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> <u>Church, Willesden, London</u>

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

## Parish Clergy

Monsignor Roger Reader KCHS rogerreader@rcdow.org.uk

Father Allan Alvarado Gil allanalvarado@rcdow.org.uk

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 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 4 DECEMBER YEAR A

# The One who follows me will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire (Mt 3:1-12)

**Meditation:** What kind of Messiah did God promise to send to his people and how would he bring God's kingdom to them? The prophet Isaiah foresaw the day when God would raise up a Messianic King long after King David's throne had been overthrown and vacant for centuries. God promised that he would raise up a new king from the stump of Jesse, the father of King David (Isaiah 11:1). This messianic king would rule forever because the Spirit of God would rest upon him and remain with him (Isaiah 11:2).

### A new era of God's restoration begins

Jesus tells us that John the Baptist was more than a prophet (Luke 7:26). John was the voice of the Consoler who is coming (John 1:23; Isaiah 40:1-3). He completed the cycle of prophets begun by Elijah (Matthew 11:13-14). What the prophets had carefully searched for and angels longed to see, now came to completion as John made the way ready for the coming of the Messiah, God's Anointed Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. With John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit begins the restoration to the human race of the "divine likeness", prefiguring what would be achieved with and in the Lord Jesus.

John's baptism was for repentance - turning away from sin and taking on a new way of life according to God's word. Our baptism in Jesus Christ by water and the Spirit results in a new birth and entry into God's kingdom as his beloved sons and daughters (John 3:5). The Lord Jesus gives us the fire of his Spirit so that we may radiate the joy and truth of the Gospel to a world in desperate need of God's light and truth. His word has power to change and transform our lives that we may be lights pointing others to Christ. Like John the Baptist, we too are called to give testimony to the light and truth of Jesus Christ. Do you point others to Christ in the way you live, work, and speak?

## Prayer

Lord, let your light burn brightly in my heart that I may know the joy and freedom of your kingdom. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and empower me to witness the truth of your Gospel and to point others to Jesus Christ.

Fr Allan

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

**Those who have died recently:** Kevin (Brendan) Duncan, Virgilio Di Paola, Tony Rowland, Seamus Quinlan

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Benedict Tugbobo, Rodolfo Castaneda, Stephen Moriarty

### Parish News

**Collection 20 November 2022** amounted to £1,349.99. Standing orders for October amounted to £3,814.00. Thank you.

**The Sick & Retired Priests' collection.** Thank you for so generously supporting the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund collection, to date £1,329.01 has been donated by the parish.

**Confirmation 2023.** There will be a first meeting in the church on <u>Monday 5 December 2022 at 7:00pm</u>, for Confirmation parents/ carers and candidates, who have registered. Dates, times and venue of Confirmation sessions etc...will be provided at this meeting. We look forward to seeing you all there.

We Need You! Our Christmas tree has been ordered, and we will need some help to put it in place and to decorate it, after 9:30am Mass on Saturday 17 December. This will also be an ideal time to help our regular team of cleaners to get our church looking pristine, as always, for Christmas. Mgr Roger will provide the mince pies and play some Christmas tunes. All are welcome.

**Christmas International Party** on Saturday 17 December 2022 from 6:00pm - 10:00pm at St. Mary Magdalen School Hall. Plenty of food and drink to tickle your palate, music to put you into the festive mood, prizes galore with raffle tickets and Santa to greet you all. A family evening to bring in the Spirit of Christmas!

**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 now available in the racks at the back of the church or in the porch.

**Christmas Rotas.** Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and readers should indicate their availability on the lists at the back of the church today. 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.

#### Good Shepherd Company from the Holy Land (Bethlehem)

which is based in Nottingham, and whose goal it is to support and help the Christian families in the Holy Land to stay at work as olive wood carvers; one of the most important sources of income for them, as 90% of the Christians rely on this sale. By selling their products it helps to prevent the Christians from leaving the country in search of better work opportunities, as a test survey from the bishops of Jerusalem has highlighted there are only 41,000 Christians left in the area. The Good Shepherd Company will be at our church to sell the olive wood carvers products, on the weekend of the <u>10/11 December</u>.

## Wínter Concert

An evening of winter-themed arias, songs and ensembles.

Come and listen, and join in some carols!

#### Sunday 11th December 7:30pm

The Church of the Transfiguration 1 Wrentham Avenue, London NW10 3HT

#### Tickets £15

Available on the door (cash/card) or in advance online at: <u>www.operaintegra.org.uk</u>

### **Funeral Notice**

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late Kevin (Brendan) Duncan will take place on Monday 5 December at 11:00am followed by Cremation at West London Crematorium at 12:15pm

May he rest in peace

#### **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 seek out new paths to international co-operation.

**SVP.** The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.10 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to *SVP* or by bank transfer to NatWest sort code 60-60-04, account no. 46088237. Thank you so much for your support.

#### CAFOD World Gifts: Give a gift of hope this Christmas. In

Advent, let's share the promise of hope that has been made to us with our sisters and brothers around the world. You can buy *CAFOD*'s World Gifts for family and friends this Christmas online at: <u>https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/</u> World Gifts such as "super soup kitchens", "trees for life", or "water for a family" will help transform lives in a world filled with challenges.

#### Mass Intentions Week commencing 4 December 2022

| Saturday  | 6:30pm  | Janelle Nelson                   | RIP   |
|-----------|---------|----------------------------------|-------|
| Sunday    | 9:00am  | People of the Parish             | Ints  |
|           | 10:30am | Francisco Almeida                | RIP   |
|           | 12 noon | Benedict Tugbobo                 | Anniv |
|           | 6:30pm  | Rodolfo Casteneda                | Anniv |
| Monday    | 9:30am  | Luke Nagel                       | Anniv |
|           | 11:00am | Funeral - Kevin (Brendan) Duncan | RIP   |
| Tuesday   | 9:30am  | Martin Brien                     | Ints  |
| Wednesday | 9:30am  | George Rebello                   | RIP   |
| Thursday  | 9:30am  | Mary Gavahan                     | Ints  |
| Friday    | 9:30am  | Holy Souls                       | RIP   |
| Saturday  | 9:30am  | Mary & Alan Statham              | RIP   |
|           |         |                                  |       |