



# St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church Archdiocese of Southwark

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Parish Priest: Fr Adrian Patrick McKenna-Whyte Parish Email: [Mortlake@RCAOS.org.uk](mailto:Mortlake@RCAOS.org.uk)  
Part-time Parish Administrator: Nicola Jones (Wed. to Fri. 10.30 am-4.00 pm)  
Web [stmarymags.org.uk](http://stmarymags.org.uk) † Web [rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://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).

**31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 2023 to 7<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Our weekly income was £731 [an average of FOUR 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](http://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](http://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.

### 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.

**Canon Gerard Bradley, our local Vicar General, joins us to celebrate the 9.30 MASS on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December.**

## The Feast of the Holy Family 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

**A message from Fr Adrian:** Thank you for your kind gifts and cards, especially all the children's drawings, home made treats, whisky and wine. A wee dram will help toast the end of all the nasty side-effects from my cancer treatment (when I stop beinf queazy, but the home-made ginger biscuits were a great help so a big THANK YOU. 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 contined 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

**Please see the back page for Archbishop John's Pastoral Letter for today.**

**Can you help the Parish in preparing for the new year? We need some volunteers to help please ...**

Thank you to our volunteers who were able to lift down our nativity crib figures for our tableau. After the 11am Mass on **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December** we need help to take the Shepherds back to their resting place for the year so that the Magi can come to visit and, after the 11am Mass on **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January** we will need help to set the Magi off on their return journey too. Each of our figures is quite heavy so please be aware. Finally, on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January** from 10.30am we need help in taking down our decorations so do please join us as many hands make light work ☺

**SAVE THE DATE – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**The Cemetery Gardening Group invite you to a BURN'S NIGHT QUIZ to help raise funds for the 'St Mary Magdalen Cemetery Fund'. This is an independent fund that the Parish Cemetery volunteers raise to help with the costs of maintaining the Cemetery which is fully endorsed and supported by the Parish.**

**More details will follow but please save the evening of Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024 for a wonderful celebration together.**

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

Liturgical Year B	Mass Details and Intentions		17 <sup>th</sup> to 24 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
Date	Time	Feria or Feast Day	Intention
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec. Sunday	9.30 am	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent	For the Apangos and Brough Families
	11.00 am		Leo Nugent RIP
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec. Monday	9.30 am	Feria	Thanks to St Anthony
19 <sup>th</sup> Dec. Tuesday	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>NB the church is closed</b>	<b>The Church and Office are closed today</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec. Wednesday	9.30 am	Feria	Repose of the Souls of the Rodrigues Family
21 <sup>st</sup> Dec. Thursday	9.30 am	Feria	Welfare of Malcolm Law
22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec. Friday	9.00 am	<b>Rosary and Benediction</b>	<b>Prayers for Ukraine: the Luminous Mysteries</b>
<b>NB after Benediction</b>	9.30 am	Feria	For the Holy Souls
23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. Saturday	9-10.30am	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b>	<b>The church is open for prayer until 12pm today</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec. Sunday	9.30 am	Please note there is no 9.30 Mass	<b>There is only one Mass for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>
	11.00 am	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	The needs of our Parish Family
Christmas Eve	6.00 pm	1 <sup>st</sup> Mass of Christmas	Miroslava Bebenek RIP [Anniversary]
	12.00 pm	Midnight Mass	For the wellbeing of Fr Adrian and his family
25 <sup>th</sup> Dec. Monday	9.30 am	<b>Family Mass of Christmas</b>	The needs of our Parish Family
Christmas Day	11.00 am	<b>Parish Mass of Christmas</b>	For the Holy Souls
26 <sup>th</sup> Dec. Tuesday	9.30 am	St Stephan	Repose of the Souls of the Rodrigues Family
27 <sup>th</sup> Dec. Wednesday	9.30 am	St John the Evangelist	For the Holy Souls
28 <sup>th</sup> Dec. Thursday	9.30 am	The Holy Innocents	For the Holy Souls
29 <sup>th</sup> Dec. Friday	9.00 am	<b>Rosary and Benediction</b>	<b>Prayers for Ukraine: the Glorious Mysteries</b>
<b>NB after Benediction</b>	9.30 am	St Thomas Becket	Joseph Hellel RIP
30 <sup>th</sup> Dec. Saturday	9-10.30am	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b>	<b>The church is open for prayer until 12pm today</b>
31 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> to 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
1 <sup>st</sup> Jan. Monday	9.30 am	Mary, The Mother of God	For the Holy Souls
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan. Tuesday	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>NB the church is closed</b>	<b>The Church and Office are closed today</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan. Wednesday	9.30 am	Feria of Christmas	Thanksgiving to St Anthony
4 <sup>th</sup> Jan. Thursday	9.30 am	Beatified Martyrs of the Diocese	For the Poor Souls and the Holy Souls
5 <sup>th</sup> Jan. Friday	9.00 am	<b>Rosary and Benediction</b>	<b>Prayers for Ukraine: the Joyful Mysteries</b>
<b>NB after Benediction</b>	9.30 am	Feria of Christmas	For the Holy Souls
6 <sup>th</sup> Jan. Saturday	9-10.30am	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b>	<b>The church is open for prayer until 12pm today</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> 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

## JESSE TREE



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

**As part of the preparation for the 2025 Jubilee year, the Southwark Marriage and Family Team will be running a Building a Better Marriage Course throughout the Archdiocese from February 2024. The one day course is for married couples (whether married for one year, 60 years or anywhere in between). It seeks to help husbands and wives to make their marriage better and to improve their communication skills. There is no group sharing and private information remains private to each couple. Couples who have attended previously have found it enjoyable, informative, and uplifting. For more information contact the Marriage and Family Life team through the Archdiocese of Southwark: website. <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/marriage-and-family-life>**



**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](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](mailto: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](http://cafod.org.uk) click [HERE](#) or telephone 0303 303 3030, thank you**

### Reflections for the Feast of Holy Family

"Every year many families face the problem of who is going where and when over Christmas. A great effort is made to get together and not miss anyone out over the holiday period. To be together, to show love for one another over these few days in the year, is what really matters. No matter how much has been spent on gifts, it is the giving, in person, if possible, which counts. Love is best expressed in giving, as we celebrate God the Father's love gift to us of his Son. It is at this time that the description of the family by St. Pope John Paul II, as 'the community of love', is most evident." **Tony Castle**

"The old trinity was of the father, mother and child and is called the human family. The new is of child and mother and father and has the name of the Holy Family. It is in no way altered except in being entirely reversed; just as the world which it transformed was not in the least different, except in being turned upside down." **G. K. Chesterton**



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

*A Saviour has been born for us who is Christ the Lord! (Lk 2:11)* I am so pleased to be able to greet you with Christmas good wishes - for you and your family and friends - in this holy season of hope. Each year we rejoice in celebrating the changeless truth that God sent his Son into our world because he loves us. More specifically, in the Lord Jesus God loves you, in the reality of your life here and now, in your tears and in your smiles. This is why, individually and together, we can look to the future with confidence.

Dear friends, I pray that something of God's love touches your heart this Christmastime, even if you face challenge or suffering. In Christ, no one is ever alone. God really is with you. Whatever happens, God will never abandon you. As the family of the Church, within all our relationships, it's so important that we try to make the love of God we have received something tangible for others. We do this by imitating the example of the Holy Family: through sensitivity, kindness, and generosity, and, especially, through our faith. A famous song once declared '*love is all around us.*' This is true; but love can only be all around us if, first, it comes from within us. It is God's love in Christ, born into our hearts again this Christmas, which compels us to put love in action. Faith and love are inseparable. We seek to love others in faithfulness to Christ who was born, died, and rose again.

Loving relationship is at the heart of our faith: the loving relationship of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who live eternally as one God in three persons; the loving relationship of the Father who sent his Son to take flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary; the loving relationship of Our Blessed Lady and St Joseph to the Lord Jesus; the loving relationship, through the Holy Spirit, by which we share the gift of faith as disciples. According to God's plan for humanity, we are created in God's image and likeness for loving relationship. This is shown so beautifully in family life.

It was faith in God, and fidelity to God's word, that enabled Abraham and Sarah to believe God's promise. It was faith in God, and fidelity to God's word, that made Our Lady and St Joseph capable of cooperating so uniquely and beautifully with God's purpose for their lives and our salvation. It is our Catholic faith that gives identity and meaning to the Sacrament of Marriage and to family life as the domestic church. The family, in the closer and wider senses, remains the most important building block of the Church and of society. When the family flourishes, the Church flourishes. When the family flourishes, society flourishes. Catholic faith is intrinsic to our understanding of marriage and family life, supported by our parishes and schools.

I have been privileged over the past year to witness so many inspiring examples of husbands and wives, with their children and extended families, living and celebrating their Catholic faith, passing it on, and making it central to their day-to-day life. We know that every family has its difficulties. Sometimes, sadly, we also know there is breakdown, both in marriage and in family life. To anyone who is wounded by damaged or broken relationships, please know that the Church is your home, a compassionate 'hospital' of healing and mercy. I want to say a very sincere 'thank you' to every family which forms part of our Archdiocese. Thank you for your commitment to your faith and for making your homes holy places where the values and virtues of the Holy Family of Nazareth are put into practice.

Our relationships with each other matter. They matter in the family, in our Church, and in our society and world. It's so necessary that we take time to listen to each other and to walk beside one another as we journey on the way together with Christ in faith. As a child, in his family home with Mary and Joseph, the Lord Jesus grew in maturity. He was filled with wisdom and God's favour was with him. This is our desire for every disciple, for every family, and for our Church in the Archdiocese of Southwark.

As we look to all that 2024 will bring in God's providence, we commit ourselves to fulfilling our mission to share the Gospel of salvation in Christ through words and actions that build relationships in service of a civilisation of faith, love, and peace.

With every blessing for this Christmas Season and the New Year, and the assurance of my prayers and gratitude,

Yours devotedly in Christ

+ John Wilson Metropolitan Archbishop of Southwark