

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

December —Month of the Immaculate Conception

First Sunday of Advent—Year C

1 December 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
willesdengreen@rcdow.org.uk

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*

**Livestreamed*

Eucharistic Adoration
Weekdays and Saturday:
One hour before morning Mass

Confession
Saturdays: 10:00am—10:30am
5:30pm— 6:15pm
& At Call

Your Redemption is drawing near

First Sunday of Advent (Year C)

"Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man." Luke 21:34–36

"That day." These two words are spoken twice in the passage above. To which day is our Lord referring? Clearly, He is referring primarily to the day of our final judgment and is warning us to make sure we are prepared for it in case it were to come at an unexpected moment. So how do we prepare?
Animals have the natural gift of instinct. They know how to survive, how to reproduce, how to gather food and how to avoid danger. They know this because God has implanted this knowledge within them. By this natural gift of instinct, they know what to do and what to avoid.

We, as humans, also have basic natural instincts. But our natural instincts are only sufficient to help us accomplish that which the animals accomplish. Therefore, if we are to gain an even greater knowledge and are to know how to properly prepare ourselves spiritually for the sudden and unexpected coming of Christ, then we need more.

The way we most properly prepare is through a special grace by which God reveals Himself and His will to our human reason. When that happens, we will know the best way to be fully prepared for "that day" the moment it comes. Perhaps one of the best ways to describe this ability is by describing it as a "supernatural instinct." When our natural instincts become open to grace, and when the information on which we base our daily decisions in life comes to us by an ongoing and personal revelation from God through the infused gift of faith, then we will find that we simply know what to do and what to avoid. By analogy, just as a bird knows to fly south for the winter or a salmon knows to return to its place of birth to lay its eggs, so we will "know" within our spirit how to best serve the will of God and, thus, be most fully prepared for His imminent return. "Supernatural instinct" is nothing other than us allowing the grace of God to enter our lives so as to take control of everything we do and to lead us into the fulfilment of the perfect and glorious will of God. When that happens, we can be certain that we are perpetually prepared for all that comes and will never be caught by surprise like a trap.

The Peace of Christ
Fr Matteo

Those who are sick: Keith Moore, Bridget Driscoll, Shirley Homer, Agnes Trimble, Mary Walsh, Catherine Joseph, Miriam Barron
Those who have died recently: Sebastio and Lourenca D'Souza, Nora O'Brien
Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Stephen Moriarty, Rodolfo Casteneda, Cathy Kirwan, John Boland, Edward Leeson and James McGrath, Christine Elizabeth Casey

PARISH NEWS

Collection 24 November 2024 amounted to £1,584.66

Standing orders for October: £4,687

Contactless Income for October: £417.30

Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

Join Us for a Festive Morning with mince pies and refreshments!

We warmly invite you to help us put up the Christmas trees and lights on **Saturday, December 14**, after the morning Mass. Our wonderful team of cleaners will also be preparing the church for Christmas and would greatly appreciate any extra helping hands.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Christmas Mass bouquet cards and 2025 calendars are now available from the parish office.

Support Christian Families in the Holy Land

The Good Shepherd Company, based in Nottingham and originating from Bethlehem in the Holy Land, will be selling olive wood carvings on the **weekend of December 7–8.**

Our goal is to support Christian families in the Holy Land by helping them sustain their livelihoods. Olive wood carving is one of their most vital sources of income, with 90% of Christians relying on these sales.

By purchasing these beautiful carvings, you help prevent the migration of Christians from the Holy Land in search of better opportunities. According to a survey by the bishops of Jerusalem, only 41,000 Christians remain in the region.



We will be joined by the pupils of St Mary Magdalen's school this Monday at the 9:30am Mass. This will not be live-streamed. The pupils will also be helping out at Coffee morning on Tuesday.

If you are **housebound**, even for a short period, please let Monsignor Roger know so arrangements can be made for a visit. If you are **going into hospital** and wish to see a priest, you will need to inform the staff so a visit can be arranged by the Catholic Chaplain.

WARNING: Scam emails are circulating, impersonating the parish priest by using similar email addresses or masking the real sender. These emails often request recipients to purchase Amazon or other gift cards as gifts for the priest.

- **Do not purchase gift cards** for the parish priest based on an email request unless you have verified the request directly in person or through a trusted means.
- **Double-check suspicious emails** by contacting the parish office directly.
- **Avoid sharing personal or financial information** in response to unsolicited emails.

If you encounter these emails, please report them as spam and inform the parish office immediately.
Thank you for your cooperation.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES

The first meeting for candidates and parents/guardians will take place on **Monday 2nd December** in **St Mary Magdalen Church**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025 at 5:30pm

CONFIRMATION 2025 at 7:00pm

Important information regarding the course will be shared at these meetings. All those who have registered are required to attend.

An email has been sent to all families of candidates. If you did not receive this, please check your spam folder first before contacting the office. Thank you.

YOUTH GROUP (Y9 to 13)

The next session will be held on **Sunday 8 December** at 5pm.

With Christmas around the corner, this meeting will have a 'Nativity' theme, so you may want to brush up on your festive general knowledge!



NEW LECTIONARIES

Thanks to the generosity of parishioners we will now be using the four lovely new Lectionaries which come into use today.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

Tuesday 24 December	9:30am	
	6:30pm	*First Mass of Christmas*
	9:30pm	*Carols & Readings*
	10:00pm	*Christmas Night Mass*
The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Day		
Masses at	9:00am and 11:00am	
	No evening Mass.	

CONFESSION

Available after every morning Mass (Monday to Saturday) from Monday 16th December until Christmas Eve.

A more detailed leaflet will be available next weekend.

A Christmas Celebration in Westminster Cathedral

Tickets are now on sale for the annual Christmas concerts performed by the world-famous Westminster Cathedral Choir, orchestra, and celebrity readers, on 18 and 19 December at 7.30pm. Please purchase tickets quickly before these popular events are sold out. Tickets can be purchased from the Cathedral Gift Shop or directly from Ticketmaster; go to www.ticketmaster.co.uk and type in Westminster Cathedral.

Mass Intentions commencing - Sunday 1 December

Saturday	6:30pm	Cathy Kirwan	**Anniv**
Sunday	9:00am	John Boland, Edward Leeson and James McGrath	**Anniv**
	10:30am	John Hayes	**RIP**
	12:00pm	People of the Parish	**Ints**
	6:30pm	Sebastio and Lourenca D'Souza	**RIP**
Monday	9:30am	Christine Elizabeth Casey	**Anniv**
Tuesday	9:30am	Stephen Moriarty	**Anniv**
Wednesday	9:30am	Rodolfo Castaneda	**Anniv**
Thursday	9:30am	Peter McCaffey	**RIP**
Friday	9:30am	Private Intention	
Saturday	9:30am	Ciara Molloy	**Ints**