



spiritans

St. Mary Magdalen Roman Catholic Church, Brockley

Good Friday 3rd April 2026

We welcome all to today's Mass, especially visitors who are celebrating with us for the first time. Please take this bulletin home with you for further reflection on this week's celebration and to follow the activities in the Parish during the week.

REFLECTION

It is finished

In the passion story according to John which we have just heard, the last words that Jesus said on the cross before he bowed his head and gave up the spirit is "**It is finished**" (John 19:30). Three words in English but in the original Greek it is just one word, *tetelestai*. What does *tetelestai* "it is finished" mean? Scholars got more insight into the meaning of this expression a few years ago after some archaeologists dug up in the Holy Land a tax collector's office that was almost intact, with all the tax records and everything. There were two stacks of tax records and one of them had the word, *tetelestai*, on the top. In other words, "paid in full." These people don't owe anything anymore. So, when Jesus said "It is finished," what is finished? It is the debt we owe God by our sins. It has been paid in full? The Jews of Jesus' time saw sin as a debt that we owe God, a debt that must somehow be repaid. Jesus used that kind of language and often spoke of sin as debt and forgiveness as a cancellation of debt. He told the parable of the unforgiving servant whom his master forgave the debt that he had no way of repaying but who went out and insisted on getting back the small debt that his fellow servant owed him. This was a way of teaching us that when we are forgiven by God we must in turn forgive our neighbour. He taught us to pray "**Forgive us our debts as we forgive those who are indebted to us**" which simply means "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Jesus clearly used the language of commerce to speak of the spiritual relationship between God and us and between us and our neighbour. So on the cross he says *tetelestai* "It is paid in full." Our sins have been completely forgiven. It is finished. So, how do we respond to this last testament of Jesus? Remember, it is not a promise, "Your sins will be forgiven," and it is not a conditional statement, "Your sins are forgiven if...." How do we respond to it? What do we do? All you have to do is to say "Amen ... So be it." All you have to do is to believe that these words apply to you personally, no matter the gravity of the sin that you have been involved in. Your debt has been paid to the full and cancelled no matter how huge the amount you owe. All you have to do is to say "Thank you, Jesus" and learn to be grateful to Jesus all your life. That is why we go to church every Sunday. We go to church to perform the Eucharist which means "thanksgiving". That is why we try to be loving and kind to others. If Jesus has been so loving and kind to me in such a big way, why can't I try to be loving and kind to others in the little things of everyday life. That is why we try to avoid sin. If Jesus has paid all the debt that I owe to God, I must see to it that I do not go about accumulating more debt. As we look up to the cross today and contemplate Jesus dying to make the full payment for our sins, let us thank him, and let us promise him that our whole lives will be one unbroken song of thanksgiving to him who gave his life to make full payment for the immeasurable debt we owe to God. **Fr Nat**

Mass Times & Intentions: 3 April 2026 — 5 April 2026

Fri. 3rd. 9:30am: Good Friday

Sat. 4th. 8:00pm: People of the Parish, Salewa Daramola (Birthday R.I.P.), Vivian Iweka (Thanksgiving & God's mercy)

Sun. 5th. 8.30am: Alex Lobow (God's Blessing, long life, good health and private intentions). 10:00am: Gloria Appiyah (Ann. R.I.P.), 11.30am: Catherine McNicholas (Ann. R.I.P.), Maureen Hynes (R.I.P.), Sarah Ajagbawa (Ann. R.I.P.)

The SICK: Esta Joseph, Rosa Sanctos, Annie O'Kane, Aggrey Michael Davis, Peter Carey, Peter Ageyman, Mario Despisio, Fr. Morty, Joshua Twagira, Darabela Edmund, Margaret Pain, Juliana Charles, Audreh Khan, Ephraim Aluebhosele, Gwen Randall, Chinyere Oburota, Patrick Akanya, Kathy Langridge, Patricia Wocial & Maxine Leech. **ANNIVERSARIES OF DEATH:** Roger Puffett, Simon Blades, Benson Yemi-Oluwasey, Joyce Moodie, John Shanyind, Mrs Heron, Helen Markey, Michael Bereziuk, Felicia Nsiah & Michael Sullivan.



Parish is served by the Congregation of the Holy Spirit (Spiritans)

Parish Priests: Fr. Nathaniel Ewusi CSSp, Fr. Christian Enechukwu CSSp.

Parish Deacon: Rev William Dunphy.

Safeguarding Rep: Una McGill (brockleysg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk).

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday - (10.00am - 1.00pm)

Contact: 73 Comerford Road, Brockley, London SE4 2BA. **Tel:** 020 86911322

Email: brockley@rcaos.org.uk (Reg. Charity No.1173050)

Website: www.stmarymagdalenbrockley.com.

Pastorals/Devotions: Confessions Saturday 11.30am –12noon, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament everyday from 9.00am - 9.30am. Tuesday 10am—11am. **Legion of Mary:** Tuesday 7pm.

Gentle reminders: Please turn off your mobile phones. You have the right to remain silent

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Week and Easter Services:

Good Friday: 3rd of April at 3.00pm (Solemn Good Friday services & Papal Collection for the Holy Places). 7.30pm: Stations of the Cross with the Holy relic of the Cross.

Holy Saturday: 4th April at 8.00pm Easter Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday: 5th April: Sunday Masses at **8.30am; 10.00am & 11.30am.**

Papal collection for the Holy Places of Palestine: The places connected with Our Lord's Passion have always been centres of veneration and pilgrimage. The collection on Good Friday is sent for their upkeep, and to help maintain Christian schooling in the area.

Annual Divine Mercy Novena will start on Friday, the 3rd April, immediately after the Good Friday service. Novena leaflet will be distributed after all the Masses for those interested.

Lent Preparation for Jesus's Passion: You are invited to Lectio Divina, Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Readings, every Wednesday from the 24th February at 7pm to 8pm in the Church, during the of Lenten season. A wonderful opportunity to prepare prayerfully for Holy Week. All welcome.

Confession: Confession is available every Saturday from 11.00am to 12 noon at the presbytery.

Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, July 11th, at St George's Cathedral

If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know as soon as

possible, **and no later than the middle of May**, providing the following details: your names in the format John and Mary Smith, your home address, your parish, and the anniversary you are celebrating, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Spaces are limited. Contact us at mflse@rcaos.org.uk As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Clapham, Brockley.

First Holy Communion Sunday 3rd May: Our candidates will make their First Holy Communion on Sunday the 3rd May at 11.30 Mass. First Holy Communion Celebration in the hall, after Mass until 3pm, provided by the parents.

Confirmation Day: Our confirmands will be confirmed by Canon Victor Darlington on Sunday 28th June at 11.30 Mass. Confirmation Celebration in the hall after Mass until 4pm, provided by the parents.

Visiting the sick: If you are aware of any parishioner who is sick, housebound or in a nursing home, please give their name to one of the clergy or send an email to the Parish office.

Tea and Coffee: There is tea and coffee in the small hall, (access through the gate to the left of the church), after 10am and 11.30am Mass. Everyone is welcome.

Masses can be booked by telephone on 020 86911322, or by email at brockley@rcaos.org.uk. Mass offerings can be made online to the parish account.. Account name: RCAS Brockley, NatWest, Account Number: 79143962, Sort code 605001

“Brothers and sisters, let us look at the crucifix ... our hope is there.” *Pope Francis*

• Parish Prayer •

God our Father, we give you thanks and praise for calling us to share in the fullness of life and love that Jesus won for us.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon our parish community. Changed by your Spirit may we become a community of disciples, attentive to the needs of all who come through our doors, and even those who don't.

We pray for your blessing upon every person in our parish community, and on all who live in and around our parish.

May they know your love, your presence, and your power in their lives.

For all who are struggling at this moment, we ask that you enter their lives and lift them.

May our parish become a place of adoration, where the hungry are fed, the sick are healed, the bereaved are comforted, and all are made whole.

Softener our hearts to your will. Make us open to what you desire to do in and through our parish, and give us the courage and strength to follow your call.

We make this prayer in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Saint Mary Magdalen, pray for us.