

INTERCESSIONS Please pray for the long term sick and those in special need, among them:

Holly Ryan, Wendy Webb, Ann-Marie and Andy, David Games, Abigail, Melanie, Dan, Angela, Anna and Phoenix, Philip, Chris, Lewis, Timothy Fleming, Ilona Zimon, Steven Wiltshire, Julie, Michael, Sue Goodall, Alex Underwood, Peter Parsons, Richard Gurney, Brian, Jonathan, Martin Souter

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY is kept this year on Sunday 13th November. All are also encouraged to observe the nationwide silence on Friday 11th November at 11am.

VICARAGE TEA The next Vicarage Tea will take place on Wednesday 23rd November at 3.30pm at 15 Beaumont Street. Fr Richard will offer a short talk on the subject of the Pre-Raphaelites, and their work in Oxford in particular.

ADVENT STALL AND CHRISTMAS PRODUCE There will be a stall selling home produce, decorations and other items after the high mass on Advent Sunday, 27th November. Christmas cards made by Muriel Hunt will be available for purchase. We will also be offering for sale an impressive collection of books, of all sorts. Contributions of books may be brought to the church in the week beforehand, or on Saturday 26th November. We raised over £600 from book sales alone at the St Giles Fair, and hope for another bumper crop this Advent.

CHRISTMAS MONTHLY MENU The Monthly Menu for December will be produced on Advent Sunday so that members of the congregation can order produce in time for Christmas. Many special items will be offered, some gift wrapped and suitable for presents. Goods can be collected on any of the first three Sundays of December. All proceeds will go to church funds.

DIARY DATE Our annual service of Carols and Readings for Advent and Christmas will take place on Sunday 18th December at 6pm. This will be Stephen Rice's last service as our Director of Music, and there will be an opportunity to bid him farewell afterwards. Please prioritise this date, and please invite any friends or interested acquaintances to come along that evening and join our remarkable musicians in the worship of God.

GATEHOUSE APPEAL ORCHESTRA CONCERT On Saturday 12th November in St Peter's College Chapel at 7:30pm, there will be a concert raising funds for the Gatehouse moving appeal. The programme includes Mozart Piano Concerto No.23, Soloist: Craig Greene; Schubert Symphony No.5; the conductor is Andrew Gray. Admission is free, with a retiring collection towards the Gatehouse moving home appeal.

DEDICATION FESTIVAL, ROSARY VIGIL AND GIFT DAY

Many thanks to all who contributed in very many ways to our Dedication Festival and the annual gift day which we attach to it. It was a remarkably successful year, with over £7000 being raised by direct contributions, and a further £2000 raised by those who undertook the 24 hour Rosary vigil in church on the Saturday. Particular thanks to those stalwarts of prayer—Rachel, Fr Richard, Ben, Jess, Vienna, Ella-Mae and Simon.

SOSPIRI CONCERT FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY The Oxford vocal ensemble Sospiri, co-founded by our own John Duggan, will perform a concert of music for Remembrance on the evening of Sunday 13th November at 8pm in Merton College Chapel. The programme includes works by Arvo Part, and by John himself. Further details at <http://www.sospiri.co.uk/diary/>

John has kindly offered tickets at half price (£6 rather than £12) to his fellow members of St Mary Magdalen's who book in advance—please speak to him if you would like to come.

MEMORIAL SERVICE There will be memorial service for those from the homeless community who have died, at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 9th November at New Road Baptist Chapel. All are most welcome to attend.

WORLD AIDS DAY On 1 December, World Aids Day this year marks thirty years since the discovery of HIV and AIDS. Christian Aid is sponsoring a special Advent service—Advent Hope—Thursday 1 December, 7.30pm, at St Giles Church Oxford. The guest speaker will be the theologian and broadcaster Robert Beckford. The service will be followed by seasonal fair-trade refreshments.

INTERCESSIONS If you have friends or acquaintances whose names are on our intercessions list, please could you be sure to update either Fr Peter or Joyce Day as to their progress each month. It helps us to hear news of those for whom we are praying, and also prevents names being left on the list in perpetuity by accident. If nothing is heard, we will normally remove names after four weeks.

SUNDAY CELEBRANTS All Sunday masses in November will be celebrated by Fr Peter, Fr Martin or Fr John

ORDINANDS ON PLACEMENT We welcome Tina Kelsey as our ordinand on placement from Ripon College Cuddesdon. Tina is in her first year and so her placement is principally observational, but she and her family are already valued members of our community, and her two sons, James and Benjamin, are part of our team of younger servers.

Clare Challis is a final year ordinand at Wycliffe Hall, and will be with us for most of this academic year. In due course, Clare will be leading Matins and taking the role of subdeacon at the High Mass.

Please take a moment to introduce yourself to both Clare and Tina, when the opportunity arises.

On the weekend of our dedication festival (22nd–23rd October), I was privileged to be part of a small group holding a 24-hour sponsored recitation of the Rosary in the Lady Chapel. As well as being a conspicuous fundraising success (over £2000 raised for church funds at the time of writing), the event was also remarkable in other, less quantifiable terms. While I was given one of the less arduous daytime shifts, other members of the group (who were made of sterner stuff) stayed in church all night. As one of the participants remarked to me afterwards, it was striking how everyone concerned approached the vigil as a kind of short retreat, and not at all as a ‘fundraising stunt’.

None of this ought to come as much of a surprise. Over the centuries, many thousands of Christians have discovered the Rosary as one of the most powerful forms of prayer by which which God leads people into his presence—and not only Roman Catholics and Anglo-Catholics but also, and increasingly, Protestants as well. According to legend, the Rosary is of directly supernatural origin, having been given to St Dominic by Our Lady in 1214. In fact, it sprang from complex roots, though some of these are certainly very old. There is a record of Lady Godiva in the eleventh century leaving in her will ‘a circlet of gems on which she used to say her prayers’. It finally reached something like its current form in the sixteenth century.

What marks out the Rosary is its combination of the repetition of the Hail Mary (such repetition being a common feature of spiritual practice in many world religions) with the ‘Mysteries’, which lead us to meditate in turn on Christ’s birth and childhood (the ‘Joyful Mysteries’), his earthly ministry (the ‘Mysteries of Light’), his Passion (the ‘Sorrowful Mysteries’), and the events surrounding his resurrection, including the sending of the Holy Spirit and the Assumption (the ‘Glorious Mysteries’).

As Pope John Paul II put it, the basic discipline of the Rosary is that of ‘contemplating Christ with Mary’. That is, it is Christ himself, rather than the Blessed Virgin, who is the real focus of the Rosary. This is a truth that I had never fully appreciated until our sponsored Rosary last month. Over a period of several hours’ prayer, one is able to pray the four sets of Mysteries several times over. The effect of entering repeatedly in prayer into the events of Our Lord’s life, death, and resurrection is a powerful one indeed. Sometimes, however, during a prolonged recitation, the repeated words fall into the background, and the mind is able to rest in the silence; and in that silence the presence of God can be found in a different but no less profound way.

At our Dedication Festival we celebrated, the fact that the site of St Mary Magdalen’s has been hallowed by prayer for a thousand years. It seems truly appropriate that a vigil of prayer should be part of our celebrations, and—in a church in which the Catholic tradition of the Church of England is honoured—no less appropriate that such a vigil should take the form of contemplating Christ with his blessed Mother.

Sunday Readings

NOV 6TH:	Wisdom 6.12–16	I Thess 4.13–18	Matthew: 25.1–13
NOV 13TH:	Proverbs 31.10–13, 19–20	I Thess 5.1–6	Matthew 25.14–30
NOV 20TH:	Ezekiel 34.11–17	I Cor 15.20–26, 28	Matthew 25.31–46
NOV 27TH:	Isaiah 63. 16–17, 64.1, 3–8	I Cor 1.3–9	Mark 13.33–37



ST MARY MAGDALEN

Services
Sundays : Eucharist at 8 am and 5.30 pm
 Mattins 10 am
 High Mass at 10.30 am
Weekdays : Eucharist at 12.15 pm and 6.00 pm
 Morning Prayer 8.15 am, Evening Prayer 5.40 pm

Confessions
 Daily after the 12.15 pm Mass, Wednesdays & Saturdays at 6.30 pm

Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage

By appointment with the Parish Priest

Parish Clergy

The Reverend Dr Peter Groves

Telephone: Oxford 247836

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The Reverend Dr Richard Frith

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Website

www.stmarymagdalenoxford.org.uk

Calendar for November 2011

1	Tue	Feria	<i>John, our Bishop</i>
2	Wed	All Souls	<i>The faithful departed</i>
3	Thur	Feria	<i>John, our Bishop</i>
4	Fri	Charles Borromeo, B	<i>Rowan, our Archbishop</i>
5	Sat	Feria	<i>The PCC</i>
6	Sun	32ND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	<i>Parish Community</i>
7	Mon	Feria	<i>Spiritual Directors</i>
8	Tue	All Saints of England	<i>Altar servers</i>
9	Wed	Feria	<i>Helen and Douglas House</i>
10	Thur	Leo the Great, B Dr	<i>Theologians</i>
11	Fri	Martin B	<i>Victims of conflict</i>
12	Sat	Feria	<i>Oxford deanery</i>
13	Sun	33RD SUNDAY: REMEMBRANCE	<i>Parish Community</i>
14	Mon	Feria	<i>Oxford City Council</i>
15	Tue	Albert, B Dr	<i>Teachers</i>
16	Wed	Feria	<i>Peace in the Holy Land</i>
17	Thur	Hugh, B	<i>Our church and parish</i>
18	Fri	Feria	<i>The elderly</i>
19	Sat	Hilda, Ab	<i>Religious communities</i>
20	Sun	CHRIST THE KING	<i>Parish Community</i>
21	Mon	Feria	<i>Cathedrals</i>
22	Tue	Cecilia, V M	<i>Choir and Musicians</i>
23	Wed	Feria: anointing at 6pm mass	<i>Healing ministry</i>
24	Thur	Feria: anointing at 12.15	<i>Oxford's hospitals</i>
25	Fri	Catherine, V M	<i>The persecuted church</i>
26	Sat	Feria	<i>Home communicants</i>
27	Sun	ADVENT SUNDAY	<i>Parish Community</i>
28	Mon	Feria	<i>Christian Aid</i>
29	Tue	Feria	<i>Confessors</i>
30	Wed	Andrew, Ap.	<i>The church in Scotland</i>