

Our Lady Help of Christians

4 Lady Margaret Road, London, NW5 2XT

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The parish is part of Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust (WRCDT)



21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME **23RD AUGUST 2026**

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest
Fr Allan Alvarado Gil
allanalvarado@rcdow.org.uk

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Parish Secretary
Liliana Bragadin
kentishtown@rcdow.org.uk
Parish office open:
Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs
10:00am - 12:00md

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Safeguarding Officer
Claire Betts
kentishtownsg@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

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Masses Times:

Tuesdays to Fridays: 10:00 am

Saturday: 6:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am (Sung Mass)

11:00 am (Family Mass with Children's Liturgy)

Masses during the week are celebrated in the daily Chapel

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Church opening hours:

Tuesdays to Fridays

9:30 am to 4.00 pm

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LAST WEEK COLLECTION

£ 267.94

STANDING ORDERS JULY

£ 4,550.37

CONTACTLESS INCOME JULY

£ 723.27

You are Peter, and I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven (Mt 16:13-20)



Meditation: At an opportune time, Jesus tests his disciples with a crucial question: *Who do men say that I am and who do you say that I am?* He was widely recognized in Israel as a mighty man of God, even being compared with the greatest of the prophets, John the Baptist, Elijah, and Jeremiah. Peter, always quick to respond, exclaimed that he was *the Christ, the Son of the living God.* No mortal being could have revealed this to Peter; but only God.

Cyril of Alexandria (376-444 AD), an early church father comments on Peter's profession of faith in Jesus:

> *Peter did not say "you are a Christ" or "a son of God" but "**the** Christ, **the** Son of God." For there are many christs [meaning anointed ones] by grace, who have attained the rank of adoption [as sons], but [there is] only one who is by nature the Son of God. Thus, using the definite article, he said, the Christ, the Son of God. And in calling him Son of the living God, Peter indicates that Christ himself is life and that death has no authority over him. And even if the flesh, for a short while, was weak and died, nevertheless it rose again, since the Word, who indwelled it, could not be held under the bonds of death. (FRAGMENT 190)*

Jesus plays on Peter's name which is the same word for "rock" in both Aramaic and Greek. To call someone a "rock" is one of the greatest of compliments. The ancient rabbis had a saying that when God saw Abraham, he exclaimed: "I have discovered a rock to found the world upon". Through Abraham God established a nation for himself. Through faith Peter grasped who Jesus truly was. He was the first apostle to recognize Jesus as the Anointed One (Messiah and Christ) and the only begotten Son of God. The New Testament describes the church as a spiritual house or temple with each member joined together as living stones (see 1 Peter 2:5). Faith in Jesus Christ makes us into rocks or spiritual stones.

Jesus then confers on Peter authority to govern the church that Jesus would build, a church that no powers would overcome because it is founded on the rock which is Christ himself. Epiphanius, a 6th century Scripture scholar who also translated many early church commentaries from Greek into Latin, explains the significance of Jesus handing down the "keys of the kingdom":

> *For Christ is a rock which is never disturbed or worn away. Therefore, Peter gladly received his name from Christ to signify the established and unshaken faith of the church... The devil is the gateway of death who always hastens to stir up against the holy church calamities and temptations and persecutions. But the faith of the apostle, which was founded upon the rock of Christ, abides always unconquered and unshaken. And the very keys of the kingdom of the heavens have been handed down so that one whom he has bound on earth has been bound in heaven, and one whom he has set free on earth he has also set free in heaven. (INTERPRETATION OF THE GOSPELS 28)*

The Lord Jesus offers us the gift of unshakeable faith, enduring hope, and unquenchable love - and the joyful boldness to proclaim him as the one true Saviour who brings us the kingdom of God both now and forever. Who do you say he is to yourself and to your neighbour?

Fr Allan

PARISH ACTIVITIES

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TEAS after masses in the Don Bosco Hall:
After 9am Mass every Sunday.
After 11am Mass once a fortnight.

OVER 60's BINGO CLUB

The over 60's Bingo Club will be paused during the month of August. It will restart again on Tuesday 2 September 2026.

FREE HOT LUNCH SERVICE

The free hot lunch service on Sundays will be stopped during the month of August. It will start again on Sunday 6 September 2026.

REPOSITORY

The repository is open after 11.00 o'clock mass on Sundays.

OFFICE CLOSURE

The office will be closed until Monday 24th August 2026.

There will be no one available to handle hall bookings, mass intentions and any other parish business during these dates. The mailbox will be checked rarely, too. If you have any urgent matter, please contact Fr Allan directly at allanalvarado@rcdow.org.uk.

PARISH REGISTRATION 2026

We are updating our parish records to get an accurate sense of how many parishioners are currently in the community and who has recently relocated.

To help us maintain precise records and offer better support, we kindly ask everyone to update their details.

Who Needs to Fill Out the Form?
Everyone: Even if you have been in the parish for decades (including those who have been here since the parish moved from Falkland Road) or have just arrived.

Families with children: This is especially important so we don't miss you during the key steps of the Christian life.

Please, when submitting your details, use **CAPITAL LETTERS** when filling out the form and ensure all contact details (email, phone number, address) are double-checked. Thank you.

CONTACTLESS



Our Machine is not working, please donate by scanning the QR code with your phone.

Thank you.

MASS INTENTIONS

Date	Time	Intention
Sat 22nd	6:00 pm	Daphney McIntosh (RIP)
Sun 23rd	9:00 am	Joseph Do & Maria Nguyen (RIP)
	11:00 am	For the People of the Parish
Tues 25th	10:00 am	
Wed 26th	10:00 am	
Thu 27th	10:00 am	Aru Family
Fri 28th	10:00 am	
Sat 29th	6:00 pm	For the People of the Parish

WORLD WIDE ROSARY

Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden
Wednesday 26th August at 3:00pm

Radio Maria UK is hosting a World-Wide Rosary on Wednesday, 26th August at 3:00pm at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden. The Rosary will be broadcast live across our network of Radio Maria stations worldwide, with almost a billion people praying together. We warmly invite pilgrims to join us at the Shrine and bring their voices to this extraordinary moment of global prayer.

Further information is available at www.RadioMaria.uk.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES 2026-2027
ST DOMINIC'S

The Confirmation session for 2026-27 will take a different approach. The course will still take place at St Dominic's but will start in September 2026. It will last 30 minutes per session and will run from September 2026 to May 2027. Each session will be on Sundays between 10am and 12 noon Masses (the precise starting time will be communicated later).

The decision was made as the catechists have noticed that the catechism sessions are longer than lessons would be in school and that a longer course with shorter sessions might help keep children's attention better, encourage them to get to know others in the group more, and be less of a problem with absences unlike on a shorter course. The confirmation Mass will be Pentecost next year.

Anyone who wants to register please talk to Fr Allan or get in touch with the office. Thank you.

SUNDAY MASS READINGS



Scan the QR code with your Phone