


# St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

## December —Month of the Immaculate Conception

## Third Sunday of Advent—Year C

## 15 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
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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

### The Preaching of John the Baptist

***Third Sunday of Advent (Year C)***

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" Luke 3:10

Among those within the crowds who were asking Saint John the Baptist this question were tax collectors, soldiers and ordinary people. John gave an answer to them all, first telling them to turn away from the sins that they struggled with the most. Sin takes on many forms and often is closely associated with our daily duties in life. Some sins are sins of commission, meaning sins we commit by an intentional act. Some sins are those of omission, meaning a lack of certain virtues or a failure to do what we ought to do.

After addressing the particular sins that those in the crowds were struggling with, John then turns their attention to Christ. He states to them that "one mightier than I is coming" and that "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." In other words, John was giving the people a twofold command. First, work to overcome sin. And second, turn your eyes to Him Who is coming to you. Repenting from sin is not enough. Once we repent, we must then fill the void within our souls with the presence of Christ.

Advent, just like Lent, is an important time within our liturgical year to heed these messages. Though it's true that we must work to overcome sin and turn to Christ every day of the year, God knows we need a special time each year when we give concerted effort to these spiritual endeavours. So before Advent passes you by, heed the words of the Baptist and take some time to examine your conscience thoroughly. Perhaps use a detailed list of the Ten Commandments or the Seven Capital Sins. Once you do that, seek out an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Doing so is essential to a fruitful Advent season.

Once you thoroughly repent of the sins you struggle with the most right now, turn to the Savior of the World with special attentiveness to the miracle of the Incarnation this Advent. Spend time adoring the God Who came to us in the form of a little child. Meditate on this Gift. Gaze at a nativity scene prayerfully. Read the Scripture passages about the birth of Christ. Close your eyes and imagine yourself there at His birth.

Reflect, today, upon this twofold exhortation from John and apply it to your Advent preparations. Cleanse your soul in a special way from all sin this Advent. Then prayerfully ponder and meditate upon the reality we are preparing to celebrate. As John says, allow the Christ Child to truly "baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" through your deepening devotion and prayer this Advent.

***The Peace of Christ***
***Fr Matteo***

**Those who are sick:** Catherine Joseph, Miriam Barron, Carmeletta O'Sullivan, Esme Ellington, Ethel Cuff

**Those who have died recently:** Nora O'Brien, John Murray, Maureen Casey

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Francis McGeown, Brendan Howard, Mary Langan

# PARISH NEWS

**Collection 8 December 2024** amounted to £1,419.15

**Standing orders for November:** £4,086

**Contactless Income for November** £379.11

Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.




The Good Shepherd Company would like to thank everyone who purchased olive wood carvings last weekend in support of Christian families in the Holy Land. Your generosity helped raise an impressive £1,500. Thank you for your kindness and support.

**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.



**Festive Cheer for the St. Mary Magdalen Special Needs Group**

The St. Mary Magdalen Special Needs Group celebrated the season with a joyful festive lunch last Friday, made possible by the generous support from the recent Race Night fundraiser. Adding to the holiday spirit, Santa made an early visit, bringing smiles and warmth to the Christmas party, which was enjoyed by everyone.

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.

## FUNERAL NOTICES

The Reception of the body of the late
**Nora O'Brien**
will take place on Wednesday 18th December 2024 at 6:00pm.

The Requiem Mass
will be held on Thursday 19th December at 12:30pm
followed by cremation at West London Crematorium at 2pm.

***May she rest in peace*** ✝

**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.

# DIOCESAN NEWS

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.

To celebrate the Jubilee Year 2025, the **Religious of the Assumption** are inviting single women (18-30s) open to discerning a call to consecrated life to take part in a **discernment weekend in Rome**. This will take place from **Friday 31st January to Sunday 2nd February**, enabling participants to celebrate February 2nd, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life, in Rome!

The weekend will include Mass in St Peter's Basilica, time for personal prayer and sharing, input on discernment, as well as opportunities for personal conversations with a sister.

Board and lodging are provided, with participants only paying for their travel. **Places are limited**, and are open to participants speaking English, Italian, French or Lithuanian.

For more information or to register, **contact us at vocations@assumpta-eu.org**

**Deadline: 20th January**

## Mass Intentions commencing Sunday 15 December

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| Saturday | 6:30pm | Tony Tarrant | **RIP** |
| Sunday | 9:00am | People of the Parish | **Ints** |
| | 10:30am | Francis McGeown | **Anniv** |
| | 12:00pm | Mary Langan | **Anniv** |
| | 6:30pm | Paddy McGloin | **RIP** |
| Monday | 9:30am | Brendan Howard | **Anniv** |
| Tuesday | 9:30am | Private Intention | |
| Wednesday | 9:30am | John Toland | **RIP** |
| | 6:00pm | Reception of body - Nora O'Brien | |
| Thursday | 9:30am | Peader Fitzpatrick | **RIP** |
| | 12:30pm | Funeral - Nora O'Brien | **RIP** |
| Friday | 9:30am | Tony MacKenzie | **Ints** |
| Saturday | 9:30am | William and June Wright | **Ints** |