

## **ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

JANUARY — MONTH OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B 14 JANUARY 2024

## **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:* <u>St Mary Magdalen RC Church,</u> <u>Willesden Green | London | Facebook</u>

## **Parish Clergy**

Monsignor Roger Reader KCHS rogerreader@rcdow.org.uk

Father Allan Alvarado Gil <u>allanalvarado@rcdow.org.uk</u> 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

## 'We have found the Messiah' (Jn 1:35-42)

**Meditation:** Who is Jesus for you? John calls Jesus the *Lamb of God* and thus signifies Jesus' mission as the One who redeems us from our sins. The blood of the *Passover Lamb* (Ex 12) delivered the Israelites from their oppression in Egypt and from the plague of death. The Lord Jesus freely offered up his life for us on the cross as the atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 Cor 5:7). The blood which he poured out for us on the cross cleanses, heals, and frees us from our slavery to sin, and from the "wages of sin which is death" (Rm 6:23) and the "destruction of both body and soul in hell" (Mt 10:28).

It is significant that John was the son of the priest, Zachariah, who participated in the daily sacrifice of a lamb in the temple for the sins of the people (Ex 29). In Jesus John saw the true and only sacrifice which could deliver us from bondage to sin, death, and the powers of hell. How did John know the true identity of Jesus, as the Son of God and Saviour of the world (Jn 1:29)? The Holy Spirit revealed to John Jesus' true nature, such that John bore witness that this is the Son of God. How can we be certain that Jesus is truly the Christ, the Son of the living God? The Holy Spirit makes the Lord Jesus Christ known to us through the gift of faith. God gives us freely of his Spirit that we may comprehend - with enlightened minds and eyes of faith - the great mystery and plan of God to unite all things in his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

## "What do you seek?"

John in his characteristic humility was eager to point beyond himself to the Christ (means *Anointed One* and *Messiah*). He did not hesitate to direct his own disciples to the Lord Jesus. When two of John's disciples began to seek Jesus out, Jesus took the initiative to invite them into his company. He did not wait for them to get his attention. Instead he met them halfway. He asked them one of the most fundamental questions of life: "What are you looking for?" Jesus asks each one of us the same question: "What are you searching for? Do you know the meaning and purpose for your life?" Only God, the Father and Author of life, can answer that question and make our purpose fully known to us. That is why the Lord Jesus invites each one of us to draw near to himself. He wants us to know him personally - to know what he came to do for us and what he wants to offer us.

## "Come and see"

"Come and see" is the Lord's invitation for each one of us to discover the joy of friendship and communion with the One who made us in love for love. Saint Augustine of Hippo reminds us that it is God, our Creator and Redeemer, who seeks us out, even when we are not looking for him: "If you hadn't been called by God, what could you have done to turn back? Didn't the very One who called you when you were opposed to Him make it possible for you to turn back?" It is God who initiates and who draws us to himself. Without his mercy and help we could not find him on our own.

The Holy Spirit gives us the gift of faith to know the Lord Jesus personally, power to live the gospel faithfully, and courage to witness the truth and joy of the Gospel to others. The Lord Jesus is ever ready to draw us to himself. Do you seek to grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus Christ?

Fr Allan

## PARISH NEWS

Collection 7 January 2024 amounted to £3, 066.11

Standing orders for October: £3,432.00

**Contactless Income for December:** £528.73

Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

#### **NEW YEAR RESOLUTION?**

Would you like to get more involved in our parish community? We have many service ministries to choose from and welcome all volunteers.

We are particularly looking for new readers at the 6:30pm Masses Please contact the office for more information. *Thank you!* 

**THANK YOU** to our Tuesday Coffee Morning group who raised £64 at their raffle, towards three CAFOD world gifts.

#### SICK LIST

Thank you for submitting names of friends and loved ones in need of our prayers. Please note, that they will remain on the sick list for 4 weeks after which time, you are welcome to contact the office to place them on the list again. *Thank you*.

## Crib Offering 2023.

Our crib will remain until Candlemas— 'The Presentation of the Lord' on 2 February. The crib offering will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society

## **FUNERAL NOTICES**

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late **Christine Casey** will take place on Tuesday 16th January at 11:00am followed by cremation at Hendon Crematorium at 1:00pm

## May she rest in peace 🕏

| PARISH DIARY  |  |   | Mass Int<br>Su                                   | s Intenti<br>Sunday         |  |
|---|--|---|--|-----------------------------|--|
| Monday 15th January<br>FIRST HOLY COMMUNION<br>5:30pm | Parent and Candidate meeting<br>in St Mary Magdalen Church                           | Saturday<br>Sunday                          | 6:30pm<br>9:00am<br>10:30am                      | Fra<br>Th<br>Sea            |  |
| Monday 15th January<br><b>CONFIRMATION</b><br>6:00pm  | Session 1 for candidates:<br>GETTING STARTED at the<br>Church of the Transfiguration | Monday<br>Tuesday                           | 12 noon<br>6:30pm<br>9:30am<br>9:30am<br>11:00am | Sis<br>Pe<br>An<br>Ma<br>Fu |  |
| Thursday 18th January<br>7:00pm                       | FIRE WARDEN TRAINING   | Wednesday<br>Thursday<br>Friday<br>Saturday | 9:30am<br>9:30am<br>9:30am<br>9:30am             | Ag<br>He<br>Ph<br>Pri       |  |

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for January:

For The Gift Of Diversity In The Church

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

The Bishops of England and Wales invite us to make today a day of prayer for **WORLD PEACE**, using the theme proposed by Pope Francis: 'Artificial Intelligence & Peace'. It might seem a strangely



technical, rather abstract title, of limited interest except to experts, but new technologies are developing so quickly that we need to think about their consequences for our freedom, peace and security.

You can read more about this by following the link: <u>https://www.cbcew.org.uk/artificial-intelligence-and-peace/</u>

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking for people to give some time and join them in their mission. Could you help in inspiring our church to help build a better world or by visiting our local schools? Or raise a voice and campaign for justice or perhaps speak for CAFOD throughout the area? Training and support is provided. See <u>cafod.org.uk/</u> <u>Volunteer</u> for more information.

Worried about the climate crisis? The Westminster Cathedral group meet on Wed Jan 17 at 1.30 p.m. in the Hinsley room. We will be studying chapters 1 and 2 of *Laudate Deum* Pope Francis' exhortation to COP28. Copies can be found online. All are welcome and there is no charge.

## Mass Intentions Week commencing Sunday 14 January 2024

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

Those who have died recently: Christine Elizabeth Casey, Mossie Joy, Noreen Joy, Johnson Massicott, Deacon Anthony Clark, Bernadette Noone (née McInerney)

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Helen Langan, The Wallace family, Muriel Charles, Frank Donnellan