank you for giving what you can**, it will be a great blessing for the continued support of the church.

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO 9.30 MASS ON SUN 24TH DEC.

Can you help the Parish to Celebrate Christmas this year? We need some volunteers to help please ...

Please email Mortlake@RCAOS.org.uk mentioning how you could volunteer if you can help with the following. Thank you to our volunteers who were able to lift down our nativity crib figures in preparation for our tableau ...

- **This Sunday 17th Dec.**, after each Mass, we need help in the Parish Hall, and again on Monday and Tuesday. Volunteers are needed to help with cutting foliage with our initial preparations for decorating the church. After the 11 am Mass we need volunteers to prepare our nativity crib figure tableau. As part of that, as in previous years we would be grateful for donations of potted poinsettias. **Please bring a donation of your Christmas poinsettia to Mass any day from Sun. 17th until Sat. 23rd, placing it in the box by Our Lady's statue.**
- **Saturday 23rd Dec.**, from 10am, we need help to decorate the Christmas Trees. It would be lovely if two Parish families volunteered to decorate a tree each as a Christmas gift to the Lord. Please email Fr Adrian if you can help.

Details of our Advent and Christmastide services are available on the purple-coloured flyer in church and overleaf.

On Christmas Eve at the 6pm Mass we invite any children to dress up as their favourite Nativity characters, all would be welcome as many Marys, Josephs, Magi, Shepherds, Angels or Inn-Keepers as we can have -☺

Please note the Parish Office is closed from 16th December to 3rd January 2024 with emergency contact only

Liturgical Year B	Mass Details and Intentions		17 th to 24 th December 2023
Date	Time	Feria or Feast Day	Intention
17th Dec. Sunday	9.30 am	2nd Sunday of Advent	For the Apangos and Brough Families
	11.00 am		Leo Nugent RIP
18 th Dec. Monday	9.30 am	Feria	Thanks to St Anthony
19 th Dec. Tuesday	CLOSED	NB the church is closed	The Church and Office are closed today
20 th Dec. Wednesday	9.30 am	Feria	Repose of the Souls of the Rodrigues Family
21 st Dec. Thursday	9.30 am	Feria	Welfare of Malcolm Law
22 nd Dec. Friday	9.00 am	Rosary and Benediction	Prayers for Ukraine: the Luminous Mysteries
NB after Benediction	9.30 am	Feria	For the Holy Souls
23 rd Dec. Saturday	9-10.30am	Sacrament of Reconciliation	The church is open for prayer until 12pm today
24th Dec. Sunday	9.30 am	Please note there is no 9.30 Mass	There is only one Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent
	11.00 am	4th Sunday of Advent	The needs of our Parish Family
Christmas Eve	6.00 pm	1st Mass of Christmas	Miroslava Bebenek RIP [Anniversary]
	12.00 pm	Midnight Mass	For the wellbeing of Fr Adrian and his family
25th Dec. Monday	9.30 am	Family Mass of Christmas	The needs of our Parish Family
Christmas Day	11.00 am	Parish Mass of Christmas	For the Holy Souls
26 th Dec. Tuesday	9.30 am	St Stephan	Repose of the Souls of the Rodrigues Family
27 th Dec. Wednesday	9.30 am	St John the Evangelist	For the Holy Souls
28 th Dec. Thursday	9.30 am	The Holy Innocents	For the Holy Souls
29 th Dec. Friday	9.00 am	Rosary and Benediction	Prayers for Ukraine: the Glorious Mysteries
NB after Benediction	9.30 am	St Thomas Becket	Joseph Hellel RIP
30 th Dec. Saturday	9-10.30am	Sacrament of Reconciliation	The church is open for prayer until 12pm today
31st Dec. Sunday	9.30 am	Feast of the Holy Family	For the Poor Souls and the Holy Souls
	11.00 am		The needs of our Parish Family

Liturgical Year B	Mass Details and Intentions		1 st to 7 th January 2024
1 st Jan. Monday	9.30 am	Mary, The Mother of God	For the Holy Souls
2 nd Jan. Tuesday	CLOSED	NB the church is closed	The Church and Office are closed today
3 rd Jan. Wednesday	9.30 am	Feria of Christmas	Thanksgiving to St Anthony
4 th Jan. Thursday	9.30 am	Beatified Martyrs of the Diocese	For the Poor Souls and the Holy Souls
5 th Jan. Friday	9.00 am	Rosary and Benediction	Prayers for Ukraine: the Joyful Mysteries
NB after Benediction	9.30 am	Feria of Christmas	For the Holy Souls
6 th Jan. Saturday	9-10.30am	Sacrament of Reconciliation	The church is open for prayer until 12pm today
7th Jan. Sunday	9.30 am	Feast of the Epiphany	Joseph Hellel RIP
	11.00 am		The needs of our Parish Family

Please pray for Parish Family and friends who are unwell:

The sick and house bound are very much at the heart of the church and support us in their prayers as we support them in our prayers at every Mass. Please remember all the sick of our Parish, those who care for them and those in any kind of need. Individual names of the sick can be emailed to Fr Adrian for inclusion at Mass. These prayer petitions will be offered at every Mass as Fr Adrian keeps the private list of names at the altar.

“Rejoice that your names are written in Heaven.”

Luke 10:20

Please use Mass Intention envelopes from the church entrance to request a Mass for a family member or friend, or for a particular need and give these to Fr Adrian

The names of those who have died are taken from the Death Register, if you would like to include in prayer an individual whose funeral did not occur here, please list their name in an email to Fr Adrian. Please also state if you would like their name to be added to the Book of Remembrance and to the list above for our prayers of intercession at our Sunday Mass

From 17th to 24th December 2023

we pray for the repose of the souls of Thomas Heggie, Josephine Virginia Horrocks, Hanora Kent, Alice Warne, Ellen Hickey, Christopher Holland, Marguerite McKee, Helena Towey, Tadeusz Kawa, Carol Hearn, Miroslava Bebenek

From 25th to 31st December 2023

we pray for the repose of the souls of Bertram Arbuthnot, George Allen, Vera Goldskhlager, Alice Devaney, Nicholas Hogan, Roy Knight, James Henna, Pauline Bugela, Baby Tommy Murphy, Alice Tame, Elizabeth Bligh

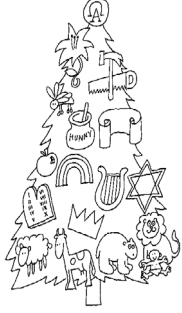
From 21st to 4th January 2024

we pray for the repose of the souls of Albert Rosier, Sheila Niedenthal, Philippa Hoyland, Michael Kelly, Eileen Burnside, Margaret Jordan, Ann Bilson, William Mannion, Mary Stayness and all those whose anniversaries occur near this time.

May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in Peace. Amen

Our **Jesse Tree** symbols for the last Sunday of Advent begin with the first reference to the New Testament, with the **Carpenter's Hammer** representing Joseph's profession and his unique role in the story of our salvation. The next symbol reminded us of how Elizabeth's husband, Zechariah, used a **Writing Tablet**, to proclaim the name of John the Baptist and his role in preparing a Way for the Lord. Scriptures over the next two days spoke to us of the **Motherhood** of Mary and her cousin Elizabeth, with a symbol of the **Commandments** pointing the way to Mary as the new **Ark of the Covenant**. The **Scallop Shell** symbolises both John's baptism and our own Christian journey of pilgrimage as we await the Lord's return. Our next symbol was a **Crown** to represent the birth of Jesus as Christ and King of King in the line of David, God's anointed one. The Nativity is represented on our Jesse Tree by the **manger** that cradled the infant Jesus and the **White Candle**, symbolises Christ as Light of the World, shown in the white candle of our Advent wreath, lit at our first Mass of Christmas. Our final Jesse Tree symbol is the **Chi-Rho** monogram, a combination of the first two letters for the Greek word of Christos, Christ – the true Light that came into the world on the first Christmas Day. As each member of our Parish family draws together with family and friends at Christmas, let us remember in prayer all those who find this a time of difficulty and hardship, especially those in areas of conflict and war such as the recent devastation in Israel and Palestine. With my prayers for all those in need and especially for you and all your loved ones, God bless, Fr Adrian

JESSE TREE



A message from Fr Adrian: Thank you for your kind gifts and cards. The Parish and I have been through a lot during 2023, especially during the time when I was away in hospital and convalescing, and I thank you all for welcoming and supporting Fr Peter Andrews during that time. Although I was not in the Parish from January to May, we have continued to have a number of safety repairs and still continue with plans for the 'Cemetery Garden'. THANK YOU for the ways you served the Lord in 2023 and how we still continue to be Stewards of the wonderful buildings, projects and gifts you are to the Parish. I would like to thank Nicola, the Parish Secretary, our Parish Finance and Building Committee members, and each and every Parish Member for your support and service throughout the year by donating to the Sunday collections and volunteering in so many ways. It is a blessing to have the continued support of Sophie and Jan our First Communion Catechists, our Confirmation Parent volunteers and Catechists, Anna who helped to co-ordinate the Extraordinary Ministers and to all in our Sunday teams, to all our Readers, Welcomers, those who've helped with the Collection, Jennie and the Flower Arrangement helpers, Clare and our Church Cleaning teams, our three Linen Laundry volunteers, Chris our Parent helper with the Servers and the enthusiastic Altar Server Team. To our Sunday Music Co-ordinator Kate and to all our Musicians and Singers who have helped to bless our Sunday Liturgy with song and to all past and present Children's Liturgy volunteers, in the hope we can continue next year. A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU! May we know the Lord's blessing, comfort and care for ourselves and for our loved ones throughout the New Year and the months ahead. With my prayers, God bless, Fr Adrian 😊



**Easyfundraising
QR CODE for
St Mary Magdalen
Church Mortlake.**

Thank you to everyone for raising donations for the charitable work of the Parish with #easyfundraising Especially, just now when you might be thinking of shopping in the Christmas or New Year sales - please remember to shop using easyfundraising. You can raise FREE donations for St Mary Magdalen Church - Mortlake at the same time with brands including John Lewis & Partners, Argos, M&S and more! If you're not already signed up, it only takes a few minutes and would be an enormous help to us, at no extra cost to yourself!

They've put together all the latest and best offers in one place here:

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/offers/trending-offers?utm_campaign=pmc&utm_medium=email&utm_content=backtoschool-email1

Catholic Primary School applications for 2024

If you're applying to a Catholic Primary School for next year, please see Fr Adrian, after Mass, to obtain a form called the "Parish Reference Request". This form gives details of what information the Parish needs (e.g. baptism details and copy certificate) plus any School forms for Fr Adrian to complete (i.e. the School "SIF"). These forms are to be handed to Fr Adrian at the end of the usual Sunday Mass you attend. Please remember that at least a week is needed to give time to process the forms, so that forms handed-in one Sunday, are usually returned the following week. Please see Fr Adrian if you have any questions and please make sure that you are aware of each School's cut-off date.

DON'T FORGET TO APPLY VIA THE COUNCIL AND COMPLETE THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL SUPPLEMENTARY FORM.



THANK YOU to everybody who has taken a Missio Red Box. If you have a box, please email Mortlake@RCAOS.org.uk with your details to confirm that you are a Red Box helper. For those who don't have email, please write to the Parish Office to let us know that you have one. If anyone is interested in donating to Missio via the Red Boxes and doesn't have a box, please see Fr Adrian after Mass.

In response to the Israel-Palestinian crisis, CAFOD have launched an appeal to support those affected and get funds to local experts in Gaza and southern Israel to help communities and those who need our help. If you would like to make a donation to CAFOD please either go directly to cafod.org.uk click [HERE](#) or telephone 0303 303 3030, thank you

For 4th Sunday in Advent



Prayer by Nick Fawcett

Almighty God, we recall at this joyful season how, through her willingness to hear your word and commit herself to your service, you were able to use Mary to fulfil your purpose, entering our world, inaugurating your kingdom and bringing closer that day when sorrow and suffering, darkness and death will be no more. Help us, then, as we gather now to worship, to hear your word and to respond with similar obedience, prepared to be used as you see fit. Through our discipleship, weak and feeble though it might be, may your grace be revealed, your love made known and your world enriched. Amen.

Christmas Day Family Poems and colouring-in ...



Prayer by Peter Dainty

Heavenly Father, we thank you for showing us your greatness in the helplessness of a new-born baby, your glory in the squalor of a cattle shed and your love in a poor peasant family who could find no room at the inn. May we welcome Christ into our lives and learn that *real greatness* lies in humble service, *real glory* is wrapped in holiness and *real love* shines like starlight, even in the darkest place. Amen.

Poem by Elizabeth Rooney

When God was wrapping up the universe
he chose star-studded tissue for the sky, a flowered-green for
earth, and blue foil shot with silver for the sea.
He gave us everything - even himself, the perfect gift of Love.
Surprising gift - a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes,
lying on straw.

Reflection by St Oscar Romero

On this day, as we Christians have done every year for 20 centuries, we recall that God's reign is now in this world and that Christ has inaugurated the fullness of time. His birth attests that God is now marching with us in history, that we do not go alone, and that our aspiration for peace, for justice, for a reign of divine law, for something holy, is far from earth's realities. We can hope for it, not because we humans are able to construct that realm of happiness which God's holy words proclaim, but because the builder of a reign of justice, of love and of peace is already in the midst of us.

