Presbytery

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

Parish Website: <u>https://</u> parish.rcdow.org.uk/willesdengreen/

YouTube: <u>St Mary Magdalen's RC</u> Church, Willesden, London

Facebook: <u>https://www.facebook.com/</u> <u>marymagwillesdengreen/</u>

Parish Clergy Monsignor Roger Reader KCHS rogerreader@rcdow.org.uk

Father Allan Alvarado Gil <u>allanalvarado@rcdow.org.uk</u>

Father Ruwan Deshapriya <u>ruwanhp@rcdow.org.uk</u>

# **Parish Office**

Parish Administrator: Kathleen Reddington <u>willesdengreen@rcdow.org.uk</u> Parish office open: Tuesday-Friday 10:00am - 2:00pm

This Parish is part of Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No: 233699

# Mass Times

Saturday 6:30pm (Vigil Mass of Sunday) Sunday: 9:00am, 10:30am (Includes Children's Liturgy)12noon & 6:30pm Monday— Friday: 9:30am Saturday: 9:30am & 6:30pm

## **Eucharistic Adoration**

Weekdays and Saturday: One hour before morning Mass

# Confession

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





## ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH December — Month of The immaculate Conception 4th Sunday of Advent 18 December - Year A

#### How Jesus Christ came to be born (Mt 1:18-24)

**Meditation:** Do you hold on to the promises of God at all times, especially when you are faced with uncertainty or adversity? The prophet Isaiah spoke words of hope in a hopeless situation for Israel. When Ahaz, the apostate king of Judah and heir to the throne of David (735 B.C.) was surrounded by forces that threatened to destroy him and his people, God offered him a sign to reassure him that God would not abandon the promise he made to David and his descendants. King Ahaz, however, had lost hope in God and refused to ask for a sign of favour. God, nonetheless, gave a sign to assure his people that he would indeed give them a Saviour who would rule with peace and righteousness (Is 7:11ff). Like the prophet Isaiah we are called "in hope to believe against hope" (Rm 4:18) that God can and will fulfil all his promises.

Mary was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit. Mary had to face an enormous challenge to her faith and trust in God and to the faith of her family and Joseph, the man she chose to marry. She was asked to assume a burden of tremendous responsibility. It had never been heard of before that a child could be born without a natural father. Mary was asked to accept this miraculous exception to the laws of nature. That required faith and trust in God and in his promises. Second, Mary was not yet married. Pregnancy outside of wedlock was not tolerated in those days. Mary was only espoused to Joseph, and such an engagement had to last for a whole year. She was asked to assume a great risk. She could have been rejected by Joseph, by her family, by all her own people. Mary knew that Joseph and her family would not understand without revelation from God. She nonetheless believed and trusted in God's promises.

Joseph believed the angel's message "that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit" Joseph, a just and God-fearing man, did not wish to embarrass or punish his espoused wife, Mary when he discovered that she was pregnant. To all appearances she had broken their solemn pledge to be faithful and chaste to one another. Joseph, no doubt took this troubling matter to God in prayer. He was not hasty to judge or to react with hurt and anger. God rewarded him not only with guidance and consolation, but with the divine assurance that he had indeed called Joseph to be the husband of Mary and to assume a mission that would require the utmost faith, confidence, and trust in Almighty God. Joseph believed in the divine message to take Mary as his wife and to accept the child in her womb as the promised Messiah.

A model of faith for us. Like Mary, Joseph is a model of faith for us. He is a faithful witness and servant of God's unfolding plan of redemption. Are you ready to believe in the promises of God, even when faced with perplexing circumstances and what seems like insurmountable problems? God has not left us alone, but has brought us his only begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Let us celebrate Christmas, the feast of the Incarnation, with joyful hearts and let us renew our faith and hope in God and in his redeeming work.

Prayer. Lord Jesus, you came to save us from sin and the power of death. May I alwaysrejoice in your salvation and trust in your divine plan for my life. $\mathcal{F}r$  Allan

**Those who are sick:** Jim Feeney, Monica Lynch, James & Gareth Hayes, Peter Corcoran

**Those who have died recently:** Maryse Zarzycka, Michael (Mick) Flynn

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Ciaran Mallon, Lola Toyloy, T J Ryan, Denis Mulligan

## **Parish News**

**Collection 4 December 2022** amounted to £1,368.01. Standing orders for October amounted to £3,814.00. Thank you.

**Christmas Offering Envelopes** are available on the table as you leave church today. Your Christmas offering goes towards paying the stipends of your priests.

Donations for 'Christmas Offering' along with 'General' donations and payment for 'Candles' can be made on our contactless terminal located at the back of the church.

**Christmas Nativity Play.** This will take place within the 6:30pm Vigil Mass (First Mass of Christmas) on Saturday 24 December. We are looking for children from Reception to Year 6 to take part. Parents/carers are also welcome to help. Miss Cox from St Mary Magdalen's school will be holding a Nativity play rehearsal in the church on Wednesday 21 December at 11:00am. We are looking for as many children as possible to attend this rehearsal and be part of this years Christmas Nativity Play.

**Christmas Rotas.** If you have not already done so, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and readers should indicate their availability on the lists at the back of the church. Servers should check with their parents and then indicate their availability on the list in the sacristy. Thank you for your ministry throughout the year.

**The 'Tree of Light'** is in place opposite the Lady Chapel. The 'Tree of Light is a perfect way this Christmas, after another difficult year, to remember a loved one who has passed away, to wish someone good luck for the New Year or for any other intention you may wish to pray for. Please bring your own completed label with you, to attach to the tree.

**Crib Offering 2022.** This Christmas our crib offering will be donated to the *Catholic Children's Society* to support their work with disadvantaged children and families. This will help provide family support, emergency grants and mental health services for vulnerable children in our Diocese.

**Cash Counters.** A new rota has been emailed to you. Paper copies are available upon request.

**Epiphany of the Lord** is on Friday 6 January 2023. Masses will be at 9:30am and 7:00pm. Bishop John Sherrington will be celebrating the 7:00pm Mass on this day.

Parish Database. All parishioners, both old and new, should complete a parish registration form. If you have registered previously, and your personal contact information has changed, please complete another form as General Data Protection Regulations requires us to ensure all data held is up to date and accurate. Registration forms can be found in the rack in the side porch or at the back of the church. Completed forms should be posted through the door of the Presbytery. Thank you.

**Parish Newsletter.** All notices for the weekly newsletter should be received no later than 12 noon Wednesdays. Please take your newsletter home with you after Mass and share it with friends and family. It can also be viewed online at: <u>https://</u> parish.rcdow.org.uk/willesdengreen/parish-newsletters-2022/



## **Christmas Mass Times**

Please note that Christmas Masses will be as follows:

- Saturday 24 December 2022—6:30pm Mass (First Mass of Christmas) with Nativity play.
- Saturday 24 December 2022—Carols at 9:30pm followed by Mass at 10:00pm.
- Sunday 25 December 2022, Masses at 9:00am, 10:30am and 12 noon. There is no evening Mass.

Any of the above Masses will fulfil the Christmas obligation.

**Christmastide 2022 and New Year 2023.** Leaflets giving the times of Masses and other services over this period are available in the racks at the back of the church or in the porch.

## **Diocesan News**

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December 2022. For voluntary not-for-profit organisations: We pray that volunteers and not-for-profit organisations committed to human development may find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international co-operation.

**Christmas Celebration.** The annual Christmas Celebration concerts at Westminster Cathedral will take place this year on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st December. For tickets visit: www.westminstercathedral.org.uk.

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#### Mass Intentions Week commencing 18 December 2022

S	Saturday	6:30pm	People of the Parish	Ints
S	Sunday	9:00am	T J Ryan	Anniv
		10:30am	Patrick & Margaret Normoyle	Anniv
		12 noon	Ciaran Mallon	Anniv
		6:30pm	Denis Mulligan	Anniv
1	Monday	9:30am	Teresa Costello	Ints
<i>'</i> .	Гuesday	9:30am	Tim Kelleher	Ints
١	Wednesday	9:30am	Egidio Adelino Carvalho	RIP
Ϊ.	Thursday	9:30am	Margaret Mitchell	Ints
I	Friday	9:30am	Rodney Paul Mathieu	Ints
S	Saturday	9:30am	Jozsef Dobo	Ints