



## ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER — MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT—YEAR B

10 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](http://St Mary Magdalen RC Church, Willesden, London - YouTube)

Facebook: [St Mary Magdalen RC Church, Willesden Green | London | Facebook](http://St Mary Magdalen RC Church, Willesden Green | London | Facebook)

### Parish Clergy

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

Father Allan Alvarado Gil  
[allanalvarado@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:allanalvarado@rcdow.org.uk)  
Office: 020 4542 3716

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

### Parish Office

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

### Turning Around...

I had to turn around this week. It was a bit embarrassing, really. I had had a busy day, and I needed to get somewhere to make a 3.30 appointment. I rushed down the stairs at Willesden Green station, and said a quick prayer of thanks that a train was just coming into the platform. I boarded and found my preferred seat, opened the Ian Rankin crime thriller I am reading at the moment and settled down. So far, so good. I sensed two stops go past, but did not pay much attention. Then I looked up and couldn't work out why I was at Finchley Road when I wanted to be at Wembley Park. Then it dawned on me that I was going the wrong way. Force of habit had made me get on a south-bound train, my usual direction of travel, instead of the northbound train I needed. I had to turn around.

The gospel today is the first verses of Mark's gospel. It focusses our attention on the enigmatic figure of John the Baptist. This strange man who seemed to attract so many to his message, even though it would hardly seem to be a popular one. At its heart lies the word repentance and repentance always involves turning round, a change of direction. I think many people find themselves rather shop soiled by life, a little bit worn out; a little bit trapped by routine.

We need to hear John's call of repentance. While children are eagerly awaiting the gifts and excitement of Christmas, adults should use Advent in a different way. Our response to John the Baptist's call should be to look at our lives, and try to get rid of the habitual ways of thinking which take us in the wrong direction, away from God. In the same way as we prepare our homes for a visitor by cleaning, tidying, cooking so we should prepare our hearts to welcome Christ with prayer, confession and renewed joy. We need to make sure that we are travelling towards God: heeding the words of the prophet Isaiah, we need to turn around and travel along the straight highway of God.

*Monsignor Roger*



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

**Those who have died recently:** Charles Joseph, Alice Keenan, Christine Elizabeth Casey, Maria Pereira

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Benny Kilcoyne, Vivienne Mangan, Patrick and Delia O'Sullivan, Anthony and Agnes McDermott, Mary Langan, Anthony Poku, Olga Daly, Vitale Giraud, Louise Keating

## PARISH NEWS

**Collection 3 December 2023** amounted to £1,557.23

**Standing orders for October:** £3,432.00

**Contactless Income for October:** £344.65

Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

**FLORAL TRIBUTE** The flowers in the church are in memory of the late Brother John O'Neill. May he rest in peace.

**THANK YOU** to everyone who has contributed to the foodbank collection for Newman Catholic College. For the coming week we are collecting more groceries including: tea, coffee and biscuits. For more information see the **ADVENT GIVING CALENDAR** in the Outreach Newsletter available on the website.

### EXPERIENCE THE CHRISTMAS STORY!

A limited number of tickets are available to see the **Nativity Play at Wintershall** in Surrey on **Sunday 17 December**. We will be travelling by minibus and if you are interested in joining our Youth Group on this trip, please contact the office:  
willesdengreen@rcdow.org.uk  
Open to all ages, but anyone in Year 8 or below, must be accompanied by an adult.  
Departing: 11:15am. Returning 5:30-6:00pm  
Tickets allocated on a 'first-come-first-served' basis.  
For more information visit: [www.wintershall.org.uk](http://www.wintershall.org.uk)



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.**

### 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!

### Altar Servers from Year 4 and above



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

**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.

### 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. An **email** has been sent to all parents/guardians. If you have not received this, please check your spam or contact the office. Thank you.

## FUNERAL NOTICES

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late **Alice Keenan** will take place on Thursday 14 December at 12:30pm followed by cremation at West London Crematorium at 1:45pm

\*\*\*\*\*

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late **Charles Joseph** will take place on Friday 15 December at 11:00am followed by cremation at West London Crematorium at 1:00pm

*May they rest in peace* †

### FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND

Last week we reported the total collected in the buckets, and can now update the figure with contactless donations.

The grand total comes to **£2,194.74**

Once again, **thank you** for your very generous support.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### A Christmas Celebration in Westminster Cathedral

Tickets are now on sale for our annual Christmas concerts which celebrate the mystery of Christ's Incarnation in carols and readings performed by the world-famous Westminster Cathedral Choir, orchestra, and celebrity readers, on **19 and 20 December** at 7.30pm. We encourage everybody to purchase tickets quickly before these popular events are sold out. Tickets can be purchased from the Cathedral Gift Shop or directly from Ticketmaster; go to [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk) and type in Westminster Cathedral when prompted.

The **SVP** are distributing **over 10,000 Vinnie Packs** containing cold weather essentials to the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Each pack contains thermal gloves, thermal hat, two pairs of thermal socks, face flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste, information sheet and pen. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 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 Nat West **sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237**. Thank you so much for your support.

### Mass Intentions Week commencing Sunday 10 December 2023

Saturday	6:30pm	Anthony & Agnes McDermott	<b>Anniv</b>
Sunday	9:00am	Martin & Teresa Costello	<b>Ints</b>
	10:30am	Patrick & Delia O'Sullivan	<b>RIP</b>
	12 noon	Benny Kilcoyne	<b>Anniv</b>
	6:30pm	People of the Parish	<b>Ints</b>
Monday	9:30am	Maria Milagrinha Mendes	<b>RIP</b>
Tuesday	9:30am	Regina Mendes	<b>RIP</b>
Wednesday	9:30am	Jose Joao Quadros	<b>RIP</b>
Thursday	9:30am	Vivienne Mangan & all deceased from the Cronin family	<b>Anniv/ RIP</b>
	12noon	Funeral—Alice Keenan	<b>RIP</b>
Friday	9:30am	Mary Mangan	<b>Anniv</b>
	11:00am	Funeral—Charles Joseph	<b>RIP</b>
Saturday	9:30am	Lourença Travasso	<b>Ints</b>