

# PUZZLE CORNER

## Sudoku

	3		4		5			
5			8		1	3	9	
	1	6			8		4	
3				4	6	9		
		1	3		2	7		
	5	4		7				3
7		5			3	2		
1	6	9			8			7
		3		5		8		

Each letter in this puzzle is represented by a number 1-26. Can you crack the code and solve the crossword? Every letter of the alphabet is used at least once. Three letters are already in place to get you started.

If you really need help, the solution is shown on Page 9

A  
B  
C  
D  
E  
F  
G  
H  
I  
J  
K  
L  
M  
N  
O  
P  
Q  
R  
S  
T  
U  
V  
W  
X  
Y  
Z

11	1	5	16	3	19	16		19	17	3	22	21
1		10		16		19		20		7		5
5	12	5	15	19		10	22	20	3	16	1	12
20		16		20		22		19		19		23
9	5	26	2	20	5	18		10	5	4	7	16
		9				10		26				19
13	22	6	8	1	21		6	19	5	16	21	6
5				10		24				19		
26	9	5	7	16		16	19	14	5	21	7	5
2		7		5		19		16		5		14
4	7	20	5	25	22	18		5	8	3	19	16
5		21		19		19		20		19		19
18	9	19	19	21		16	19	20	7	4	1	19

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

# PASSWORDS



THE MAGAZINE FOR ST MARY MAGDALENE PARISH  
DONEGALL PASS

**Clergy:** In case of emergency, contact Archdeacon Barry Forde,  
tel: 02890 828872 mob: 07824 643113

**Family Worker:** Mrs Alison Shaw tel: 07483884507 (Mon, Wed, Fri)

[www.st-marymagdalene.org.uk](http://www.st-marymagdalene.org.uk)

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# FEBRUARY 2023



February 2023



# SERVICES



SERVICES	CLERIC
<b>5th February</b> 11.30 am Holy Communion	Rev Steven Greene
<b>12th February</b> 11.30 am Morning Prayer	Rev Robin Moore
<b>19th February</b> 11.30 am Holy Communion	Ven Barry Forde
<b>26th February</b> 11.30 am Morning Prayer with Holy Baptism	Rev Robin Moore

## SERVICES FOR MARCH

These will be posted on the church website,  
Facebook and on the notice boards.

The Church of Ireland "Safeguarding Trust" Policy operates in this church. Panel Members are Archdeacon Barry Forde, Mr Cecil Dunwoody and Mr Peter Ainley. Notices to this effect have been placed in the church and halls.



## Flower Rota ~ January-March



1st Jan	.....	Vacant
8th Jan	.....	The Lennon Family— <i>in memory of Betty</i>
15th Jan	.....	Miss J Stewart
22 Jan	.....	Vacant
29th Jan	.....	Vacant
5th Feb	.....	The Fitzsimmons Family <i>in memory of their mother Martha</i>
	.....	Mrs S Davey - <i>in memory of her mother and son John</i>
12th Feb	.....	Mrs D McDowell
19th Feb	.....	The Ingram Family— <i>in memory of loved ones</i>
26th Feb	.....	Mrs W Stewart
	.....	Mrs L Smyth— <i>in memory of Jim</i>
5th Mar	.....	Mr & Mrs B McMillan— <i>in memory of Mum</i>
12th Mar	.....	Mr & Mrs T Reilly - <i>in memory of loved ones</i>
19th Mar	.....	Mr & Mrs T Jones
26th Mar	.....	Mrs C Irving

## FLOWER LIST 2023

*Thank you to parishioners who have contributed to this list. There are still a couple of spaces available if anyone else would like to take one. Just see Kate if you are interested.*



### Christian Burial



James (Jimmy) Shields  
17 Marylebone Park  
Thursday 9th February 2023

We offer our deepest sympathies to the entire family circle

*Nunc Dimittis*

### ~ Prayer for healing ~



*Dear Lord*

*We pray for all those in our parish who are ill, either in body or mind, and ask that they may find comfort in your healing presence.*

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

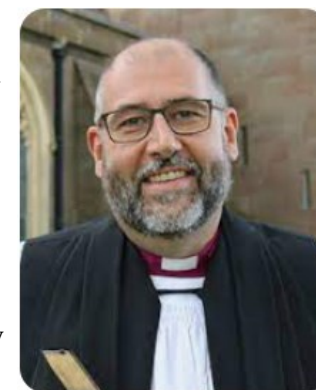
## Parish update ...

*Dear parishioner*

Firstly this comes as an opportunity to belatedly wish everyone a very happy and healthy 2023. It's hard to believe that January passed so quickly and we're already marching through February. The longer days are very welcome and isn't it refreshing to see signs of Spring already—snowdrops and other buds already pushing their little heads up in anticipation! In another few weeks on 26th March, the clocks will be going forward and Spring will really be on its way.

Life in St Mary Magdalene continues to move along. We are ever grateful to the Archdeacon of Belfast, the Ven Barry Forde who keeps everything running along smoothly. We simply don't know how he keeps on top of it all, as along with ourselves, he is also managing the daily running of St Aidan's and St Simon's Parish churches.

On Sunday 29th January, it was a real privilege to attend the united service, conducted by the Bishop of Connor, the Rt Rev George Davison, in St Aidan's. The Bishop in outlining his hopes that this new Inner South Belfast Mission would lead to growing and living churches in each of our three parishes. This is not easy and not everyone likes what is happening, but we are challenged to develop our beloved church and its membership, rather than trying to 'hold on' for another wee while. Together we must pray and trust that the future will result in bringing more parishioners through our doors. With a dwindling membership and attendance, it's not hard to accept that without growth, the future of St Mary Magdalene does not bode well.



The Bishop of Connor, the  
Rt Rev George Davison

A further delight at that service was to have another message from the Rev Ross Mungavin who will be joining us, hopefully by the summer time.



Rev Ross Mungavin

Rev Ross, his wife Emma and their young children will be returning from England and we are looking forward to having their presence amongst us. Please continue to pray for them as they prepare to make this move over the next few months.

After the service, we had the opportunity to mingle together and enjoy a welcome cuppa. Many thanks to St Aidan's for providing this.



## FWO ENVELOPES

If you have not already picked up your FWO envelopes, they are available to lift from the back pews in the church.



### ***GIFT DAY ENVELOPE***

*Thank you to all who contributed to the Gift Day appeal in December. As always, our parishioners displayed their usual generosity and a total of £458 has been received.*



## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

*The beginning is always today.*  
Mary Shelly



For your diary

**Women's Group** Wednesdays 10.00-12 noon

**Baby Cafe** Thursdays 9.30-10.30

**Parent & Toddlers** Thursdays 11.00-12.15

**Select Vestry** Mon 13th Feb 11.00 am  
Mon 13th Mar 11.00 am

### Just a wee plea .....

If you have any articles for the magazine, Kate will be very pleased to receive them.

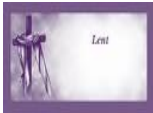
All will be welcome



"I'm not sure what religion my family is. It's the one that forbids running with scissors. And eating before dinner is the worst sin."

**Page 12 Word Code solution—no peeking!**

1	U	2	K	3	T	4	D	5	A	6	Y	7	I	8	F	9	H	10	N	11	Q	12	M	13	J
14	G	15	Z	16	R	17	X	18	W	19	E	20	S	21	L	22	O	23	P	24	B	25	V	26	C



## The Lenten Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## Lent 2023 Key Dates and Frequently Asked Questions

### When does Lent begin in 2023?

Lent begins with [Ash Wednesday](#) on Wednesday, February 22, 2023.

### Why is Lent 40 days long?

Lent lasts for 40 days because Christ suffered in the desert for 40 days.

### How is the date of Ash Wednesday determined?

Ash Wednesday always falls six and half weeks before Easter.

### When is Fat Tuesday?

Fat Tuesday is the final day before Lent. In 2023, it takes place on February 21. Fat Tuesday is also known as Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day,

### How is the date of Easter determined?

Easter is a moveable feast as opposed to a fixed date each year. Easter is celebrated on the Sunday following the first full moon of spring. In 2023, the date is 9th April.

### How long is Lent?

Lent lasts 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday, excluding Sundays. Sundays are an important part of Lent, but we do not include them in the "40 days".

### When is Palm Sunday?

Palm Sunday, the last Sunday during Lent, takes place on April 2 in 2023. It signifies Jesus's triumphant return to Jerusalem after spending 40 days and nights in the desert.

## Family worker update

### Wednesday Women's Group

Over the next few weeks in the group, we are hoping to shed those extra pounds we all gained over the winter months! We plan to start an exercise programme whilst making some healthy snacks.

We meet from 10-12 noon each week and welcome any new members

### Thursday Baby Cafe 9.30 - 10.30 am & Thursday Parent and Toddlers 11 - 12.15 pm

Baby Cafe meets from 9.30-10.30am for parents/carers and babies. Parent/carers and Toddlers meet from 11-12.15pm on Thursdays and is open to any families interested in joining with us as we enjoy those precious moments with our children.

If you require any further information, please feel free to contact me on 07483884507 and I will be pleased to answer any queries.

Alison





Over the next couple of weeks, our new-look church website will be launched. A lot of work has taken place over the past while to ensure that the website complies with all the legal regulations now required—eg, site security, tracking of cookies and permissions.

Hopefully you will find it easy to navigate your way around to find the information you require.

Do visit us on [www.st-marymagdalene.org.uk](http://www.st-marymagdalene.org.uk) and if you have any comments or suggestions, we'd love to hear them.

Don't forget, we're also on Facebook—just search for St Mary Magdalene Belfast and you will be there!



### LADIES' CLOAKROOM—PAROCHIAL HALL

The upstairs Ladies' Cloakroom suffered major damage when the church was closed during the Covid lockdown. Extreme damp rendered the cloakroom unusable for almost a year when everything opened up again.

We're delighted to be able to say that repairs have been completed, some new flooring laid and the entire cloakroom given a fresh coat of paint. Needless to say, this has been a costly exercise and there is much more work to be done elsewhere. This is why donations such as Gift Day are so desperately needed to maintain our beautiful church and buildings.

If anyone has ideas for fund-raising, we'd love to hear them!



for our younger readers—

### What is **LENT**?

LENT IS THE 40 DAYS BEFORE EASTER. IT BEGINS THE DAY AFTER SHROVE TUESDAY (PANCAKE TUESDAY) AND ENDS ON PALM SUNDAY.



Christians celebrate **LENT** to remind them of the time Jesus fasted in the desert.

### The symbols **OF LENT**

#### **ASHES**

Remind us that God created us from dust.

#### **PALM LEAVES**

Were laid upon Jesus path as he entered Jerusalem, for goodness and health.

#### **PURPLE**

The colour worn by royalty and associated with mourning.

### Why do we **FAST**?

FASTING FOR 40 DAYS REMINDS US OF WHEN JESUS FASTED IN THE DESERT.



This is an important time when we give up something important to remind us of the sacrifices Jesus made for us.

### What is **ALMSGIVING**?

ALMSGIVING IS THE ACT OF PUTTING OTHERS FIRST AND GIVING TO THOSE LESS FORTUNATE THAN US.

During **LENT** we focus on prayer and almsgiving.



### Shrove **TUESDAY**

THE LAST TUESDAY BEFORE LENT BEGINS.

In the past Christians used this day to eat the food that wouldn't last through **LENT**.

Pancakes used up the milk, egg and fat, just by adding flour.

