

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

December —Month of the Immaculate Conception

Second Sunday of Advent—Year C

8 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
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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*

**Livestreamed*

Eucharistic Adoration
Weekdays and Saturday:
One hour before morning Mass

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

I wonder whether you have ever driven past a church with a poster outside it with the word Repent! in huge letters? I think some churches use this word almost as a warning, maybe hoping to provoke a sense of fear in passers-by about the consequences of sin and instilling a fear of hell. Even within our own Catholic faith there has been at times a tendency to emphasise repentance through the lens of fear rather than through the love for God which the life and words of Jesus Christ should inspire in us.

So, let's look at this idea of repentance. Is it about fear or about love? I think the readings for this Sunday show us repentance as a path to freedom, joy and peace. St Luke gives us so plainly the historical context in which John the Baptist was proclaiming repentance. This was a deeply troubled world for the people of Israel. The nation was under the thrall of the Roman emperor – Tiberius Caesar. Pontius Pilate was ruling harshly. The king Herod was a violent and cruel despot. There had been hard times before – when the prophet Baruch was writing, the people of Israel were cut off from their homeland in exile.

The repentance John proclaims is about a change of heart or mind. It is turning away from sin and distraction and a turning toward God. It is not about the fear of punishment, but about hope for transformation. Baruch captures this beautifully as he writes: "Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction and put on for ever the beauty of the glory of God." When we repent it is like shedding a heavy, dirty coat and being clothed in the light of God's mercy.

We all know areas of our lives which need repentance. Are we so focussed on ourselves and our own problems that we fail to see Christ in others? Are we always fair to family and work colleagues? Do we try and ignore the call to holiness simply because it seems too hard?

Yes, we need to repent. But not out of fear, but out of the love we have for God and the love he has for us. It is an invitation to remove whatever separates us from |God so we can experience his joy. In this Advent season may we hear once more John the Baptist's call to repentance – and to hope!

Monsignor Roger

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

Those who have died recently: Martin McMahon, Maureen Guerin, Joan Fittall, Hilda Modeste, Dolores Irish

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Anthony and Agnes McDermott, Benny Kilcoyne, Benedict Tugbobo, Patrick and Delia O'Sullivan, Olga Daly, Maureen Hennessy, Vitale Giraud

PARISH NEWS

Collection 1 December 2024 amounted to £1,459.47
Standing orders for November: £4,086
Contactless Income for November £379.11

Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

YOUTH GROUP (Y9 to 13)

This **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!

Support Christian Families in the Holy Land

The Good Shepherd Company, based in Nottingham and originating from Bethlehem in the Holy Land, is selling olive wood carvings **this weekend.**



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.

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.



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

CHRISTMAS ROTAS

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and readers should indicate their availability on the list at the back of the church. Servers should check with their parents and then indicate their availability on the list in the sacristy. Thank you for your ministry throughout the year.

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.

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.

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.

FUNERAL NOTICES

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late
Martin McMahon
will take place on Thursday 12th December 2024 at 12:30pm
followed by cremation
at Golders Green Crematorium at 2:00pm.

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The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late
Maureen Guerin
will take place on Thursday 12th December at 6:00pm
followed by repatriation to Ireland.

May they rest in peace ✞

DIOCESAN NEWS

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Retreat at All Saints Church 531 Kenton Road, London HA3 0UL (on the corner of Claremont Avenue);
on Saturday 14 December 2024 from 1 pm to 4:30 pm.
The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Holy Rosary, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. For more info call Millie on 07957594646 .
No need to register for retreat.

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.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for December:

For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

Mass Intentions commencing Sunday 8 December

Saturday	6:30pm	Agnes and Anthony McDermott	**Anniv**
Sunday	9:00am	Patrick and Delia O'Sullivan	**Anniv**
	10:30am	Benny Kilcoyne	**Anniv**
	12:00pm	Benedict Tugbobo	**Anniv**
	6:30pm	People of the Parish	**Ints**
Monday	9:30am	Colleen Carpen	**Birthday Ints**
Tuesday	9:30am	André Terasawmy	**RIP**
Wednesday	9:30am	Martin Ryan	**RIP**
Thursday	9:30am	David Hodgins	**RIP**
	12:30pm	Funeral - Martin McMahon	**RIP**
	6:00pm	Funeral - Maureen Guerin	**RIP**
Friday	9:30am	Mary Kearns	**RIP**
Saturday	9:30am	Vivienne Mangan and the Cronin Family	**RIP**