

Lent



ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

MARCH — MONTH OF SAINT JOSEPH

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR B

10 MARCH 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

Maria Nowicka
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

God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved
(Jn 3:14-21)

Meditation: Do you know the healing power of Christ's redeeming love and victory which he won for us on the cross? The Old Testament prophets never ceased to speak of God's faithfulness and compassion towards those who would turn away from sin and return to God with repentant hearts, trust, and obedience (2 Cro 36:15). When Jesus spoke to Nicodemus he prophesied that his death on the cross would bring healing and forgiveness and a "new birth in the Spirit" (Jn 3:3) and eternal life (Jn 3:15).

The "lifting up" of the Son of Man

Jesus explained to Nicodemus that the "Son of Man" must be "lifted up" to bring the power and authority of God's kingdom to bear on the earth. The title, "Son of Man," came from the prophet Daniel who describes a vision he received of the Anointed Messiah King who was sent from heaven to rule over the earth (Dn 7:13-14). Traditionally when kings began to reign they were literally "lifted up" and enthroned above the people. Jesus explains to Nicodemus that he will be recognized as the Anointed King when he is "lifted up" on the cross at Calvary. Jesus died for his claim to be the only begotten Son sent by the Father in heaven to redeem, heal, and reconcile his people with God.

Jesus points to a key prophetic sign which Moses performed in the wilderness right after the people of Israel were afflicted with poisonous serpents. Scripture tells us that many people died in the wilderness because of their sin of rebellion towards Moses and God. Through Moses' intervention, God showed mercy to the people and instructed Moses to "make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live"(Numbers 21:8). This miraculous sign was meant to foreshadow and point to the saving work which Jesus would perform to bring healing and salvation to the world.

The cross defeats sin and death

The bronze serpent which Moses lifted up in the wilderness points to the cross of Christ which defeats sin and death and obtains everlasting life for those who believe in Jesus Christ. The result of Jesus "being lifted up on the cross" and his rising from the dead, and his exaltation and ascension to the Father's right hand in heaven, is our "new birth in the Spirit" and adoption as sons and daughters of God. God not only frees us from our sins and pardons us, he also fills us with his own divine life through the gift and working of his Spirit who dwells within us.

The proof of God's love for us

How do we know, beyond a doubt, that God truly loves us and wants us to be united with him forever? *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life* (Jn 3:16). God proved his love for us by giving us the best he had to offer - his only begotten Son who freely gave himself as an offering to God for our sake and as the atoning sacrifice for our sin and the sin of the world. This passage tells us of the great breadth and width of God's love. Not an excluding love for just a few or for a single nation, but a redemptive love that embraces the whole world, and a personal love for each and every individual whom God has created. God is a loving Father who cannot rest until his wandering children have returned home to him.

Jesus shows us the paradox of love and judgment. We can love the darkness of sin and unbelief or we can love the light of God's truth, beauty, and goodness. If our love is guided by what is true, and good and beautiful then we will choose for God and love him above all else. What we love shows what we prefer. Do you love God above all else? Do you give him first place in your life, in your thoughts, decisions and actions?

Mother's Everywhere



*May the blessing of the
Divine*

*Be an especially bright
benediction*

Upon mothers everywhere

On your blessed day -

On Mother's Day!



- Author Unknown

Fr Allan

PARISH NEWS

Collection 3 March 2024 amounted to £1,747.14

Standing orders for February: £3,077

Contactless Income for February: £661.60

Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

PLANNED GIVING DRIVE

It is now over four years since the last Planned Giving Drive took place in this parish. Parishioners responded very generously then which saw us through the Lockdown period. The Diocese has asked us to hold another Drive, and this weekend, we will be hearing from some of the members of our Finance Committee. I know that for many of you it may not be possible to increase your generous giving to the Parish, but I do ask that you consider very carefully moving from Envelopes to a Standing Order, and also Gift Aiding your offering. More details about this next week.

Holy Week Services Please take a leaflet home with all the dates and times of the Holy Week Liturgies. They are available at the back of the church.



SCHOOL AND PARISH

We are joined by the children of the Convent of Jesus and Mary and St Mary Magdalen's at the 10:30 Mass this Sunday. They will also be joining us on Monday 11 March at 9:30am. This Mass will not be live-streamed.

PARISH DIARY

Monday 11th March FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 5:30pm	Chapter 8: FRUIT OF THE VINE St Mary Magdalen School
Monday 11th March CONFIRMATION 6:00pm	Session 9: THE CHURCH Church of the Transfiguration
Thursday 14th March LENT PRAYER GROUP Last session	10:30am The Church of the Transfiguration OR 7:00pm St Mary Magdalen annexe

London St Patrick's Day Parade Everyone is welcome to join the parade next Sunday, meeting outside Green Park tube station at 12noon, walking to Trafalgar Square.

See website for more information:

www.london.gov.uk/events/st-patricks-day-2024



Those who are sick: Helena Cunningham, Martin Doyle, Phyllis Oliveiro, Simon Mercer, Carol Scanlon Giudice

Those who have died recently: Margaret Henchy, Nancy McHugh

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Fr Jim McNulty, Noreen Carolan, Alex and Yvonne Lobo, Bridget Connell, Ellen Dunn, The Scannell family

FUNERAL NOTICES

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late

Nancy McHugh

will take place on Tuesday 12 March at 10:00am

at **St Mary and St Andrew Church, Dollis Hill**

followed by burial at Clamp Hill Cemetery, Stanmore at 11:45am

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late

Margaret Henchy

will take place on Thursday 14 March 2024 at 6:30pm

followed by Repatriation to Ireland.

May they rest in peace ☩



YOUTH GROUP THIS SUNDAY AT 4:30pm

.....
STATIONS OF THE CROSS this Friday at 6:00pm,

will be led by our Youth Group.

Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

Please indicate on the forms at the back of the church your availability for the Holy Week liturgies. Thank you.



Altar Servers There will be a practice for all altar servers to prepare for the Holy Week Services on **Saturday 23 March at 2:00pm.**

Parish Penitential Service: On Monday in Holy Week (25 March) there will be a Penitential Service at 7:00pm with visiting priests. I encourage you to come to this service so we can prepare together to celebrate the Lord's Passion.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP at the 10:30am Sunday Mass will be restarting again on the 17th March.

Mass Intentions Week commencing Sunday 10 March 2024

Saturday	6:30pm	People of the Parish	Ints
Sunday	9:00am	Alan Johnson	RIP
	10:30am	The Theodore Family	Ints
	12 noon	Bridget Connell	Anniv
	6:30pm	Terence O'Neill	RIP
Monday	9:30am	Christine Elizabeth Casey	RIP
Tuesday	9:30am	Ellen Dunn	Anniv
Wednesday	9:30am	Pat Hennessy	Ints
Thursday	9:30am	Joe Campbell	RIP
	6:30pm	Funeral - Margaret Henchy	RIP
Friday	9:30am	Fr James McNulty	Anniv
Saturday	9:30am	Bridget McNulty	RIP

Lent Retreat

For University Students & Young Adults (18-30s)

📍 Assumption Priory, Victoria Park Square,
Bethnal Green, London E2 9PB



Donations only



RELIGIOUS OF THE
ASSUMPTION

Sat 16th March

Programme: Morning Prayer & Reflections (11am)
• Lunch • Afternoon Activities • Stations of the Cross •
Adoration • Confessions • Social • Mass (6pm)

To register email: tramy@assumptionreligious.org

ARCHBISHOP ROMERO TRUST

An ecumenical service to mark the anniversary
of the martyrdom of Archbishop Romero

Prayerful & Prophetic Resilience in the Face of Injustice

Archbishops Oscar Romero
and Denis Hurley

Saturday, 16 March 2024
11am, St Martin-in-the-Fields
Trafalgar Square, London



Speaker

Dr Raymond Perrier

*Director of the Denis Hurley Centre,
South Africa*



Full information at romerotrust.org.uk
Email romerotrust@gmail.com

Registered charity number 1110069



The Archbishop
Romero Trust