



## ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

### MARCH — MONTH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

#### 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

19 MARCH 2023 - YEAR A

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699

### Presbytery

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

Parish Website:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/willesdengreen/>

YouTube:

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

Facebook:

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

### Parish Clergy

#### Parish Priest

Monsignor Roger Reader KCHS  
Email: [rogerreader@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:rogerreader@rcdow.org.uk)

#### Assistant Priest

Father Allan Alvarado Gil  
Email: [allanalvarado@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:allanalvarado@rcdow.org.uk)  
Email: [kensalrise@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:kensalrise@rcdow.org.uk)

#### Sri Lankan Chaplain

Father Ruwan Deshapriya  
[ruwanhp@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:ruwanhp@rcdow.org.uk)

### Parish Office

Email: [willesdengreen@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:willesdengreen@rcdow.org.uk)

#### Parish Administrator

Kathleen Reddington

#### Parish office opening times:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and  
Fridays : 10:00am - 2:00pm

### Happy Mothering Sunday

*May the blessing of the Divine  
Be an especially bright  
benediction Upon mothers  
everywhere  
On your blessed day -  
On Mother's Day! -  
Author Unknown*



### The blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored (Jn 9:1-41)

**Meditation:** Do you recognize the light of God's truth and power in your life? God wants to remove every obstacle that might hinder us from recognizing the light of his truth and wisdom for our lives. Saul, the first king of Israel, failed to recognize God's light and power to save him from his enemies. God replaced Saul with David, the youngest of Jesse's eight sons (1 Samuel 16). God saw something in David which Jesse and his other sons did not recognize - a man after God's own heart who delighted in doing what was pleasing to the Lord (1 Samuel 13:14). David was a man of courage and vision who defeated his enemies and united his people. His strength and success came not from himself but from God who anointed him with the power and wisdom of his own Spirit.

What can keep us from the light of God's truth, wisdom, and strength for our lives? Sin blinds us and causes us to stumble and fall - unable to rise on our own or to walk in the freedom of God's love and truth. Sin clouds the mind in moral confusion, and it grows in darkness and resists the light of God's truth. Only God's light can uncover the darkness of sin and free us to walk in the path of holiness and peace with God.

**The light of the world.** When the disciples saw a man who had been blind from birth, they asked Jesus what kind of sin had caused this blindness. The Jews had understood that many infirmities were the result of human folly and sin. While sin can lead to physical, mental, and spiritual infirmities, not all sickness is the direct result of sin. Sickness can befall us for a variety of reasons. Jesus answered that God had allowed this infirmity for a greater purpose which God wanted to demonstrate as a sign of his presence and power. Jesus then made a claim which only God could rightfully make. Jesus stated unequivocally, I am the light of the world (John 9:5). In so many words Jesus was saying that he is the one true source of power and light which sustains life and overcomes the darkness of sin, confusion, and spiritual blindness. Jesus' mighty works - his miraculous signs - confirmed the truth of his message and claim to divine authority and equality with his Father in heaven. One of his greatest signs was the healing of a man who had been blind from birth.

**Freedom from spiritual blindness.** John Chrysostom, commenting on this passage, remarked: "The Jews (the Pharisees) cast him out of the Temple; the Lord of the Temple found him." If our witness of Jesus and his redeeming work in our lives causes friends or foes to reject us, it nonetheless draws us nearer to the Lord Jesus himself. Paul the Apostles warns us to avoid the darkness of sin that we might walk more clearly in the light of Christ (Ephesians 5:8-12). Do you allow any blind-spots to blur your vision of what God is offering you and asking of you?

The Lord Jesus is ever ready to heal us and to free us from the darkness of sin and deception. There is no sickness, whether physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual that the Lord Jesus does not identify with. Isaiah prophesied that the "Suffering Servant" would be bruised for our iniquities and by his stripes we would be healed (Isaiah 53:5). The Lord offers us freedom from spiritual blindness due to sin and he restores us to wholeness of body, mind, soul, and heart. Augustine of Hippo, in his commentary on this Gospel passage, remarks: "If we reflect on the meaning of this miracle, we will see that the blind man is the human race ... You already know, of course, who the "One Sent" is. Unless he had been sent, none of us would have been freed from sin."

*Fr Allan Alvarado*

## Parish News

### **TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF THE CHURCH FOR BUILDING WORKS**

As I am sure you will have noticed, the wooden floor of the church is in urgent need of restoration. It is worn in many places, scratched and some of the blocks have become loose.

The restoration of the main church floor will take place from the morning of Monday 20 of March until Saturday afternoon 25 March. The church will be closed during this time.

The Masses, with their intentions, will still be offered either in private or at a concelebrated Mass at The Church of the Transfiguration, Kensal Rise. This Canon Law applies: *Can. 945 §1. In accord with the approved practice of the Church, any priest celebrating or concelebrating is permitted to receive an offering to apply the Mass for a specific intention.*

#### **Local Mass times while the church is closed:**

Transfiguration Kensal Rise, Chamberlayne Road NW10 3HT:  
Tuesday – Friday 10:00am

Sacred Heart, Quex Road NW6 4PS: Monday – Saturday 10:00am

St Mary & St Andrew, Dollis Hill, Dollis Hill Lane NW2 6HE:  
Monday – Wednesday 9:30am

St Agnes, Cricklewood Lane, NW2 1HR: Monday – Friday 9:15am

**Collection (loose plate & envelopes) 12 March:** £1,983.77

**Standing orders for February:** £3,288.00

**Contactless Income for February:** £399.50

**CAFOD Family Fast Day Friday 3 March– Lent Appeal** raised £1,445.13. Thank you - this will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey.

**Planned Giving Envelopes** for the new tax year 2023/2024 will commence on 9 April 2023 and will be available for you to collect from the Sacristy over the next two weekends. If you have a set of envelopes and no longer use them or would like to have a set of Planned Giving envelopes for the new tax year, please let the Parish Office know. Standing Order is however the easiest way to contribute to the church. Both Planned Giving envelopes and Standing Orders can allow your contributions to be Gift Aided. This means that the parish can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give. It will not cost you any extra. Thank you.

**Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.** Can you please sign the rota on the table at the back of the church indicating your availability for the Holy Week liturgies. Thank you.

**Altar Servers Practice for the Holy Week ceremonies and special Masses** will take place on Saturday 1 April at 1:30pm in the church. It is very important that all Altar Servers attend, so that everyone can be given jobs for the most important week of the church's year.

**A Penitential Service** will take place in the church on Monday 3 April at 7:00pm.

## Parish Diary Notices

Date	Time	Group/Location
Monday 20 March	5:30pm - 6:30pm	<b>First Holy Communion 2023</b> Ch 9: 'Do this in memory of me' at St Mary Magdalens School
Monday 20 March	6:30pm - 7:30pm	<b>Confirmation 2023</b> - Session 9 'The Church - a Home for You and Me' at Church of the Transfiguration, Kensal Rise

### **Mass Intentions Sunday 19 March 2023**

<b>Saturday:</b>	6:30pm	Maureen Anderson	<b>Anniv</b>
<b>Sunday :</b>	9:00am	Thomas Dias	<b>RIP</b>
	10:30am	Anthony Braganca	<b>Ints</b>
	12 noon	Sheila Kelly	<b>RIP</b>
	6:30pm	People of the Parish	<b>Ints</b>
<b>Monday:</b>	9:30am	Paul Burke	<b>RIP</b>
<b>Tuesday:</b>	9:30am	Anna Cronin	<b>Ints</b>
<b>Wednesday:</b>	9:30am	Mary Leahy & Family	<b>Ints</b>
<b>Thursday:</b>	9:30am	Becky Turner	<b>RIP</b>
<b>Friday :</b>	9:30am	Alan Leahy	<b>RIP</b>
<b>Saturday:</b>	9:30am	Oliver Gomes	<b>Anniv</b>

### **Please Pray for...**

**Those who are sick:** Mary Brady

**Those who have died recently:** Maureen Humphries, Phils Modeste, Raymond Modeste

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

Mary Teresa Ryan, Maureen Anderson, Camilo Antao

## Diocesan News

**The Holy Father's Prayer Intention March 2023.** For victims of abuse: We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

**Diocesan Annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes** takes place from 21 - 28 July 2023, led by HE Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Book now to avoid disappointment as places are limited via the Tangney Tours portal at: <https://www.tangney-tours.com/pilgrimages/lourdes/westminster-lourdes>. If you have previously indicated 'St Frai Pilgrim' on an Expression of Interest Form, or know of someone with significant medical and mobility needs who intends to come to Lourdes, contact the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173 immediately, so the Medical Team and can look into assisting with requirements and care. Similarly, all individuals or groups intending to travel independently to join Westminster in Lourdes, by making their own travel and accommodation arrangement, must confirm this in writing to the Pilgrimage Office by 30 April 2023 as well as submit payment towards the Pilgrims' Levy at £35 per pilgrim. Please visit the Lourdes Pilgrimage web page: <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or contact Elizabeth at the Pilgrimage Office.