

ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

SEPTEMBER —MONTH OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -

8 SEPTEMBER 2024

This Parish is part of Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity No: 233699

Presbytery
Peter Avenue, Willesden Gn,
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 Matteo Di Giuseppe
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Father Kamal Kanawadi
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Parish Office
Maria Nowicka
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Parish office open:
Tuesday-Friday 10:00am - 2:00pm

Parish Outreach Worker
Barry Phillips-Devaney
wgoutreach@rcdow.org.uk

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*

Be Opened!

Last Tuesday I was waiting at the 'bus stop with some friends when a large motorbike pulled up. The rider, hidden behind a helmet, called out, "Is that Fr. Roger?" I'll admit, I was a bit nervous at first—who wouldn't be, confronted by a mystery man on a motorbike in London? But when he took off his helmet, I recognized him immediately. It was Johnny, who'd been in Feltham Young Offenders from 2011 to 2014. Johnny had been in a tough place back then, but he told me he had turned his life around and had managed to stay out of trouble for nearly ten years. Seeing him made me think about the challenges and struggles that so many people in our society face, especially those who have been through the prison system.

Our prisons are in a parlous state. The prison population has reached an all-time high, with over 88,000 people incarcerated. This leap in the population has partly been caused by the sentencing of the rioters this summer. This overcrowding is causing serious problems. Many prisoners are being moved far away from their families, making it almost impossible for loved ones to visit. Imagine trying to take three small children on a long train journey to visit their parent in a prison miles away. How difficult and heartbreaking that must be.

There is a lot of talk from politicians and the media about tougher sentences and making sure that those who break the law are punished. It's easy to forget that real justice isn't just about locking people up—it's also about helping them change, giving them a chance to make a new start. When our prisons are overcrowded, there's little room for education, for offending behaviour programmes and learning how to live better lives. Instead of being places of rehabilitation, they become warehouses where people are simply kept out of sight. Having worked in prisons, I know that the longer a prisoner is kept behind his or her door, the less likely he or she is to be open to change.

In today's gospel we hear how Jesus opened the ears of the deaf man so he could hear the truth. We need to pray that our own ears will be opened—that we will hear the truth about what's happening in our justice system. As well as the voices of victims of crime, we need to listen to the voices of those who have been in prison, like Johnny, who have struggled to find their way back to a better life. We need to listen to the families who suffer when their loved ones are taken far away. And we need to listen to the experts who tell us that overcrowded prisons don't work—they don't make us safer, and they don't help people change.

In the Gospel, Jesus says, "Ephphatha," which means "Be opened." I believe this is a call for all of us to be open—to open our hearts to those who are struggling, to open our minds to the need for reform, and to open our ears to the cries for justice. There's no simple solution to the problems in our prison system, but I believe that if more of us are willing to listen, to really hear what's going on, we can start to make a difference.

May God open our ears and our hearts,
so that we can be instruments of His justice
and mercy in the world.
May we always remember that every person, no matter their past,
is a child of God and deserves a chance to find their way home.

Monsignor Roger

PARISH NEWS

Collection 1 September 2024 amounted to £1,546.57
Standing orders for August: £4,118
Contactless Income for August: £552.36

Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

Mass of Thanksgiving for Fr. Allan

We invite you to join us for a special Mass of Thanksgiving for Fr. Allan at The Church of The Transfiguration, Kensal Rise on **Friday, 13th September at 7pm**. There will be a drinks reception afterwards with light refreshments and live music

If you would like to contribute to a leaving gift, there will be another opportunity to add to this collection this weekend. Alternatively, you can post a donation through the Clergy House letter box clearly marked Gift for Fr Allan.
Thank you.

Address: Church of the Transfiguration,
1 Wrentham Ave, London NW10 3HT

ADULT ALPHA

This weekend, we will hear about the experience of the ALPHA course from one of our participants. We hope it provides you with a clearer understanding of what the course is all about and demonstrates that it is open to everyone, no matter where you are on your faith journey. Why not give it a try?
There is no pressure to speak or attend every session.

Starting date: 19 September
in St Mary Magdalen church annexe.
Thursdays @ 6:30pm for 11 weeks
With one Saturday retreat

Registration forms available at the back of the church.
Any questions? Please contact Barry, our Outreach Worker at:
wgoutreach@rcdow.org.uk

Mass Intentions Week commencing Sunday 8 September 2024

Saturday	6:30pm	Mary and Alan Statham	**Anniv**
Sunday	9:00am	Betty Weir	**RIP**
	10:30am	Kathleen and James Monahan	**Anniv**
	12:00pm	John McKiernan	**RIP**
	6:30pm	People of the Parish	**Ints**
Monday	9:30am	Holy Souls	**RIP**
Tuesday	9:30am	Nina Manuelina Viegas Braganca	**Anniv**
Wednesday	9:30am	John McKiernan	**RIP**
Thursday	9:30am	Ruben Quadros	**Ints** - good health
	11:30am	Funeral - Bridget Duffy	**RIP**
Friday	9:30am	Norrie Fox	**Anniv**
Saturday	9:30am	Deirdre Byrne	**Ints** - get well

FUNERAL NOTICE

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late **Bridget Duffy** will take place on Thursday 12th September at 11:30am followed by cremation at Golders Green Crematorium at 1pm

May she rest in peace ✝

On this **Education Sunday**, we would like to wish our parish schools and 'student' parishioners, a successful and inspiring year of learning.

Children's Liturgy Group starts next week

If you are in Reception, Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, we would love for you to join our **Children's Liturgy Group** on Sundays during the **10:30am Mass** (Term Time). You'll have the opportunity to learn about the Gospel for the day and your Catholic faith.

We look forward to seeing you next Sunday!



WALSINGHAM—EXTRA PLACES ADDED!

Due to popular demand, we have added a second coach to fit the waiting list for our pilgrimage to Walsingham on **Saturday 21st September.**

We have a few seats remaining, these will be given on a first come, first served basis. Please go to the Kensal Rise parish web-site www.transfigparishkensalrise.org.uk click on the Walsingham button and complete the online form to apply for a place on the coach. Costs £28.50 per pilgrim.

St Vincent De Paul Society (SVP)

We are joining together with Our Lady of Willesden, to form a new **SVP NW10** group. The work of the SVP focuses on helping those in need. If you are interested in finding out more or would like to attend the meeting, please contact Barry, our Outreach Worker at: wgoutreach@rcdow.org.uk

The first meeting is on **Wednesday 18 September**, at Our Lady of Willesden, 1 Nicoll Road, NW10 9AX at **6pm**

Together with the Parish of The Transfiguration,
we invite you to our

Church Family 'Fun Day'

at Willesden Sports Centre
on Sunday 22nd September, 2:00pm - 4:00pm



Bring your friends and a picnic to share.
The Fire Brigade will be joining us in the car park with a fire truck to explore!



If you would like to help with this event, please come along to our next **Social Committee meeting** on **Monday 9th September** at **7:00pm** in the Sacristy. *Many hands make light work!*

Those who are sick: Teresa and Jim O'Donnell, Monica Lynch

Those who have died recently: Erlinda Isles, David Hodgins, Jozsef Dobo, Oliver Ndukwe, Cecilia Doherty

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Nina Manuelina Viegas Braganca, Mary and Alan Statham, Kathleen and James Monahan, Norrie Fox, Maimie Hall