

## **Irreplaceable Maddy Photos Stolen from Father**

**June 20, 2007, by Richard Edwards in Praia da Luz**

*Mr McCann was returning to Britain for only the second time since Madeleine was abducted, 49 days ago, to attend a series of meetings about his global campaign to find the four-year-old.*

*Around an hour after landing at Gatwick Airport, on his way to the meetings in central London, his wallet was stolen from his backpocket at a cashpoint at Waterloo station.*

*Inside were two "treasured" photos he has kept on him throughout the ordeal and not released to the media.*

*One picture is said to show Madeleine at 15-months-old while the other was taken in church more recently.*

*Susan Healey, the mother of Mrs McCann, said it was "yet another kick in the teeth".*

*She added: "It contained precious photographs which have now been lost forever."*

*Philomena McCann, his sister, said that after all the goodwill directed towards Mr McCann and his family in Portugal, the theft in London was a "demoralising" sign of the times.*

*She explained that Mr McCann, who is due to return to Portugal tonight, had taken £100 out of an ATM and had the wallet snatched from his back pocket.*

*The 48-year-old teacher from Glasgow said: "There were two pictures, special ones that Gerry always kept with him, showing Madeleine and the wens. They were his favourites, really treasured pictures. They are irreplaceable.*

*"He bent down to put something in his rucksack and some dirty animal had the wallet out of his back pocket.*

*"We don't care about the money, but we do care about getting the pictures back."*

*She added: "How can you do that to someone who's been through what he has? He's already demoralised enough and to be put on the back foot like this, you can't believe some people can stoop so low.*

*"The whole family have been overwhelmed by the support and affection from all around the world, but it takes just one rotten article to bring you down. How can you be so selfish?*

*"I hope whoever took the wallet is so ashamed when they realise what they've just done that they get those pictures back to us as soon as possible.*

*"He's desperate to get them back because they're precious to him.*

*"They can contact any member of the family, or go through the website, hand it in to a police station, anything. We just want them back as soon as possible."*

*In an eventful trip, it emerged that Mr McCann, a cardiologist, had also come to the assistance of a stricken passenger during the inward EasyJet flight from Faro to Gatwick Airport yesterday morning.*

*He [wrote on his blog on the official findmadeleine.com website](#): "I flew in to London to for a series of meetings. Helped a passenger on the flight who collapsed.*

*"He was ill enough to require a full assessment on arrival and went off to hospital in an ambulance."*

*Philomena said: "He told me he'd been called into action on the flight over but he didn't give me any details.*

*"In a situation like that, you just go into your natural modus operandi and help.*

*"It's what you're trained to do, it's who you are. He didn't make a big deal out of it because it's the kind of thing that he does all the time at work."*

*Mr McCann left behind his wife Kate and their twins, Sean and Amelie, to make the trip in which he attended a series of meetings about the Madeleine campaign and interviewed candidates for the role of campaign manager.*

*Writing in his blog, he said: "The role for Kate and I in the campaign will not be nearly be so public. We have to balance any campaigning in the search for Madeleine with protecting Sean and Amelie and making sure their privacy is protected."*

*Mr McCann is still working to a punishing schedule behind the scenes, organising events, writing the daily blog and reading through hundreds of letters still being sent to the family in Praia da Luz every week.*

*A main event is planned for Friday, to mark the 50th day since Madeleine has been missing. The family have organised for 50 green and yellow balloons to be released in more than 50 countries.*

*A spokesperson for EasyJet said Mr McCann saw an elderly gentleman faint midway through the flight and went to his assistance.*

*She said: "Mr McCann saw it happen and volunteered to help. He gave the cabin crew advice on what to do and helped them administer oxygen. We would like to pass on our thanks to Mr McCann for his help."*

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/1555098/Irreplaceable-Maddy-photos-stolen-from-father.html?mobile=true>