

# Sunday 8th November 3rd Sunday before Advent

St Mary Magdalene  
Munster Square, NW1

## Contact

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## This Week

Date	Saint/ Celebration	Service/ Event
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	<i>Remembrance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Private prayer 10.30-12.30</li><li>• Act of remembrance 10.50am</li></ul>
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	<i>Margery Kempe, mystic 1440</i>	
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	<i>Leo the Great, bishop 461</i>	
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	<i>Martin, bishop 397</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rosary on Zoom 7pm</li></ul>
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> November		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Holy Hour 12.30pm</li></ul>
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> November		
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> November		
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	<i>2nd Sunday before Advent</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Private prayer 10.30-12.30</li></ul>

## Notices

### **Christmas Parcels -**

As we are unable to gather for a Christmas Dinner together we're going to extend the parcels we assembled last year. We're in conversation with British Land about getting their support also.

Please start considering what you can give : food, toiletries, socks/ slippers, toys etc.

ALSO, please think about who may appreciate receiving a parcel and tell Joanne or Mthr Sally.

### **Advent Book/ Course**

Is anyone interested in a Advent book/ course on Zoom?  
Please express your interest to Mthr Sally

### **Lockdown**

If you know anyone who needs support, please let Mthr Sally or one of the wardens know.

## **Collect**

Almighty Father,  
whose will is to restore all things  
in your beloved Son, the King of all:  
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,  
and bring the families of the nations,  
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,  
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **Readings**

A reading from I Thessalonians 4. 13-end

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord for ever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Psalm 70

O God, make speed to save me;  
O Lord, make haste to help me.

Let those who seek my life  
be put to shame and confusion;  
let them be turned back and disgraced  
who wish me evil.

Let those who mock and deride me  
turn back because of their shame.

But let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;  
let those who love your salvation say always, 'Great is the Lord!'

As for me, I am poor and needy;  
come to me quickly, O God.

You are my help and my deliverer;  
O Lord, do not delay.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St Matthew (25. 1-13)

'Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, "Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise replied, "No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves." And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he replied, "Truly I tell you, I do not know you." Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

### **For Reflection**

The custom at the time of Jesus was that the bridegroom typically took off to party with his friends after the wedding. Then late in the night, the groom would come and collect his bride. When the bridegroom finally appeared, the custom was for the bridesmaids to light the way to his house with lamps.

Jesus' version is a bit different. At midnight, the virgins were awakened when the sentinel cried out: "Behold, the bridegroom! Come out and welcome him!" Immediately, all ten of the virgins went out to meet the bridegroom. However, five of the virgins had not anticipated that the bridegroom would dally or party so long. Foolishly, the virgins had not brought any extra oil for their lamps; thus, when the bridegroom finally arrived, their lamps no longer had any oil in them. Their lamps were dark; they could not escort the bridegroom to his bride!

Now the other five virgins were wise and prudent women. They had planned well and brought along some extra lamp oil, just in case it was needed. Thus, they could escort the bridegroom to the bridal chamber.

Today's Gospel invites us to ask ourselves: Am I wise or foolish? Or am I a bit of both, depending on the circumstances? Within us, we each have a wise person and we all have a foolish person within us.

Today, we also are waiting for the bridegroom to come to each one of us. Do we have our lamps lit? Are we prepared and alert? Or has our oil been used up and our lamp dark? Or perhaps we have fallen asleep?

*Sr. Kristine Harpenau OSB*

## In our prayers this week

- **Election of Joe Biden as president of the USA**
- **For those affected by COVID-19 19**
- **For those who are lonely, depressed or struggling with lockdown**
- **For those who have lost their lives in war, especially those who fought in the two World Wars.**

**For those who are sick or in need at this time:** Joanne Brewer, Terry Currie, Jean Watt, Carole Ridley, Kenneth Deacon, Bailey Walters-Lawrence, Stuart Morton, Joan Sayers, Carol Speirs, Simon Williams.

**For those whose anniversary of death falls at this time including:** Augusta Marquez, Archie Hulsman, Frank Harvey, Harold Patch, Michael Gould, Frank Coventry, Alice Kempster, John Green, George Gould, Daisy Armstrong, Theresa Francis, Norman Smith, Ada Clark, Carol Harris.

