

Presbytery

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

Parish Website: [Roman Catholic Parish of Willesden Green – Church of St Mary Magdalen \(rcdow.org.uk\)](http://Roman Catholic Parish of Willesden Green – Church of St Mary Magdalen (rcdow.org.uk))

YouTube: St Mary Magdalen RC Church, Willesden, London - YouTube

Facebook: St Mary Magdalen RC Church, Willesden Green | London | Facebook

Parish Clergy

Monsignor Roger Reader KCHS
rogerreader@rcdow.org.uk

Father Allan Alvarado Gil
allanalvarado@rcdow.org.uk
Office: 020 4542 3716

Father Ruwan Deshapriya
ruwanhp@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Office

willesdengreen@rcdow.org.uk

Parish office open:

Tuesday-Friday 10:00am - 2:00pm

This Parish is part of Westminster
Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust (WRCDT)
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— Saturday: 9:30am*

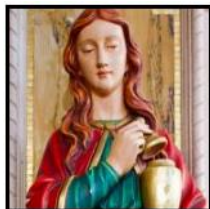
Eucharistic Adoration

Weekdays and Saturday:
One hour before morning Mass

Confession

Saturdays: 10:00am—10:30am
5:30pm— 6:15pm
& At Call

*Livestreamed



ST MARY MAGDALEN

CATHOLIC CHURCH

OCTOBER —MONTH OF

THE HOLY ROSARY

22 OCTOBER 2023

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar (Mt 22:15-21)

Meditation: What do we owe God and our neighbour? Scripture tells us to give to everyone whatever is their due and to "owe no one anything, except to love one another" (Romans 13:6-8). The Jewish authorities sought to trap Jesus in a religious-state issue. The Jews resented their foreign rulers and despised paying taxes to Caesar. They posed a dilemma to test Jesus to see if he was loyal to them and to their understanding of religion. If Jesus answered that it was lawful to pay taxes to a pagan ruler, then he would lose credibility with the Jewish nation who would regard him as a coward and a friend of Caesar. If he said it was not lawful, then the Pharisees would have grounds to report him to the Roman authorities as a political trouble-maker and have him arrested.

Coins inscribe the owner's name and authority on them

Jesus avoided their trap by confronting them with the image of a coin. Coinage in the ancient world had significant political power. Rulers issued coins with their own image and inscription on them. In a certain sense the coin was regarded as the personal property of the ruler. Where the coin was valid the ruler held political sway over the people. Since the Jews used the Roman currency, Jesus explained that what belonged to Caesar must be given to Caesar.

We have been "stamped" with God's image and likeness

This story has another deeper meaning as well. We, too, have been stamped with God's image since we are created in his own likeness - "God created man in his own image ... male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:26-27). We rightfully belong not to ourselves, but to God who created us and redeemed us in the precious blood of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ (see 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Paul the Apostle says that we are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God (Romans 12:1). Do you acknowledge that your life and everything you possess belongs to God and not to yourself? And do you give to God what rightfully belongs to him?

Prayer

Lord, because you have made me, I owe you the whole of my love; because you have redeemed me, I owe you the whole of myself; because you have promised so much, I owe you all my being. Moreover, I owe you as much more love than myself as you are greater than I, for whom you gave yourself and to whom you promised yourself. I pray you, Lord, make me taste by love what I taste by knowledge; let me know by love what I know by understanding. I owe you more than my whole self, but I have no more, and by myself I cannot render the whole of it to you. Draw me to you, Lord, in the fullness of love. I am wholly yours by creation; make me all yours, too, in love. (prayer of Anselm, 1033-1109 AD)

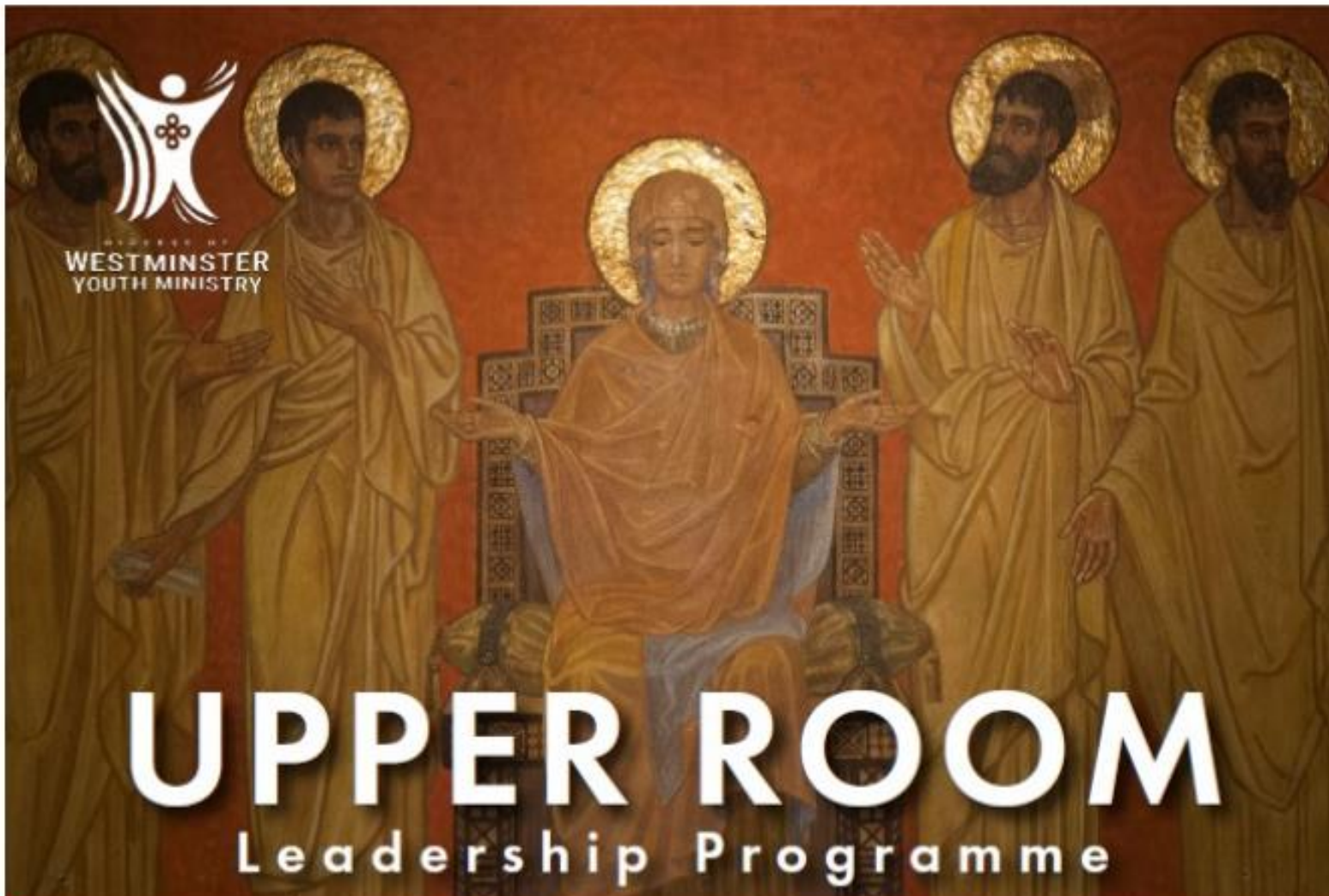
Fr Allan

Join us for an evening of food, games
and an encounter with Jesus!

THE SUMMIT

The Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden, NW10 9AX
• Tuesday 31st October • 7-9pm • 13 - 18 year olds •





UPPER ROOM

Leadership Programme

"Make disciples of all nations..."

Aged 18 - 22?

Ready for the next step in your faith journey?

Westminster Youth Ministry is taking **20 young Catholics** on this exciting leadership training course, beginning at the **start of Advent** and culminating in a pilgrimage to **Lourdes in July**, during which the young leaders will support the Redcaps as they accompany sick or elderly pilgrims.

Application deadline:
11 November 2023

Visit youth.rcdow.org.uk to apply or email youth@rcdow.org.uk for more information.





Diocese of Westminster

19th - 26th July 2024

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

"...come here in procession."

Join
Serve
Support



**Pilgrimage led by
Cardinal Vincent Nichols**

Contact **Elizabeth Uwalaka** at:

0207 798 9173

lourdes@rcdow.org.uk

rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes