

## Presbytery

Peter Avenue, Willesden Green,  
London, NW10 2DD

Tel: 020 8451 4677

[rcdow.org.uk/parish/willesdengreen](http://rcdow.org.uk/parish/willesdengreen)

Facebook: St Mary Magdalen RC  
Church Willesden Green

## Parish Clergy

Father Kevin Jordan  
[kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk)

Father Ashley Vincent

Seminarian Tim Mangatal  
[timmangatal@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:timmangatal@rcdow.org.uk)

## Parish Office

[willesdengreen@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:willesdengreen@rcdow.org.uk)



## ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

FEBRUARY —MONTH OF  
THE HOLY FAMILY

4 February 2018

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
YEAR B

## Mass Times

Monday—Thursday: 9:30am

Friday: 9:30am  
6:30pm

Saturday: 9:30am, 6:30pm (Vigil  
Mass of Sunday)

Sunday: 9:00am, 10:30am,  
12:00 noon, 6:30pm

## Sinhalese Mass

Last Sunday of the month: 4:30pm

## Eucharistic Adoration

Weekdays: One hour before  
morning Mass

Saturday: 8:30am—9:30am  
5:30pm—6:15pm

First Friday: 7:00pm—8:00pm

## Confessions

Saturday: 10:00am—10:30am  
5:30pm—6:15pm

## Last Words

Some of you might have noticed that our crib was only taken down on Thursday 1 February. This is because the Holy Family remained in Bethlehem until 40 days after the birth of our Saviour. Then, in accordance with the law, they made the five mile journey to the temple in Jerusalem where Jesus was presented to the Lord and our Blessed Lady was purified, both through a ritual offering. And at that moment, Simeon declared the Christ-child to be the salvation of Israel and the light for all the nations of the world.

It is an extraordinary feast because of Simeon's great proclamation, the *Nunc Dimittis* or dismissal (which the Church says at night prayer each evening), proclaiming to God that His good priestly servant Simeon is happy to be called from this world for he has, literally, seen it all—the ultimate hope for the future in this tiny child.

Moreover, it is extraordinary in that the creature—Mary, conceived without sin—holds her creator—the Word made flesh—but then hands Him over to Simeon who is tainted with original sin. What an extraordinary exchange! And this is continued today insofar as the priest holds the Body of Christ and the Lord is then given to each of us in Holy Communion. Could there ever be a more gracious and loving gift from God?

It is a reminder to us of what we receive in Holy Communion—the very means of our salvation, He who takes away our sins. What reverence and awe we should show at that intimate moment. And yet it is all too often marked with the realisation that Mass will soon be over and we can “get on” with our daily lives. Instead, let us be resolved to ponder, that like Simeon, this could be our last Communion—would we want it to be rushed or to pass us by like just “another” thing we had to do today?

Soon we will begin the season of Lent which will end with the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Once more that venerable body will be held by sinners, the guards, but this time roughly and it will be battered beyond recognition. After Christ's death His Blessed Mother will hold her son only for the second time in the Scriptures (as depicted in the *pieta*, so beautifully restored to its original state). This time however it will not be a sweet-looking child but a young man marked with the hatred of humanity. And the other part of Simeon's prophecy will come true—a sword will pierce her heart.

As we hold that Body today, let us consider how our sins have pierced that Sacred Heart of Jesus which loves us so tenderly: yet He still gives Himself to us, the light for each of us and the whole world. What better last thought, last prayer, last word. *Fr Kevin*

**Those who have died recently:** Ewan Rose, Maura Naughton, Bose Yesufu, Walter Strang, Milton Perera, Catherine Godfrey

**Those who are sick:** Valerie Crain, Sam Samaden, Agnes Trimble

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Maureen Jarmulowicz, Bridget McNulty, Danny Riordan, Dolores Kane, John Wallace, Daniel English, John Boland, Lucita Benoit

## Parish News

**Collection.** Last week's collection was £2,233.74 (excluding standing orders). Thank you very much for your generosity.

**Children's Calendars for Lent** are available—please take one home with you and carry out the suggested activities. Adults, please think about and plan your extra prayer, fasting and almsgiving for Lent *now* to make the most of this holy season.

**Day of Recollection for Readers and Extraordinary Ministers** takes place on Saturday 17 February 2018. This day aims to provide the time and space to reflect on the importance of proclaiming the Word of God worthily and an opportunity for all to deepen their love of the Blessed Sacrament especially those who are Extraordinary Ministers. If you are unable to attend please make sure you speak with Seminarian Tim. For more details please take a copy of the flyer at the back of the Church.

**Ash Wednesday** is on 14 February. The ashes are made by burning the palms from the previous year as a symbol of how quickly we move from acclaiming Christ as our King to turning against Him by our sins. Therefore it makes the symbolism deeper if we make our own ashes so please bring your palms to the church during the week or to Mass next weekend and they will be burned after 12 Mass on Sunday 11 February.

**Newsletter/Order of Mass leaflet.** Please take your newsletter home with you after Mass and share it with family and friends. Order of Mass leaflets should be returned to the racks either at the back of the church or in the side porch. Thank you.

**Parish Newsletter.** Any notices for the weekly Sunday newsletter should be given to the Parish Office by Thursday noon. Thank you for your kind cooperation.

## Diocesan News

**Marriage and Family Life.** UK Marriage Week runs from 7 to 14 February each year. The theme for 2018 is Think Ahead! Focus on Planning Your Future Together. For further information visit <http://marriageweek.org.uk> or Marriage and Family Life web pages at <http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese/marriage-and-family-life/resources/> for up and coming news.

**Mental Health Awareness** course takes place on Saturday 17 February, 11:00am—4:00pm, with Fr Malachy Keegan at the Mount Street Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, W1K 3AH. In today's world, mental health is increasingly being seen as of equal importance to physical health. The course will be a beginner's guide to mental health awareness. It will explain, in simple terms, the process of healthy and happy human development from early to later life, what might go wrong, and how the damage can be repaired. It will be of particular use to anyone who works with people in a pastoral or caring situation. For more information please visit the website at [pathwaystogod.org](http://pathwaystogod.org) or telephone 020 7495 1673.

**Cardinal's Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony Westminster Cathedral** takes place on Saturday 19 May 2018 at 3:00pm. The Cardinal will be inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese who are celebrating their 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2018. During the liturgy the couples will be invited, in a simple way, to renew their marital commitment and we shall pray for them and their families. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your details to the Parish Office including husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) by Friday 23 March 2018.

**The World Meeting of Families (WMOF) 2018** was started by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1994 and is held every three years. This major world event celebrates the family as the cornerstone of our lives and the fundamental building block of society and the Church. In 2015 this event was held in Philadelphia when over a million people attended the final event of the programme. At the end of the concluding Mass in Philadelphia Pope Francis announced that the next WMOF would take place in Dublin on 21—26 August 2018. The Diocese of Westminster are looking to take a group of participants from across parishes and communities. To find out registration details and general information on the WMOF 2018 please email [family@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:family@rcdow.org.uk) or telephone 020 7931 6064 and speak with Charlotte.

## Parish Diary

Monday	5:30pm— 6:30pm	First Holy Communion class at St Mary Magdalen's Junior School
Monday	7:00pm	Prayer Group—Annexe
Tuesday	7:00pm— 8:30pm	Confirmation class at St Mary Magdalen's Junior School
Thursday	7:15pm	SVP—Annexe
Friday	7:00pm	Knights of <i>St Columba</i> —Annexe
Saturday	3:00pm— 5:00pm	"The Feast London" - a Catholic prayer meeting of the Light of Jesus Family in the Annexe

## Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation

Antiphon: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the Light of the World, says the Lord, anyone who follows Me will have the light of life. Alleluia!