

ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

DECEMBER — MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT—YEAR B 17 DECEMBER 2023

Presbytery Peter Avenue, Willesden Green, London, NW10 2DD

Tel: 020 8451 4677

Parish Website: <u>Roman Catholic Parish of</u> <u>Willesden Green – Church of St Mary</u> <u>Magdalen (rcdow.org.uk)</u>

YouTube: <u>St Mary Magdalen RC Church,</u> <u>Willesden, London - YouTube</u>

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

Parish Clergy

Monsignor Roger Reader KCHS rogerreader@rcdow.org.uk

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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

THERE STANDS AMONG YOU THE ONE COMING AFTER ME (JN 1:6-8. 19-28)

Meditation: Do you know the favour of the Lord? Every 50 years the people of Israel were commanded to celebrate a Year of Jubilee - a year of favour by the Lord (Lv 25:10-12). God did not want his people to forget all the blessings and favours he had shown them over the years. Isaiah prophesied in a year of Jubilee that God would send his anointed one to bring his people back from their time of exile (Is 61). The anointed one would bring good news (the same word as "gospel") - news of freedom for those who were oppressed by sin, darkness, despair, and brokenness (Is 61:1-2).

John humbly recognized that his calling came from God and not from man When John the Baptist announced the imminent coming of God's Anointed

One, the Messiah, the religious leaders questioned his authority to speak so boldly in God's name. They asked him bluntly, "Who are you?" and "What do you say about yourself?" They wanted to know if he was really sent by God. Did he claim to be the Messiah or one of the great prophets who was expected to return and announce the Messiah's arrival (see MI 4:5, Dt 18:15)? John had no doubt and no mistaken identity about his call and mission. In all humility and sincerity, he said he was only a voice bidding people to get ready for the arrival of the greatest Ruler of all, God's anointed King and Messiah.

John's identity and our identity is derived from God's Son - Jesus Christ

John the Baptist bridges the Old and New Testaments. He is the last of the Old Testament prophets who points the way to the Messiah. He is the first of the New Testament witnesses and martyrs. He is the herald who prepares the way for Jesus and who announces his mission to the people: Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! (Jn 1:29). John saw from a distance what the Messiah would come to accomplish - our redemption from slavery to sin and our adoption as sons and daughters of God, our heavenly Father. Do you recognize who you are in Christ? The Lord Jesus has come to restore us to friendship with God and he has made us citizens of heaven - his everlasting kingdom of peace and justice.

Do you point others to Jesus Christ - the one true Lord and Saviour of the world?

John was the greatest of the prophets, yet he lived as a humble and faithful servant of God. He pointed others to Jesus, the true Messiah and Saviour of the world. The Christian church from the earliest of times has given John many titles which signify his mission: Witness of the Lord, Trumpet of Heaven, Herald of Christ, Voice of the Word, Precursor of Truth, Friend of the Bridegroom, Crown of the Prophets, Forerunner of the Redeemer, Preparer of Salvation, Light of the Martyrs, and Servant of the Word. Do you point others to Jesus Christ by the example and witness of your life?

Fr Allan

PARISH NEWS

Collection 10 December 2023 amounted to £1,696.78

Standing orders for October: £3,432.00

Contactless Income for November: £436.48

Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped decorate our tree and to all those who pitched in to clean our church. It is wonderful to see such incredible support and teamwork!

TREE OF LIGHT – a symbol of shared remembrance and prayers

The 'Tree of Light' gives us a beautiful opportunity to honour the memory of a departed love one, to wish someone good luck for the New Year or to express any other intention you may wish to



pray for.

It stands just by the Lady Chapel and we ask that you bring your own personalised label to hang on the tree.

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!

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

Should you wish to make a Christmas Offering to the Church this year, the envelopes are available on the back table. Your offering helps to cover the cost of our Priests stipends. We thank you greatly for supporting them.

Christmas Rotas

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and readers should indicate their availability on the list at the back of the church. Servers should check with their parents and then indicate their availability on the list in the sacristy. Thank you for your ministry throughout the year.

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: jam, sugar and tinned meat or fish. For more information see the **ADVENT GIVING CALENDAR** in the Outreach Newsletter available on the website. We send our condolences and prayers to the parishes of Sacred Heart, Quex Road and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and the Oblate Community on the sudden death of Fr Terry Murray.

May he rest in peace. 🕈

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Sunday 24th December

4th Sunday of Advent	9:00am
	10:30am
	12 noon

 First Mass of Christmas with

 Children's Nativity Play
 6:30pm

 All children welcome to come dressed as any Nativity figure

Carols & Readings Christmas Night Mass

9:30pm 10:00pm

Monday 25th December

Christmas Day

9:00am 11:00am NO EVENING MASS

DIOCESAN NEWS

The **SVP** are distributing **over 10,000 Vinnie Packs** containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. 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 17 December 2023

Saturday	6:30pm	People of the Parish	Ints
Sunday	9:00am	T.J. Ryan	Anniv
	10:30am	Denis Mulligan	Anniv
	12 noon	John and Josephine Savage	RIP
	6:30pm	George Anthony	Anniv
Monday	9:30am	Stephen Moriarty	RIP
Tuesday	9:30am	Breda Kelleher	Ints
Wednesday	9:30am	Michal O'Malley	RIP
	11:45am	Funeral—Julie Ann Glynn	RIP
Thursday	9:30am	Benedict Rodrigues	RIP
Friday	9:30am	Magdalene Rodrigues, Domi	nic, Margaret,
		Peter and family 7	hanksgiving
Saturday	9:30am	Janet Amoko Mafe	Anniv

Those who are sick: Martin Doyle, Kathleen McGloin, Yvonne Dike, Eileen Gilgunn, Rose John-Francis, Carol Scanlon Those who have died recently: Father Terry Murray, Christine Elizabeth Casey, Maria Pereira, Noreen Joy Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: T.J. Ryan, John and Josephine Savage, Denis Mulligan, Janet Amoko Mafe and Francis McGeown