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: https://www.facebook.com/ marymagwillesdengreen/

Parish Clergy

Monsignor Roger Reader KCHS rogerreader@rcdow.org.uk

Father Allan Alvarado Gil allanalvarado@rcdow.org.uk

Father Ruwan Deshapriya ruwanhp@rcdow.org.uk

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 & 12 midnight Sunday: 9:00am*, 10:30am (Includes Children's Liturgy)12noon & 6:30pm Monday— Thursday: 9:30am* Friday: 9:30am* & 7:00pm Saturday: 9:30am* & 6:30pm *Livestreamed

Eucharistic Adoration

Weekdays and Saturday: One hour before morning Mass

Confession

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

Church of the Transfiguration Kensal Rise Parish - Contact Details

Telephone Number: 020 4542 3716

Email: kensalrise@rcdow.org.uk



ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH January — Month of The Holy Name of Jesus Solemnity of Mary, the holy Mother of God 1 January 2023 - Year A

The Shepherds Hurried to Bethlehem and found the baby lying in the manger (Lk 2:16-21)

"On the first day of the year, the liturgy resounds in the Church throughout the world with the ancient priestly blessing that we heard during today's first reading: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace" (Num 6:24-26). This blessing was entrusted by God, through Moses, to Aaron and his sons, that is, to the priests of the people of Israel. It is a triple blessing filled with light, radiating from the repetition of the name of God, the Lord, and from the image of his face. In fact, in order to be blessed, we have to stand in God's presence, take his Name upon us and remain in the cone of light that issues from his Face, in a space lit up by his gaze, diffusing grace and peace.

This was the very experience that the shepherds of Bethlehem had, who reappear in today's Gospel. They had the experience of standing in God's presence, they received his blessing not in the hall of a majestic palace, in the presence of a great sovereign, but in a stable, before a "babe lying in a manger" (Lk 2:16). From this child, a new light issues forth, shining in the darkness of the night, as we can see in so many paintings depicting Christ's Nativity. Henceforth, it is from him that blessing comes, from his name – Jesus, meaning "God saves" – and from his human face, in which God, the almighty Lord of heaven and earth, chose to become incarnate, concealing his glory under the veil of our flesh, so as to reveal fully to us his goodness (cf. Tit 3:4).

The first to be swept up by this blessing was Mary the virgin, the spouse of Joseph, chosen by God from the first moment of her existence to be the mother of his incarnate Son. She is the "blessed among women" (Lk 1:42) – in the words of Saint Elizabeth's greeting. Her whole life was spent in the light of the Lord, within the radius of his name and of the face of God incarnate in Jesus, the "blessed fruit of her womb". This is how Luke's Gospel presents her to us: fully intent upon guarding and meditating in her heart upon everything concerning her son Jesus (cf. Lk 2:19, 51). The mystery of her divine motherhood that we celebrate today contains in superabundant measure the gift of grace that all human motherhood bears within it, so much so that the fruitfulness of the womb has always been associated with God's blessing. The Mother of God is the first of the blessed, and it is she who bears the blessing; she is the woman who received Jesus into herself and brought him forth for the whole human family. In the words of the liturgy: "without losing the glory of virginity, [she] brought forth into the world the eternal light, Jesus Christ our Lord" (Preface I of the Blessed Virgin Mary).

Mary is the mother and model of the Church, who receives the divine Word in faith and offers herself to God as the "good soil" in which he can continue to accomplish his mystery of salvation. The Church also participates in the mystery of divine motherhood, through preaching, which sows the seed of the Gospel throughout the world, and through the sacraments, which communicate grace and divine life to men. The Church exercises her motherhood especially in the sacrament of Baptism, when she generates God's children from water and the Holy Spirit, who cries out in each of them: "Abba, Father!" (Gal 4:6). Like Mary, the Church is the mediator of God's blessing for the world: she receives it in receiving Jesus and she transmits it in bearing Jesus. He is the mercy and the peace that the world, of itself, cannot give, and which it needs always, at least as much as bread". (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, 1st January 2012)

Fr Allan

Those who are sick: Pope Emeritus Benedict, Valerie Fredrick

Those who have died recently: Maryse Zarzycka, Anthony Poku, Michael (Mick) Flynn, Francis Maguire, Francis McGeown, Ina Murphy, DeAndre Jules-Carbon

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary Hopkins, Sarah Hughes, Helen Leith

Parish News

Collection 25 December 2022 amounted to £3,075.19. Christmas Offering Collection 2022 amounted to £2,488.00. Standing orders for November amounted to £3,410.00. Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

THANK YOU to everyone who spent so much time and effort making the church look so beautiful for the Christmas Masses and to those who made them such prayerful yet joyful liturgies.

May God Bless you and your loved ones and we wish you all a most happy and Holy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

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. The crib will remain in church until Candlemas (The Presentation of the Lord): 02 February.

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.

Gift Aid. The parish has received £17,453.85 in Gift Aid for the last financial year 21/22. These monies make a significant difference to our parish finances, and don't cost you, or the parish, anything extra. In order to claim Gift Aid, donors simply have to sign a Gift Aid declaration form and donate via envelope or by standing order. If you can help the parish by Gift aiding your donations please contact the parish office.

What happens if you go into hospital? In light of strict data protection rules it is essential that, on entering hospital, you indicate that your details (or those of your relative) are to be passed to the Roman Catholic chaplain. Also state that you, or your relative, would like the Roman Catholic chaplain to visit you. Chaplains visit the wards during the week and provide an on-call service in case of emergencies.

Parish Newsletter. 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://parish.rcdow.org.uk/willesdengreen/parish-newsletters-2022/</u>

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Please pray for Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

At the end of the General Audience on Wednesday, 28 December, Pope Francis asked for "special prayers" for Benedict XVI "who is very ill."

Let us pray. Almighty and Eternal God, You are the everlasting health of those who believe in You. Hear our prayers for your sick servant Benedict for whom we implore the aid of Your tender mercy, Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Diocesan News

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for January 2023. For educators: We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

SVP Vinnie Packs cold weather essentials for the homeless. To sponsor a pack at £4.10 each please send your donation to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ, cheques payable to *SVP* or via BACS to Nat West S/C 60-60-04, A/c Nr 46088237.

Catholic Listeners is a new confidential helpline launched this year during Holy Week. The service, part of the Diocese of Westminster, is for those who are returning to the Faith as well as to support those who need someone to talk to. Although not a counselling service, there is a professional team trained in signposting callers to other services/agencies. Please email: <u>catholiclisteners@gmail.com</u> or telephone 0800 4480704.

Right To Life UK. "Mary pondered all of these things in her heart. Let us join Mary in reflection, especially on the precious gift of human life at all stages and how society might better support mothers. Lord hear *us*".

Mass Intentions Week commencing 1 January 2023

Saturday:	6:30pm	Celebrants Intentions	Ints
	12:00 midnight	Celebrants Intentions	Ints
Sunday :	9:00am	Celebrants Intentions	Ints
	10:30am	Lorraine McGee	Ints
	12 noon	People of the Parish	Ints
	6:30pm	Celebrants Intentions	Ints
Monday	10:00am	Kathleen & Tom Barry	Ints
Tuesday	9:30am	Peter Manning	Ints
Wednesda	y 9:30am	Holy Souls	RIP
Thursday	9:30am	Clare Rigley	Anniv
Friday	9:30am	Kathleen Rigley	Ints
	7:00pm	Conceicao Coutinho	RIP
Saturday	9:30am	Michael Philps	RIP

Accepting Contactless Donations



You will find our DIGITAL COLLECTION PLATE, contactless terminal at the back entrance of the church. Just use your contactless debit/credit card or smart phone/device to make a donation.

Simply choose the amount you wish to donate and hold your card onto the reader. You can also opt-in for Gift Aid to increase your donation by 25%. If you are a UK taxpayer then donating with Gift Aid means that we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 received.

Contactless donations are simple to administer, secure and convenient. Payment can also be made for Candles and for your 'Christmas Offering' and 'Crib' donations.