

Lent



ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

FEBRUARY — MONTH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B

18 FEBRUARY 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 \(rcdow.org.uk\)](http://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 Kamal Kanawadi
kamalkanawadi@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

As the old song almost says:

'Nothing says I love you quite like ash on your forehead'.

As perhaps we all know, Ash Wednesday is almost the earliest it can be, and this year it coincides with Valentine's Day. It was very good to see so many of you, including children and young people on half term, at the Ash Wednesday Masses. But maybe it was a day of rather mixed feelings. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting (only one main meal) and abstinence (no meat). If you were planning a romantic evening, that might have made it a little less romantic than you'd hoped. So, how can we bring the two together?

Well, let's look at the symbolism of the ash first of all. It is imposed on our heads to mark the first day of the solemn season of Lent – forty days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These ashes are a visible sign of our mortality – we are dust and to dust we shall return – but they should also make us reflect on our immortality, that through Jesus Christ we shall gain immortality, eternal life with God. When the ash is put on our forehead, it is placed in the form of a cross and this is a sign to us of God's unfailing love for us – the ash on our forehead indeed does say 'I love you'.

I suspect that those who sent a Valentine's card were hoping that there would be some sort of response, even though it may have been sent without a name. Most of us have known at some time in our lives the agony of a love which has no response from the other person. The three duties of Lent – **prayer, fasting and almsgiving**, should be our response to the love which God shows us - make these things the heart of your response to God this Lent.

- ◆ You might meditate on the Stations of the Cross; use more regularly a devotional app on your 'phone; come to an extra weekday Mass if you're able – come a bit earlier to Mass. As a family, make prayer before meals a true time of praying together.
- ◆ Fasting – it doesn't seem so fashionable to say it these days, but yes Lent does mean giving up eating something you enjoy. It is such a simple way of uniting ourselves to the Redeemer. And, for some of us, it might mean giving up other things as well – no Pointless (again) for me for the next 40 days.
- ◆ If you can, set some money aside to help others, you are such a generous parish, and Lent is a way to affirm that generosity. There is the Cardinal's Lent Appeal and also CAFOD.

May God bless us all as we start this holy season – the ash last Wednesday reminded us of his love for us on the cross, our Lenten resolutions are signs to God of our love for Him.

Monsignor Roger



Lent 2024

PARISH NEWS

Collection 11 February 2024 amounted to £1,727.43

Standing orders for January: £3,339

Contactless Income for January: £478.22

Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

THE SYNODAL PROCESS CONTINUES...

Following previous discussions globally, two main themes emerged: **Co-responsibility** and **Formation**.



This weekend and next, we will be thinking further about these two areas and how we can better organise ourselves for mission.

These are some of the questions we will be discussing:

- ◆ How do we witness as a Parish and proclaim our faith?
- ◆ How should we organise ourselves as a Parish to do this more effectively?
- ◆ What steps and formation opportunities would help us begin to witness and proclaim our faith more effectively?
- ◆ How might we need to develop the way we are organised?

You are also very welcome to send your responses to these questions to the parish office by Monday 26 February.



We give our heartfelt thanks to Anne Chappet, who has decided to stand down from teaching the children during the 1030 Mass at their Children's Liturgy. She brought with her many years of experience as a teacher, and it was a joy for me to see all the work the children did during their sessions and when they answered my questions (sometimes with a stage whisper prompt from Anne) with such enthusiasm.

God bless you, Anne, and many thanks. Mgr. Roger.

PARISH DIARY

Monday 19th February FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 5:30pm	Chapter 3: CELEBRATION—OUR RESCUE St Mary Magdalen School
Monday 19th February CONFIRMATION 6:00pm	Session 5: WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE? Church of the Transfiguration
Thursday 22nd February LENT PRAYER GROUP	10:30am The Church of the Transfiguration OR 7:00pm St Mary Magdalen annexe
Friday 23rd February STATIONS OF THE CROSS	6:00pm in our church

Those who are sick: Carmeletta O'Sullivan, Esme Ellington, Helena Cunningham, Martin Doyle

Those who have died recently: Eden Espineda, Mary Daly, Edward Pope, Patrick Kennedy, Edward Dudley, Janina Mencfel, Deacon Stephen Pickard

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: May McClay, John Sullivan, Humberto Demetrio

DIOCESAN NEWS

ANNUAL MASS FOR MATRIMONY

The annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony will be celebrated in Westminster Cathedral on **Saturday 25th May 2024 at 2.30pm.**

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their **5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024.

If you are celebrating an anniversary, please email the parish office with the following details:

husband and wife's names,
wedding date,
full postal address and email
(or telephone number, if no email)
by Friday 22nd March.
Thank you.



CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL 2024



If you can, please show your support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. All funds raised go towards projects across our Diocese. Each year, the Diocese uses donations made to support the work of our services, such as Marriage & Family Life; Youth Ministry, and Education. Funds are also used to support the work of Caritas Westminster, who work for and with some of the most vulnerable people in our Diocese.

His Eminence, Cardinal Nichols, has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. So, please take a donation envelope today, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

Mass Intentions Week commencing Sunday 18 February 2024

Saturday	6:30pm	Benoit Hondier	RIP
Sunday	9:00am	Paulo Manuel Gracias	RIP
	10:30am	Fiona & Stevie O'Brien	Wedding Anniv
	12 noon	People of the Parish	Ints
	6:30pm	John Cronin	RIP
Monday	9:30am	Peter and Daniel Mulhern	Anniv
Tuesday	9:30am	Mary Molloy	RIP
Wednesday	9:30am	Joseph Caldeira	RIP
Thursday	9:30am	Hilda Finnerty	RIP
Friday	9:30am	Douglas and Glynn Family	Ints
Saturday	9:30am	Sandra Molloy and family in Dublin and America	Ints