

Presbytery

Peter Avenue, Willesden Green,
London, NW10 2DD
Tel: 020 8451 4677

Parish Website:

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

Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/
marymagwillesdengreen/](https://www.facebook.com/marymagwillesdengreen/)

YouTube:

[St Mary Magdalene's RC Church,
Willesden, London](#)

Parish Clergy

Monsignor Roger Reader KHS
rogerreader@rcdow.org.uk

Father Sudham Perera
sudhamperera@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Office

willesdengreen@rcdow.org.uk

Office hours:

Tuesday—Friday
10:00am—2:00pm

Mass Times

Saturday: 6:30pm (Vigil Mass of
Sunday)

Sunday: 9:00am, 10:30am & 12noon

Monday—Wednesday 9:30am

Thursday: Closed for 'deep cleaning'

Friday: 9:30am

Saturday 9:30am & 6:30pm

Church closes after all Masses

Individual Prayer with Eucharistic Adoration

Weekdays (except Thursdays)
and Saturdays:

One hour before morning Mass
and Friday 6:00pm—7:30pm

Confession

At Call



ST MARY MAGDALEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH

OCTOBER—MONTH OF

THE HOLY ROSARY

11 October 2020

**28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A**



The early church was no stranger to plagues, epidemics, and mass hysteria. In fact, according to both Christian and also non-Christian accounts, one of the main catalysts for the church's explosive growth in its early years was how Christians navigated disease, suffering, and death. The church's posture made such a strong impression on Roman society that even pagan Roman emperors complained to pagan priests about their declining numbers, telling them to step up their game.

So what did Christians do differently that shook the Roman Empire? And what can the early church teach us in light of the coronavirus?

In AD 249 to 262, Western civilization was devastated by one of the deadliest pandemics in its history. The non-Christian response to the plague was characterised by self-protection, self-preservation, and avoiding the sick at all costs. The Christian response was the opposite. The plague served as a "schooling and testing" for Christians.

Most of our brother-Christians showed unbounded love and loyalty, never sparing themselves and thinking only of others. Heedless of the danger, they took charge of the sick, attending to their every need and ministering to them in Christ. With them they departed this life serenely happy. For they were infected by others with the disease, drawing on themselves the sickness of their neighbours and cheerfully accepting their pains.

As we continue to wrestle with how to respond to the coronavirus, notice how non-Christians in the Roman Empire emphasised self preservation while the early church emphasised fearless, sacrificial service. Non-Christians fled from epidemics and abandoned their sick loved ones as they feared the unknown, Christians marched into epidemics and served both Christians and also non-Christians, seeing their own suffering as an opportunity to spread the gospel and model Christlike love.

Fr. Sudham.

Those who are sick: Kathleen Flynn, Nuala Murphy, Noreen Joy

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary Whelton, Bridget Mulhern, Michael Barrett,

Alberto Chiappetta, Gilda Falcone

Those Baptised: Heather Rosh Kennedy, Alesha Grace Pelawaththa Vithanage

Parish News

Collection. Last week's collection was £1,132.84 (excluding standing orders). Standing orders for September amounted to £3,504.00. Thank you for your generosity.

Sheila O'Callaghan and Family wish to thank everyone who sent messages of support and prayers during Sheila's recent illness. A Mass will be offered for your intentions on Wednesday 9 December 2020 at 9:30am.

CAFOD Family Fast Day. This week our parish is marking CAFOD's Family Fast Day to help people facing the worst of the coronavirus crisis. We've all felt the impact of this terrible disease – let's come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild and heal. Please pray for all those affected. Collection buckets are available on the table as you leave church today or you can donate online at: <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-CAFOD>. You can also give via text.

Text CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10. *Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about CAFOD'S work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text CAFODNOINFO to 70085.* Please also see the following link to the Coronavirus Appeal video:

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/453718072/66db9d386d>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/5GagOhIBb8Y>.

Confirmation 2020. By now all our Confirmation candidates' parents should have received an email informing them of the forthcoming Confirmation Mass Dates. If you have not received the email please do let Kathleen in the parish office know. Please reply to the email no later than Tuesday 13 October. We look forward to celebrating this sacrament, and we ask that you keep our young people in your prayers.

Registration for First Holy Communion/Confirmation 2021 is now available. All children due to receive First Holy Communion (currently year three and above) and make their Confirmation (currently year nine and above) next year (2021) will need to register online. Please visit the parish website at: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/willesdengreen/> for full details. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the office and we will arrange to post a form to you. Forms must be submitted no later than 12 noon on Friday 16 October. Once your registration is complete you will receive an email confirmation from the parish office.

We are looking for catechists/volunteers to assist with both our First Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes in 2021 and would encourage parents whose children are preparing for these sacraments to consider putting their names forward. Full training will be given. Please speak with Monsignor Roger after Mass.

Roman Catholic Secondary School and Sixth Form Applications. Next Saturday 17 October and Sunday 18 October from 2:00pm until 4:00pm Monsignor Roger will be available to sign the Certificate of Catholic Practice form for those who attend Mass here every week and have done so for some years. Newer parishioners should bring a letter from their previous parish.

Monsignor Roger will see you on a first come first served basis. Appointments will take place in the Sacristy so please come into the church at the step-free access door by the Grotto, not Clergy House, and take a seat. Please bring with you a Certificate of Catholic Practice form for each school you are applying for. The form can be obtained by visiting the Diocese of Westminster website at [rcdow.org.uk](https://education.rcdow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/certificate-of-catholic-practice-1.pdf) or at the following link: <https://education.rcdow.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/certificate-of-catholic-practice-1.pdf> Please complete the top half of each form before your appointment. Masks should be worn and please ensure you bring your own pen. Thank you.

Parish Office. In response to the Coronavirus pandemic the Parish Office will be closed to personal callers until further notice. If you have an enquiry please either telephone 020 8451 4677 or email willesdengreen@rcdow.org.uk.

Diocesan News

October Devotion at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden on Sunday 11 October at 7:00pm. There will be Rosary, Homily – Br Andrew Brookes OP, and Benediction. Music sung by the Shrine Singers: Ave Verum & Tantum Ergo – Faure, Laudate Dominum-Perosi, Salve Regina- Solemn Tone. The Devotion will be livestreamed on the parish website at: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/willesden/> and on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/willesden.shrine>

Sunday Reflections for October, are kindly produced by Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz, for 'The God Who Speaks' initiative. Please see below the reflection for Sunday 11 October. For more information on the 'The God Who Speaks' please visit the website: <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/> Also, see the updated website for further resources and ideas <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>

Meditate: "Blessed are those invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb" (Rev 19:9). The Bible describes heaven as a wedding. Jesus is the groom, who loves us and makes us ready for that feast day through our lives. We are invited to get ready so that, ultimately, we can accept that invitation and thus enter the feast of heaven.

Act: Some of those invited has excuses to avoid going to the wedding. Many a times we also have excuses not to spend time with the Lord. Think of the excuses you make and perhaps try to give them up.

Readings at Mass

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6–10

Psalm Response: In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

Second Reading: St Paul to the Philippians 4:12–14. 19–20

Alleluia Verse: The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God.

Gospel: Matthew 22:1–14