

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/)

YouTube:

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

Facebook:

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

Parish Clergy

Monsignor Roger Reader KHS
rogerreader@rcdow.org.uk

Father Mark Dunglinson
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Father Sudham Perera
sudhamperera@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Office

willesdengreen@rcdow.org.uk

Tuesday—Friday

10:00am—2:00pm

Mass Times

Saturday 6:30pm (Vigil Mass of
Sunday)

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

Monday— Friday 9:30am

Saturday: 9:30am & 6:30pm

Church closes after all Public Masses

Mass Online

Masses are livestreamed on our
YouTube channel: [St Mary Magdalen
RC Church, Willesden, London -
YouTube](#). Masses are normally live
streamed Monday to Saturday at
9:30am and Sunday at 9:00am.

Individual Prayer with Eucharistic Adoration

Weekdays and Saturday: One hour
before morning Mass

Confession

At Call



ST MARY MAGDALEN
CATHOLIC CHURCH
FEBRUARY —MONTH OF
THE HOLY FAMILY
21 February 2021
1st Sunday of Lent
Year B

.....and your Father who sees all that is done in secret
will reward you.



According to health experts fasting promotes blood sugar control, improves blood pressure and cholesterol levels, boosts brain function, aids weight loss, delays aging.

However, fasting is not about burning calories, losing weight and looking slim.

*"Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn to the LORD your God: for He is **gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness**" (Joel 2:13)*

Fasting is repentance, a complete change of heart and one's way of life. It's not all about food then. It's giving up things that will lead you to **grace, mercy, love and kindness**.

Giving up mobile phones, gossiping in social media, playing computer games, excessive watching of TV dramas, movies and music videos.

It is giving more time to your husband, wife, children, parents, relatives, friends and neighbours.

Happy Fasting!

Father Sudham

Those who have died recently: Michael O'Beirne, Frank Lydon, Paulina Joseph, Maureen Lynch, Mary Newby, Catherine & Jim Palmer, Phyllis Gibson, Marie Steward, John Cronin

Those who are sick: Jerome Hayes,

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Fr Mick Lally, Finbar (Barry) O'Shea, May McClay, John Niland, Jose Manuel Montoya, Adiel Ramirez, Claudette Bird

Parish News

Collection of 7 February 2021 amounted to £908.46. Standing orders for January amounted to £3,543.00. Thank you.

Welcome to our New-Look Newsletter. All the information you are used to in the newsletter is still here, that hasn't changed. But you will see that there is extra material - some articles of interest on the front page, and then the readings for Sunday Mass on the back page. I really hope this will help you to share more in the Mass. Please always take the newsletter home with you - there's even more reason now as you can read the front page and maybe pray your way through the readings on the back page. The newsletter is also posted each week on the parish website at: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/willesdengreen/parish-newsletters-2021/>

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2021. Cardinal Nichols thanks you for your generous support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal, especially throughout the unprecedented events of 2020. Your donations help fund initiatives in parishes, schools and charities in three mission areas which are more critical than ever. Marriage and Family Life: enriching and supporting marriages, the essential building block of society and the Church. Youth and Evangelisation: helping young people, the future of the Church, as they grow in their relationship with God and deepen their Catholic faith. Caritas Westminster: putting our faith into action by serving those in need. Education Service: supporting our schools. This year, the Cardinal is asking us to think about families who are struggling to put food on the table. Poverty is deepening across our Diocese and the need for foodbanks and supermarket vouchers has accelerated. Through your generosity we're continuing to provide food for those people most in need. Please take a donation envelope which are on the tables as you leave church today. You can also use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

CAFOD Family Fast Day is on Friday 26 February 2021. CAFOD's Family Fast Day is an opportunity to reach out to some of the poorest, most marginalised of our sisters and brothers. Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Please give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support. Please donate online at www.cafod.org.uk/give or by using one of the CAFOD envelopes which are on the tables as you leave church today.

Lent Stations of the Cross. Father Mark invites you to pray the Stations of the Cross on Fridays, during Lent. Simply log on to our *YouTube* page at: [St Mary Magdalen's RC Church, Willesden, London](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jz2OaOYtcY) or alternatively please click on this link: <https://youtu.be/5jz2OaOYtcY> where you will see either Fr. Roger, Mark or Sudham in a video made available for you. All are welcome.

Pray the Rosary together. Father Mark invites you to pray the Holy Rosary with him on Friday evenings from 6:30pm to 7:00pm during the lockdown period. Simply log on to our *Facebook* page: <https://www.facebook.com/marymagwillesdengreen/> All are welcome.

Turn off notifications. Try Alpha Online

Youth Alpha (for the recently confirmed) begins on Thursday 25th February at 7pm on Zoom.

Registration and details available by contacting:
willesdengreenalpha@rcdow.org.uk

#AlphaOnline



Lenten Prayer

Lord God,
With all our hearts we beseech you: have mercy on your people;
spare your people;
strengthen all people in the struggle against the havoc of this pandemic.
Lord our God, without you we are so weak and our courage so limited.
Give us your strength; give us your love; give us wisdom and skill to continue this fight.
Spare your people, O Lord we pray. Comfort those who mourn and gather into your kingdom all who have died.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, who died and rose to life,
who lives and reigns with you, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Funeral Notice

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late Francis 'Frank' Lydon will take place on Tuesday 23 February at 12 noon followed by burial at Carpenters Park at 1:45pm.
Funeral arrangements are made in accordance with the protocols necessary due to the coronavirus pandemic.
May he rest in peace

Diocesan News

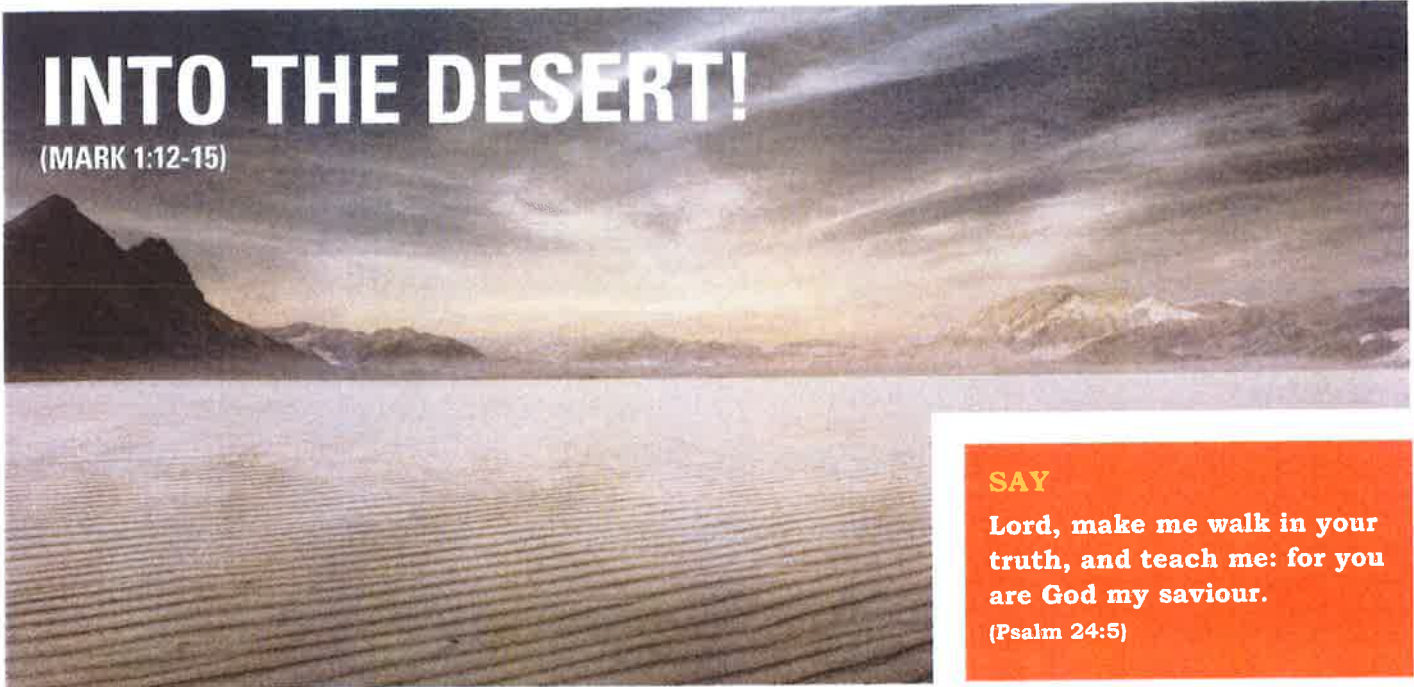
'Journeying with the Bible' is a series of lectures given by Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz PhD and Sr Monica Cardona STL: 23 February - Catholic Letters, 9 March - Apocalypse. Register at: catadmin@rcdow.org.uk.

Saints & Blesseds of Catechesis. Monthly online reflection for Catechists - Tuesday 2 March: Katharine Drexel. Register at: catadmin@rcdow.org.uk.

'Year of St Joseph' - On the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St Joseph as 'Patron of the Catholic Church' by Blessed Pius IX, Pope Francis has proclaimed 'A Year of St Joseph' from 8 December 2020 to 8 December 2021. For more information please visit: <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/news/st-joseph/>, which includes details of a St Joseph Novena from 11-18 March.

INTO THE DESERT!

(MARK 1:12-15)



Jesus' forty-day stay in the desert follows immediately the story of his baptism; at that event, the Spirit comes upon him and he is revealed as the Son of God.

It is this Spirit which drives him, almost violently, out into the wilderness. It is better that we appreciate this episode as Jesus "being tested", rather than "being tempted": in modern speech temptation is usually associated with sin, or at least with something wrong or not quite right. It is much more serious than that: it centres on how Jesus understands what it means to be the Son of God. Before Jesus begins his public ministry, it is important that he be put to this test. We might note that although Satan is mentioned, Satan is merely the agent, the means: it is the Spirit who subjects Jesus to the ordeal.

Unlike Matthew and Luke, Mark gives us no details about Jesus' struggle, he simply reports the fact. Jesus' fast of forty days recalls those of Moses and Elijah: the mention of the number forty also evokes the memory of Israel's experience in the desert during the Exodus journey, during which the people were tested "to see what was in their heart". Wild beasts are often associated in the Bible with powers opposed to God, but there is also a positive vision of human beings living peacefully with such other creatures. Later in Mark, the evangelist will present the vision of a new creation.

Once Jesus has passed the test, he is ready to undertake his mission of proclaiming the kingdom of God and sets off into Galilee. ■

REFLECT

What are you giving up for Lent? Perhaps someone has asked you this already. Many people see Lent as an endurance test: if they manage to reach Easter with their resolution intact, they can take some pride in the fact; if they have broken their resolution, they can feel downhearted and defeated – again! But this is to miss the point: such an attitude is, literally, self-centred – we are concentrated on ourselves and our own efforts, whereas

the season of Lent is all about ourselves and our relationship with God.

One of the purposes of fasting is to make us more spiritually aware: the less our body has to do, the more heightened our spiritual senses can be. If we eat or drink less and spend more time in quiet prayer, then all sorts of thoughts will arise in our mind. The lack of distraction can be very unsettling: we may be faced with all sorts of uncomfortable questions that

SAY
Lord, make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour.
(Psalm 24:5)

LEARN

It is better to understand Jesus' experience in the desert as his being "tested" rather than "tempted".

Fasting is a means of heightening our spiritual awareness and perception.

It is the Spirit which puts Jesus to the test: Satan is simply the means by which this is achieved.

DO

Prepare a container of some sort for the money you will save from your Lenten penance. One of the practices of Lent is almsgiving; what we put aside, we are supposed to give to charity, which is the modern form of almsgiving.

we would rather not think about. It might help us to remember that even Jesus had to struggle with questions about himself before he could embark on his public mission as the Son of God empowered by the Spirit. We are daughters and sons of God through baptism: this Lent, the Spirit is asking us to reflect on how we each understand that truth. Difficult, perhaps, but worth the effort. ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.**

COLLECT

Grant, almighty God,
through the yearly observances of holy Lent,
that we may grow in understanding
of the riches hidden in Christ
and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 9:8-15

A reading from the book of Genesis.

God spoke to Noah and his sons, "See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again."

God said, "Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 24

Response:

**Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love
for those who keep your covenant.**

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:18-22

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people "by water", and when

God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Man does not live on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the
mouth of God.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

GOSPEL

Mark 1:12-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. "The time has come" he said "and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
*(all bow during the next two lines)***

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray,
to make these offerings,
for with them we celebrate the beginning
of this venerable and sacred time.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the
mouth of God.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed now with heavenly bread,
by which faith is nourished, hope increased,

and charity strengthened,
we pray, O Lord,
that we may learn to hunger for Christ,
the true and living Bread,
and strive to live by every word
which proceeds from your mouth.
Amen.

It is the saying of holy men that, if we wish to be perfect, we have nothing more to do than to perform the ordinary duties of the day well. A short road to perfection – short, not because easy, but because pertinent and intelligible. There are no short ways to perfection, but there are sure ones.

St John Henry Newman

