



# ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

## DECEMBER — MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

### THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

#### 31 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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Facebook: [St Mary Magdalen RC Church, Willesden Green | London | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/...)

### 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

### MY EYES HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION

(Lk 2:22-40)

**Meditation:** Do you know the favour of the Lord? After Jesus' birth, Mary fulfils the Jewish right of purification after childbirth. Since she could not afford the customary offering of a lamb, she gives instead two pigeons as an offering of the poor. This rite, along with circumcision and the redemption of the first-born point to the fact that children are gifts from God. Jesus was born in an ordinary home where there were no luxuries. Like all godly parents, Mary and Joseph raised their son in the fear and wisdom of God. He, in turn, was obedient to them and grew in wisdom and grace. The Lord's favour is with those who listen to his word with trust and obedience. Do you know the joy of submission to God? And do you seek to pass on the faith and to help the young grow in wisdom and maturity?

### *The Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Saviour of the world*

What is the significance of Simeon's encounter with the baby Jesus and his mother in the temple? Simeon was a just and devout man who was very much in tune with the Holy Spirit. He believed that the Lord would return to his temple and renew his chosen people. The Holy Spirit also revealed to him that the Messiah and King of Israel would also bring salvation to the Gentile nations. When Joseph and Mary presented the baby Jesus in the temple, Simeon immediately recognized this humble child of Bethlehem as the fulfilment of all the messianic prophecies, hopes, and prayers. Inspired by the Holy Spirit he prophesied that Jesus was to be "a revealing light to the Gentiles". The Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Lord to those who are receptive and eager to receive him. Do you recognize the indwelling presence of the Lord with you?

### *Mary receives both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow*

Simeon blessed Mary and Joseph and he prophesied to Mary about the destiny of this child and the suffering she would undergo for his sake. There is a certain paradox for those blessed by the Lord. Mary was given the blessedness of being the mother of the Son of God. That blessedness also would become a sword which pierced her heart as her Son died upon the cross. She received both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow. But her joy was not diminished by her sorrow because it was fuelled by her faith, hope, and trust in God and his promises. Jesus promised his disciples that "no one will take your joy from you" (John 16:22). The Lord gives us a supernatural joy which enables us to bear any sorrow or pain and which neither life nor death can take away. Do you know the peace and joy of a life surrendered to God with faith and trust?

### *Our hope is anchored in God's everlasting kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy*

What do you hope for? The hope which God places in our heart is the desire for the kingdom of heaven and everlasting life and happiness with our heavenly Father. The Lord Jesus has won for us a kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17). The Holy Spirit gives hope to all who place their trust in the promises of God. God never fails because his promises are true and he is faithful. The hope which God places within us through the gift of the Spirit enables us to persevere with confident trust in God even in the face of trials, setbacks, and challenges that may come our way.

Is there anything holding you back from giving God your unqualified trust and submission to his will for your life? Allow the Lord Jesus to flood your heart with his peace, joy, and love. And offer to God everything you have and desire - your life, family, friends, health, honour, wealth, and future. If you seek his kingdom first he will give you everything you need to know, love, and serve him now and enjoy him forever.

*Fr Allan*

## PARISH NEWS

**Collection 24 December 2023** amounted to £1,112.98

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

**Contactless Income for November:** £436.48

Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

### I want to thank Fr Ruwan,

Sri Lankan Chaplain and also Assistant Priest in our parish. Father Ruwan is a very determined and diligent priest. He brought the Sinhalese community out of lock down and helped get their life going once more. He has celebrated the Mass here in this parish prayerfully and carefully. He has been living in the parish house with me for the last 2 ½ years, and helping in our parish. Father, thank you - for your loyalty to me; thank you for your wisdom when things can be a bit challenging; thank you for your reliability; thank you for your flexibility – above all thank you for your priestly fraternity. May God bless you, dear Fr Ruwan.

Please pray for **Fr Kamal** who has come into residence in the Clergy House. He was Vice Rector at St Joseph's College in Colombo, and will now be undertaking further studies, looking after the Sinhalese chaplaincy and assisting in the parish. Please do give him a very warm welcome.

### FIRE WARDEN TRAINING

In the event that we need to evacuate the church, we ask that you please think about becoming a **Fire Warden** to help keep everyone safe.

In particular, if you have a regular Mass time, or if you are a Collector or a Reader, we ask that you consider attending the training which will be held on

**Thursday 18th January at 7pm in our church.**

To ensure that there are fire wardens at every Mass we do need as many as possible. If you would like to help the parish in this way please contact the Parish Office by Friday 12 January on 020 8451 4677.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024** The first meeting for candidates and parents/guardians will take place on **Monday 15 January at 5:30pm in the CHURCH.**

If you have not already done so, please contact the office with your preference for the Mass time for the First Holy Communion celebration on Saturday 4 May. There are very few places left at 11am.

**CONFIRMATION 2024** The first meeting for candidates will take place on **Monday 15 January at 6:00pm at the church of The Transfiguration.**

## FUNERAL NOTICE

The Reception of the late **Helen Delaney** will take place on Sunday 7 January at 7:30pm and the Requiem Mass will be celebrated on Monday 8 January at 12:30pm followed by burial at Willesden New Cemetery at 2:00pm

*May she rest in peace* †

**Thank you** to everyone who contributed in any way to our Christmas celebrations. The church and flowers looked beautiful, the music sounded wonderful, the Nativity play was uplifting and it was good to see so many people there.

Monsignor Roger, Fr Allan and Fr Ruwan would like to thank everybody who have been so kind and generous to them at Christmas time.

## YOUTH GROUP

Year 9 - Year 13

We are thrilled to announce that our first session in 2024 will be run by the **Westminster Youth Ministry**, on the theme of **NEW BEGINNINGS.**

Come and join us in fun activities and engaging discussions on **Sunday 14 January at 5:00pm** in the church annexe.

Registration forms for new members are available in the church porch.

### FOODBANK COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

Thank you so much for your generosity in supporting the foodbank at Newman College during Advent.

We are continuing to collect food and cleaning items on the **first Sunday of every month.**

Our next collection is on 6/7th of January.

*Thank you.*

### Mass Intentions Week commencing Sunday 31 December 2023

Saturday	6:30pm	Sarah Hughes	Anniv
Sunday	9:00am	People of the Parish	Ints
	10:30am	Private Intention	Ints
	12 noon	John McKiernan	Ints
	6:30pm	Marianne Kennedy	Ints
	Midnight	Celebrant's Intentions	
Monday	<b>10:00am</b>	Celebrant's Intentions	
Tuesday	9:30am	Pat and Marie O'Rourke	RIP
Wednesday	9:30am	Private Intention	Ints
Thursday	9:30am	Joe O'Connor	RIP
Friday	9:30am	Sean Fox	Anniv
Saturday	9:30am	Violet Marshman	Ints

**Those who are sick:** Paul Kelly, Carmaletta O'Sullivan, Carol Scanlon, Martin Doyle, Kathleen McGloin, Yvonne Dike, Eileen Gilgunn, Rose John-Francis

**Those who have died recently:** Mossie Joy, Noreen Joy, Christine Elizabeth Casey, Helen Delaney, Percival Charles

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Sarah Hughes, Sean Fox