



ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER —MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT—YEAR B

3 DECEMBER 2023

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*

If he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep (Mk 13:33-37)

Meditation: What do you do when someone you love very dearly and miss very much has been gone a very long time but promises to return soon? Do you ignore their absence, or do you anticipate their return and send them messages to let them know how much you long to be with them again? Jesus' parable about the long-expected return of the Master to his household brings this point home.

Watching with hopeful expectation and vigilance for Christ's return

When we expect some very important event to happen, we often wait for it with excited anticipation. The Lord Jesus expects us to watch in great anticipation for the most important event of all - his return in glory at the end of this present age! The Old Testament prophets foretold the coming of the Lord when *he shall judge between the nations and decide for many peoples* (Isaiah 2:5).

The Advent season reminds us that we are living in the end times. The end times begin with the first coming of Christ (when *the Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us* - John 1:14) and it culminates in Christ's second coming on the Day of Judgment and vindication for his people. Jesus spoke of his return in glory at the close of the ages as an indisputable fact and predetermined act which he will perform as the Judge and Ruler of all peoples, nations, and individuals who ever lived on the earth.

"May your kingdom come!"

While the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is for certain, the time of his appearance is not yet disclosed. The Lord's day of visitation and judgment will come swiftly and unexpectedly. Jesus warns his listeners to not be caught off guard when that day arrives. It will surely come in God's good time! The Lord invites us to pray for the coming of his kingdom into our present lives and future as well. Jesus taught his disciples to pray - "may your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). Do you earnestly pray for the coming of God's kingdom - both now and at the end of the world?

How do we watch and wait for the Lord's coming?

How does the Lord want us to be watchful and vigilant for his return? The kind of watching the Lord has in mind is not a passive "wait and see what happens" approach to life. The Lord urges us to vigilance and to active prayer that his "kingdom may come" and his "will be done on earth as it is in heaven". We are not only to watch *for* Christ, but to watch *with* Christ. The Lord wants us to have our hearts and minds fixed on him and his word. He wants us to be ready for his action and work of grace in our lives and in our world. Those who "wait" for the Lord will not be disappointed. He will surely come with his grace and saving help. Do you watch for the Lord's action in your life with expectant faith and with joyful hope?

The season of Advent is a time for rousing our minds and hearts for the Lord's coming. As his servants we watch for his will - continually seeking him. We watch for his word and his power - that he may act now to save and to deliver. And we watch for his visitation - he will surely come again! Servants of the Lord rouse yourselves! Be vigilant, be alert, be "watchmen" for the Lord pointing the way for his coming.

Fr Allan

PARISH NEWS

Collection 26 November 2023 amounted to £1,943.23

Standing orders for October: £3,432.00

Contactless Income for October: £344.65

Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.



QUIZ NIGHT!

Friday, December 8th at 7pm
In St Mary Magdalen's School Hall
Free entry and no need to book.



First Holy Communion 2024 Information emails have now been sent out. If you have registered your child and not received the email please check your spam folder or contact the office.

School and Parish

At 9:30am on Tuesday 5 December, we will be welcoming the Year 7 students from Newman Catholic College to join us at the morning Mass. This Mass will not be live-streamed.

CONFIRMATION 2024

The first meeting for Confirmation candidates and parents will be held on **Monday 11 December at 7pm** in St Mary Magdalen Church. Important information regarding the course will be shared at this meeting. All those who have registered are required to attend.

Children's Nativity Play

Rehearsals for this year's Nativity play will take place during the Children's Liturgy group at the 10:30am Sunday Mass during Advent. The Nativity play will be performed during Mass on Sunday 24th December at 6:30pm.
Reception and above—all welcome!



ADVENT GIVING CALENDAR. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the foodbank collection this weekend for Newman Catholic College. For the coming week we are collecting cooking oil, cereal, tinned corn, nappies, herbs & spices, cleaning products or tea and coffee. For more information see our Outreach Newsletter available on the website.



Come be a part of a tree-mendous team helping to put up and light up our Christmas trees!

Our fabulous cleaners will be working hard to make the church sparkle and welcome any help.

Join us on Saturday 16 December after 9:30am Mass.



Altar Servers from Year 4 and above

Training for all altar servers will take place on **Saturday 16 December at 2pm** in the church.
New servers welcome!

FUNERAL NOTICE

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late **Brother John O'Neill**
Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God
will take place on Wednesday 6 December at 12:00pm

May he rest in peace ✠

The family of the late Jackie Grefte would like to sincerely thank those who attended the funeral or sent cards and for all the kind words that have helped them through a difficult time. A Mass will be offered for your intentions on Saturday 6 January at 6:30pm.

Leaflet with **CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SERVICE TIMES** now available at the back of the church or on our website.

DIOCESAN NEWS

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December:

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

Peter Rand who spoke at the Masses recently has written, 'May I thank you and all the parishioners for your warm welcome and generosity through the retiring collection, which raised a magnificent **£1,247.24**. This will be allocated to support the work of the Charity and Christian families in Gaza, the West Bank, Israel and Jordan, especially those impacted by the current conflict. For those who were not present who would like to support the small Christian community in the Holy Land, please visit www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/christmas where you can donate to the FHL Christmas Appeal.

Mass Intentions Week commencing Sunday 3 December 2023

Saturday	6:30pm	Mascarenhas & D'Souza families	Ints
Sunday	9:00am	People of the Parish	Ints
	10:30am	Gabriel Bougouneau	Anniv
	12 noon	Benedict Tugbobo	Anniv
	6:30pm	Neville Kelly, Patrick Donlevy & Bob King	Ints
Monday	9:30am	Nancy Dias	RIP
Tuesday	9:30am	Teresa Barun	RIP
Wednesday	9:30am	Graham Stack	RIP
	12 noon	Funeral— Brother John O'Neill	RIP
Thursday	9:30am	Bode Augusto	RIP
Friday	9:30am	Liam Gibbons	Anniv
Saturday	9:30am	Anthony Poku	Anniv

Those who are sick: Noreen Joy, Martin Doyle, Kathleen McGloin, Yvonne Dike, Eileen Gilgunn, Rose John-Francis

Those who have died recently: Brother John O'Neill, Dr J Bradley, Josephine Wood, Rosalie Formaggio, Charles Joseph, Alice Keenan, May Hetherton

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Benedict Tugbobo, John Boland, Edward Leeson, James McGrath, Stephen Moriarty, Rodolfo Castaneda, Brian McAlinden, Maureen Hennessy