

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

May —Month of The Blessed Virgin

Pentecost Sunday

19 May 2024

Presbytery

Peter Avenue, Willesden Green,
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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

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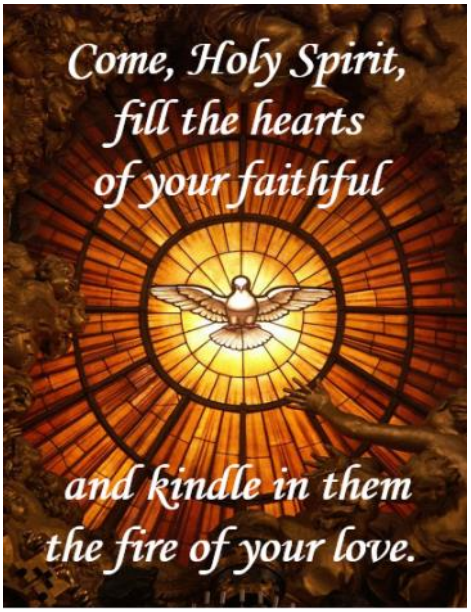
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Parish Office

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Parish office open:
Tuesday-Friday 10:00am - 2:00pm

This Parish is part of Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust (WRCDT)
Registered Charity No: 233699



As the Father sent me, so am I sending you: receive the Holy Spirit (Jn 20:19-23)

Meditation: Do you know and experience in your own life the gift and power of the Holy Spirit? After his death and resurrection Jesus promised to give his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit. He said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit! (Jn 20:22) Jesus knew that his disciples would need the power of the Holy Spirit to carry out the mission entrusted to them. The gift of the Holy Spirit was conditional upon the ascension of Jesus to the right hand of the Father. That is why Jesus instructed the apostles to wait in Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on high (Lk 24:49). Why did they need power from on high? The Gospels tell us that Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit when he was baptized at the Jordan River:

"*And John bore witness, 'I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him... this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit*'" (Jn 1:32,33; Mk 1:8; Mt 3:11). "*And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit for forty days in the wilderness... and Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee*" (Lk 4:1,14).

Just as Jesus was anointed with the Spirit at the beginning of his ministry, so the disciples needed the anointing of the Holy Spirit to carry out the mission entrusted to them by Jesus. The Holy Spirit is given to all who are baptized into Jesus Christ to enable us to live a new way of life - a life of love, peace, joy, and righteousness (Rm 14:17). The Holy Spirit fills our hearts with the love of God (Rm 5:7), and he gives us the strength and courage we need in order to live as faith-filled disciples of the Lord Jesus. The Spirit helps us in our weakness (Rm 8:26), and enables us to grow in spiritual freedom - freedom from doubt, fear, and from slavery to our unruly desires (2 Co 3:17; Rm 8:21). The Spirit instructs us in the ways of God, and guides us in living according to God's will. The Spirit is the source and giver of all holiness. Isaiah foretold the seven-fold gifts that the Spirit would give: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord (Is 11:2).

The gift of Pentecost - the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and the spiritual gifts and blessings of God - are made possible through the death, resurrection, and ascension of the Lord Jesus. After his resurrection Jesus "breathed" on his disciples and gave them the Holy Spirit. Just as God breathed life into Adam, so the gift of the Holy Spirit is an impartation of "new life" for his people. With the gift of the Holy Spirit a new creation begins. God recreates us for his glory. Jesus' gift of peace to his disciples was more than an absence of trouble. His peace included the forgiveness of sins and the fullness of everything good. Do you want power to live a faith-filled life as a disciple of Jesus? Ask the Father to fill you with the power of his Holy Spirit (Lk 11:13).

Basil the Great (329-379 AD), an early church father, explains the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives:
"*The Spirit restores paradise to us and the way to heaven and adoption as children of God; he instills confidence that we may call God truly Father and grants us the grace of Christ to be children of the light and to enjoy eternal glory. In a word, he bestows the fullness of blessings in this world and the next; for we may contemplate now in the mirror of faith the promised things we shall someday enjoy. " (From the treatise by Basil on The Holy Spirit)*

The Lord Jesus offers each one of us the gift and power of his Holy Spirit. He wants to make our faith strong, give us hope that endures, and a love that never grows cold. He never refuses to give his Spirit to those who ask with expectant faith. Jesus instructed his disciples to ask confidently for the gift of the Spirit: "*If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!*" (Lk 11:13). Do you thirst for God and for the abundant life he offers through the gift of his Spirit?

Fr Allan

PARISH NEWS

Collection 12 May 2024 amounted to £1,841.27

Standing orders for April: £3,299

Contactless Income for April: £791.01

Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

SUMMER SCHOOL

Explore the beauty of the Easter season with **"Beyond the Cross"**. Join us for this enlightening art and culture series, where faith meets creativity in a unique and inspiring way. Follow the Risen Christ as we journey through pivotal encounters such as Pentecost, The Ascension of Christ, and Christ and St. Thomas.

Running for six Thursdays starting on June 13th, right here in our church. Sessions begin at 7pm and offer a rich hour of exploration and reflection.

For enquiries, feel free to email us at wgoutreach@rcdow.org.uk. Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your understanding of Easter through the lens of art and culture!

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday 21st July

More information to come!



SCHOOL AND PARISH

We are joined by the pupils of St Mary Magdalen school at the 9:30am Mass this Monday. This Mass will not be live-streamed. Please see https://www.churchservices.tv/ for other live Masses.

The pupils will also be helping us out at Coffee Morning this Tuesday.

Mass Intentions Week commencing Sunday 19 May 2024

Saturday	6:30pm	Margaret Henchy	**RIP**
Sunday	9:00am	Ineda Braganca	**Get Well Ints**
	10:30am	Agnes McNamara	**Anniv**
	12 noon	The Rafter Family	**RIP**
	6:30pm	Imelda Quinn	**RIP**
Monday	9:30am	Holy Souls	**RIP**
Tuesday	9:30am	Bridget Driscoll	**RIP**
Wednesday	9:30am	Santana Pinto	**Ints**
Thursday	9:30am	Elaine Lydon	**RIP**
Friday	9:30am	Mario Jose Francisco Braganca	**RIP**
Saturday	9:30am	Thanksgiving	

Well done!

All our Confirmation candidates completed a challenging sponsored walkathon last Saturday raising over **£300** for **Mary's Meals.**

You can still support this amazing charity by going to: https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Transfiguration-Kensal-Rise

Thank you for your support!

GOOD LUCK

We wish all our parishioners who are sitting exams at this time the best of luck. We are praying for you.

Many of you will remember Canon Tony Dwyer, who last week celebrated 40 years of priesthood.

Ad multos annos Canon Tony!

DIOCESAN NEWS

VOCATIONS DAYS:

'Come and See'

Men who are interested in exploring vocations to the priesthood or the permanent diaconate are invited to come along to the Vocations Team's 'Come & See' Vocations Morning on Saturday 1st June, 10am-2pm at Our Lady's Hall (the undercroft) at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Rothamsted Avenue, Harpenden AL5 2DB. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. To register attendance, contact: Canon Roger Taylor, Vocations Promoter, at rogertaylor@rcdow.org.uk or Deacon Adrian Cullen, Director of the Permanent Diaconate, at adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk or call 07961 594725.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols is now open via the application form on https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/ or by contacting the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173. Very limited spaces to travel by plane are left available.



The **Episcopal Ordination** of Monsignor Jim Curry as an Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster will be celebrated in Westminster Cathedral on Tuesday 18 June 2024 at 12 noon.
No tickets needed.
All parishioners are very welcome to attend.

Those who are sick: Ineda Braganca, Pauline Davison, Ronald Pitkin, Noel Armstrong, Carmeletta O'Sullivan, Ethel Cuff

Those who have died recently: Martin Doyle, Mary Louis, Fr Francis Wahle

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Agnes McNamara