

ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

JANUARY —MONTH OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7 JANUARY 2024

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)

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

HAPPY NFW YFAR

Some of you may remember that I received an interesting motto in one of the Christmas Crackers I pulled this year. It wasn't a joke — it said it was a conversation starter and it went like this: 'What habit would you most like to give up in the coming year?'. If you ask my friends, I think they would say my habit of humming, singing or whistling to myself all the time. My life seems to need a musical soundtrack to it, provided either by the wireless or by me. I think my friends would say that a good New Year's resolution for me would be to give up singing!

New Year is a chance for new beginnings, and maybe you are making New Year resolutions. They might be around sweets and iPhones for some of you, and they might be around alcohol and tobacco or vaping for some of the adults (or dare I say teenagers) among us. It is so good that the New Year in the life of the Church begins with the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, and she can inspire us in making our New Year resolutions. Here are four suggestions for what you might like to do.

Try to be positive about your life. Look for what will work, and what good you can do, rather than dwell on what you can't do or how you fall into sin. Think of Mary's positive response to the Angel Gabriel when she was told she was going to be the Mother of God. She said, very clearly, let it be done to me according to your will. She said yes, and so Love was born into the world. **Resolve to say Yes to God.**

The gospel tells us that Mary pondered all that had happened to her in her heart. One thing you could do is to set time aside for prayer, contemplation and self-discovery. Maybe just five minutes a day, with a helpful app, with the scripture, with the rosary or with religious music. You could do this on your own, or perhaps as a family, maybe before you eat. **Resolve to spend time with God in prayer**

You will all face challenges this year. It might be the challenge of illness, or of bereavement. It might be the challenge of a new job or a new place to live. If you are a student or at school, it will be the challenges of study and exams, and also the challenge of friendships good and bad. Mary faced the enormous challenge of falling pregnant before she was officially married to Joseph. She needed his support and care. Resolve to seek help and talk problems through rather than bottling them up.

We can all do so much to help those around us, to contribute to the wellbeing of others, whether it's in the family, among our friends or helping with things like foodbanks and charities. Reflect how Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth and gave her time and love. **Resolve to build a community of support and care.**

Tray for us in 2024 O Holy Mother of God, that we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.



PARISH NEWS

Christmas Offering Collection amounted to £4,718.41 Thank you for your amazing generosity!

Standing orders for October: £3,432.00 Contactless Income for December: £528.73

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.

Please contact the office for more information. Thank you!

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 Singhalese 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 Singhalese 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.

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.

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

FUNERAL NOTICES

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

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late

Percival Theophilus Charles

will take place on Thursday 11 January 2024 at 11:00am followed by burial at St Mary's Cemetery at 1:00pm

May they rest in peace 🕏



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.

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.

Mass Intentions Week commencing Sunday 7 January 2024

| Saturday | 6:30pm | For all who supported | |
|-----------|---------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| | | the Grefte family | Ints |
| Sunday | 9:00am | Louis Keleghan | Anniv |
| | 10:30am | The Dominican Sisters at | |
| | | St Roses's Convent | Ints |
| | 12 noon | The Molloy Family | Ints |
| | 6:30pm | People of the Parish | Ints |
| | 7:30pm | Reception of the late Helen Delar | ney |
| Monday | 9:30am | Mairead Casey, Peg Murphy and | |
| | | Andy Murphy | Anniv |
| | 12:30pm | Funeral—Helen Delaney | RIP |
| Tuesday | 9:30am | Sean Deroe | RIP |
| Wednesday | 9:30am | Breda and Tim Kelleher | Ints |
| Thursday | 9:30am | Antony John Chalissery | Anniv |
| | 11:00am | Funeral—Percival Charles | RIP |
| Friday | 9:30am | Mary and Patsy McAshea | Ints |
| Saturday | 9:30am | Colleen and Redge Carpen | Ints |
| | | | |

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: Mossie Joy, Noreen Joy, Christine Elizabeth Casey, Helen Delaney, Percival Charles, Tony McGovern, Fr Stuart Gullan-Steel

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Louis Keleghan, Antony John Chalissery