

Lent



ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

FEBRUARY — MONTH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B

25 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 (WRCDDT)
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

This is my Son, the Beloved (Mk 9:2-10)

Meditation: What can blind us or keep us from recognizing God's glory and presence in our lives? Sin and unbelief for sure! Faith enables us to see what is hidden or unseen to the naked eye. Through the eyes of faith Abraham recognized God and God's call on his life. He saw from afar not only what God intended for him, but for his descendants as well - an everlasting covenant of friendship and peace with the living God. Abraham is the father of faith because he put his hope in the promises of God. Faith makes us taste in advance the light of God's glory when we shall see him face to face (1 Cor 13:12; 1 Jn 3:2).

The Lord wants to share his glory with each of us

The Lord Jesus not only wants us to see his glory - he wants to share this glory with us. And Jesus shows us the way to the Father's glory: follow me - obey my words - take the path I have chosen for you and you will receive the glory and blessings of my Father's kingdom - your names will be written in heaven (Luke 10:20).

Jesus succeeded in his mission because he willingly went to Calvary (where he offered up his life for us on the cross), so that Paradise (our true dwelling place with God) would be restored to us once again. He embraced the cross to obtain the crown of glory that awaits each one of us. If we hope to share fully in his glory, we, too, must follow him in the way of the cross - by dying to sin and embracing his will for our lives. This is the only true path that leads to everlasting peace and joy with God.

Origen (185-254 AD), an early church Scripture scholar and writer, describes how we are changed and transformed into Christ's likeness as we look to him day by day with faith and honesty and strive to walk according to the light of his truth and righteousness (moral goodness):

"When he is transfigured, his face also shines as the sun that he may be manifested to the children of light who have put off the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, and are no longer the children of darkness or night but have become the sons of day, and walk honestly as in the day. Being manifest, he will shine unto them not simply as the sun, but as demonstrated to be the sun of righteousness." [Commentary on Matthew 12:37 by Origen]

Stay awake spiritually - Don't miss God's glory and action

Luke's Gospel account tells us that while Jesus was transfigured, Peter, James, and John were asleep (Lk 9:32)! Upon awakening they discovered Jesus in glory along with Moses and Elijah. How much do we miss of God's glory and action because we are asleep spiritually? There are many things which can keep our minds asleep to the things of God: Mental lethargy and the "unexamined life" can keep us from thinking things through and facing our doubts and questions in the light of Christ's truth. The life of ease can also hinder us from considering the challenging or disturbing demands of Christ to forsake all for him and his kingdom. Prejudice can make us blind to something new the Lord may have for us. Even sorrow can be a block until we can see past it to the glory of God.

How spiritually awake are you to Christ's presence and word of life for you? Peter, James, and John were privileged witnesses of the glory of Christ. We, too, as disciples of Christ are called to be witnesses of his glory.

*We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord,
are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another;
for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:18).*

The Lord wants to reveal his glory to us, his beloved disciples. Do you seek his presence with expectant faith, reverence, and willing obedience?

Fr Allan

PARISH NEWS

Collection 18 February 2024 amounted to £1,765.61

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...

Thank you to everyone who submitted responses last weekend—we received over 300 comments.

Two further questions remain, and once again, we ask for your feedback either on the post-it notes, or you can email the office by Monday 26 February:

These are 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?

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES 2024

Thank you to everyone who is currently using the weekly Planned Giving envelopes to donate to our parish. These renew in April and we kindly ask that you notify the office if you do not wish to continue using these. We also ask that you consider giving by Standing Order instead as this requires much less admin work and time. Standing Orders are flexible and can be easily amended or cancelled. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Baptism Preparation The next course preparing parents for the baptism of their child, will be held on **Saturday 13 April** at 11:00am. Please contact the office to book a place.

PARISH DIARY

Monday 26th February FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 5:30pm	Chapter 4: GOD HELPS ME GET IT RIGHT St Mary Magdalen Church
Monday 26th February CONFIRMATION 6:00pm	Session 6: THE COMEBACK OF JESUS Church of the Transfiguration
Thursday 29th February LENT PRAYER GROUP	10:30am The Church of the Transfiguration OR 7:00pm St Mary Magdalen annexe
Friday 1st March STATIONS OF THE CROSS	6:00pm in our church

REMINDER:

FOODBANK COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

FUNERAL NOTICE

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late

Edward Dudley

will take place on Tuesday 27th February at 11:30am followed by burial at St Mary's Cemetery at 1:00 pm

May he rest in peace ☩

YOUTH GROUP - Year 9 to 13

SUNDAY 10th MARCH at 4:30pm—EARLIER TIME!



We will be preparing a special Youth Stations of the Cross to lead parishioners on Friday, March 15th.

We welcome your artistic ideas!

Registration forms available by the annexe.

DIOCESAN NEWS

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 by Friday 22nd March. *Thank you.*

If you can, please show your support for the

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL 2024

All funds raised go towards projects across our Diocese. 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. *Thank you.*

Mass Intentions Week commencing Sunday 25 February 2024

Saturday	6:30pm	George and Beatrice Wallace	Anniv
Sunday	9:00am	People of the Parish	Ints
	10:30am	Christy Halley	RIP
	12 noon	Eden Dela Cruz	RIP
	6:30pm	Mary Daly	RIP
Monday	9:30am	Peter Mangan	RIP
Tuesday	9:30am	Holy Souls	RIP
	11:30am	Funeral—Edward Dudley	RIP
Wednesday	9:30am	Hilda Finnerty	RIP
Thursday	9:30am	Hilda Finnerty	RIP
Friday	9:30am	Patrick Kennedy	RIP
Saturday	9:30am	Hilda Finnerty	RIP

Those who are sick: Carmelitta O'Sullivan, Esme Ellington, Helena Cunningham, Martin Doyle, Phyllis Oliveiro

Those who have died recently: Edward Dudley, Frank Carroll

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: George and Beatrice Wallace, Finbarr 'Barry' O'Shea, Brian Patrick Monahan