

# Chaplaincy Newsletter

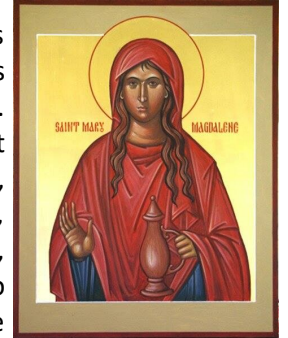
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6



## *Saintly Inspirations*

### *St Mary Magdalene - Feast Day July 22nd*

St. Mary Magdalene is one of the greatest examples of God's mercy and grace. The precise dates of her birth and death are unknown, but we do know she was present with Christ during his public ministry, death, and resurrection. She is mentioned at least a dozen times in the Gospels. Mary Magdalene has long been regarded as a prostitute in western Christianity, but this is not supported in the scriptures. It is believed she was a Jewish woman who lived among Gentiles, living as they did. The Gospels agree that Mary was originally a great sinner whom Jesus saved, giving us an example of how no person is beyond the saving grace of God. During Jesus' ministry, it is believed that Mary Magdalene followed him, part of a semi-permanent entourage who served Jesus and his Disciples. Mary likely watched the crucifixion from a distance along with the other women who followed Christ during His ministry. Mary was present when Christ rose from the dead, visiting his tomb to anoint his body only to find the stone rolled away and Christ, very much alive, sitting at the place they laid Him. She was the first witness to His resurrection.



St. Mary Magdalene is the patroness of converts, repentant sinners, pharmacists, tanners and women, and many other places and causes.

### *St John Mary Vianney - Feast Day August 4th*

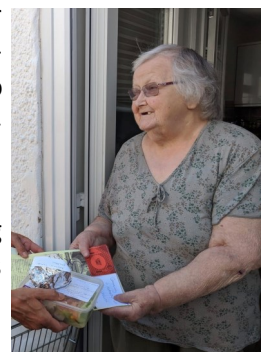


Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney, known as John in English, was born May 8, 1786 in Dardilly, France and was baptized the same day. He was the fourth of six children born to Matthieu and Marie Vianney. In 1790, when the French Revolution forced priests to work in secrecy or face execution, young Vianney believed the priests were heroes and at 13-years-old, John made his first communion and prepared for his confirmation in secret. He attended a minor seminary, Abbe Balley and was ordained a priest August 12th 1815. Fr. Vianney spent much time in confession giving absolution to his parishioners. He spent 11 to twelve hours each day working to reconcile people with God. In the summer months, he often worked 16-hour days and refused to retire. His fame spread and in 1827 people began to travel to him. Within thirty years, it is said he received up to 20,000 pilgrims each year. St John Vianney, viewed by many as a champion of the poor, passed away on the 4<sup>th</sup> August 1859 leaving behind a legacy of faith.

## **Chaplaincy News.....**



A big thank you to the Year 10 students who brought in Easter eggs for their Lenten charity. As you know, school broke up before the collection was complete so many students did not have the opportunity to contribute. We also had a problem with the distribution as the recipients of the eggs we had collected had already gone into lockdown and so could not take them. However, I am pleased to let you know that they were put to good use, they were given to Hope Corner, a Community centre that has been preparing and delivering meals to the vulnerable and those who have been shielding. Over the weeks the chocolate has been used in the making of tray bakes, cakes, muffins and deserts and those receiving them have been very grateful.



### **Father in Heaven**

**As we come to the end of this school year, We voice our gratitude**

**For the good things you have done in us.**

**We praise you for all who have shared in the work of this school.**

**We ask you to bless us all in your love and give us refreshment and peace.**

**Amen**

**All Things for Christ**

**Matthew 13:1-9** That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear."

Today we hear the familiar parable of "the sower and the seed." Jesus spoke in parables because he knew that we would not be able to take on the enormity of what He was telling us, so He made it simple. In this parable, we are the seeds. Jesus tells his disciples that the "seed sown on the path" is anyone who hears the Word of the Kingdom. However, if they do not understand this "Word," the "Evil One" comes and steals the seed from the person's heart!

Jesus then speaks about the "seed sown in rocky ground." This is a person who joyfully takes "the word to heart." However, after some time has passed, the person may have forgotten the word or grown disillusioned. Perhaps, the seed was not rooted well and therefore, it begins to wither. And so, when trials or difficulties come the person typically reverts to his/her former life.

Jesus then uses the analogy of thorns (riches). This individual hears the word. However, when anxiety or the lure of riches disturb him/her, the desire for the seed is choked to death by these "thorns." Thus, the seed is unable to bear any fruit.

Then Jesus speaks of the "seed sown in good soil." This seed is the individual who not only "hears the word" but this is a person who also understands the "word." These individuals open their hearts to the seed and allow the seed to grow within them. These individuals will bear much fruit!

Which "seed" experience do you identify with? Perhaps take a few moments and thoughtfully examine your life. Do we need to pray more? Do we need to spend more time with God and discerning his word? Today, let us set time aside to nurture the "seed" that is within us

#### **News from the Deanery**

Throughout the coming weeks church opening times for both personal prayer and Mass will be changing as the advice from the government changes. As each parish differs please check your parish website for timings.

Acton <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/acton/>

Acton East <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/actoneast/>

West Acton: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/actonwest/>

Ealing Abbey: <https://ealingabbeyparish.uk/>

Greenford: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/greenford/>

Hanwell: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hanwell/>

Northfields: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/northfields/>

Perivale: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/perivale/>

Polish Church, Our Lady Mother of the Church, Windsor Road:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/polishchurchealing/>