

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

December —Month of the Immaculate Conception

Fourth Sunday of Advent—Year C

22 December 2024

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

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)

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
matteodigiuseppe@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

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

So many people travel over the Christmas season – you may be travelling to see family, or they be coming to you. Whether it's crossing continents or just navigating through crowded train stations, countless people are making their way to visit loved ones. And, of course, we like to complain about it—about delays, high fares, or over crowded trains. These are very 21st Century complaints. For most of human history, travel was not only slow and uncomfortable, but also dangerous. Think of highwaymen on dark roads or pirates on the high seas!

The journey we hear about in today's Gospel—the young, pregnant Mary travelling from Nazareth to the hill country of Judea—was no exception. Today, that journey might take four or five hours by car. But for Mary, walking or riding a donkey, it would have been a gruelling five-day trek over rough and hilly terrain.

And yet, she went. She wasn't forced to; she chose to. Why did she undertake this journey? She had great news to share – she was to give birth to the Saviour. She also wanted to support her cousin Elizabeth who herself was miraculously pregnant, even in her old age. Mary wanted to bring Jesus Christ—even in His hidden, tiny form—to someone who needed Him.

This encounter between Mary and Elizabeth is one of the most beautiful moments in Scripture. Imagine the scene: two women meeting, both carrying miraculous children. Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, recognizes the profound truth of Mary's visit: "Who am I, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" And in that moment, John, still in Elizabeth's womb, leaps for joy.

This journey, this encounter is a reminder to us that, like Mary, we are called to bring Jesus to others. This can mean simply reaching out to someone who's lonely, offering forgiveness, or just being present to someone who needs love and encouragement. Like Mary, we don't wait until everything is easy or convenient—we go because we are called to share Christ with the world.

In biblical times, of course, short of writing a letter which was really the preserve of the educated and the wealthy, the only way to bring news to another person was to go and see them. Mary's journey wasn't about grand gestures or elaborate plans. It was about being there, in person, for her cousin Elizabeth. Even though travelling is so much easier these days, I think that we may have forgotten the importance of being there physically with someone. We think that a text, a whatsapp, a video will be just as good. But, to sound a little sentimental, nothing can replace a hug.

I hope that your travelling will go well over Christmas. Of course it is possible to use all sorts of technology to communicate – but give thanks to God for those who come to see you, or for those whom you go to see. Mary brought great blessings to her cousin Elizabeth, may she pray for us as we meet family and friends over the coming season.

Monsignor Roger.

Those who are sick: Miriam Barron, Carmeletta O'Sullivan, Esme Ellington, Ethel Cuff, Agnes Trimble, Mary Walsh

Those who have died recently: Fr Joseph Alphonsus Carter, Bernadette Costello, Margaret Keane, Senorita Lobo

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: T.J. Ryan, Denis Mulligan, John and Josephine Savage, Antonio Inacio Braganca, Mairead Casey, Ciaran Mallon

PARISH NEWS

Collection 15 December 2024 amounted to £1,604.72
Standing orders for November: £4,086
Contactless Income for November £379.11

Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

TREE OF LIGHT – a symbol of shared remembrance and prayers

The 'Tree of Light' gives us a beautiful opportunity to honour the memory of a departed love one, to wish someone good luck for the New Year or to express any other intention you may wish to pray for.



It stands just by the Lady Chapel and we ask that you bring your own personalised label to hang on the tree.

Children's Nativity

We invite every child attending the 6:30pm Christmas Eve Mass to join in the celebration by dressing as a character from the Nativity—shepherds, angels, kings, or others. Together, we will be bringing the story of the first Christmas to life.



Please join us for **Coffee/Tea Morning** this Tuesday after morning Mass. We will then take a one-week break and resume on Tuesday, 7th January.

Crib Offering 2024

This Christmas our crib offering will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society to support their work helping vulnerable children in overcoming challenges so they can achieve their full potential and have hope of a brighter future.

For more information, please go to:
https://www.cathchild.org.uk/

Leaflets with details of our **Christmas and New Year Services** are available at the back of the church.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

Should you wish to make a Christmas Offering to the Church this year, the envelopes are available on the back table. Your offering helps to cover the cost of our Priests stipends. We thank you greatly for supporting them.

BAPTISM PREPARATION The next course preparing parents for the baptism of their child, will be held on **Saturday 25 January 2025** at 11:00am. Please contact the office to book a place.





13 to 18 year olds

BRENT YOUTH SUMMIT

On Wednesday 29th January 2025
7 - 9pm

This will replace January's Youth Group session.

THE GIFT OF OUTREACH

The **SVP** are distributing over 10,000 homeless packs (**Vinnie Packs)** during the extreme cold weather. Each pack contains thermal gloves, thermal hat, two pairs of socks, face cloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, information sheets and pen. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.10 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237. Thank you so much for your support.

Caritas Volunteer Service

If you have some spare time over the festive period, and would like to make a difference by volunteering and helping those in need, the national charity for people experiencing homelessness **Crisis** is still open to having volunteers help over Christmas.

They will be providing warmth, companionship and vital services to thousands of people facing homelessness in London. They have a range of roles and shift times for the rest of December and January.

Follow the link for more information:
https://www.crisis.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/volunteer-at-christmas/

Mass Intentions commencing Sunday 22 December

Saturday	6:30pm	Jose Xavier Fernandes	**RIP**
Sunday	9:00am	T. J. Ryan	**Anniv**
	10:30am	Denis Mulligan	**Anniv**
	12:00pm	John and Josephine Savage	**Anniv**
	6:30pm	People of the Parish	**Ints**
Monday	9:30am	Christina Donnely	**Ints**
Tuesday	9:30am	Tony Mackenzie	**Ints**
	6:30pm	Celebrant's Intentions	
	10:00pm	Celebrant's Intentions	
Wednesday	9:00am	Celebrant's Intentions	
	11:00am	Celebrant's Intentions	
Thursday	10:00am	Celebrant's Intentions	
Friday	9:30am	Gail and Joan Robinson	**RIP**
Saturday	9:30am	Tony Mackenzie	**Ints**

Monsignor Roger, Fr Matteo and Fr Kamal wish you and your loved ones, a happy and holy Christmas.