

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

January —Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

The Baptism of the Lord

12 January 2025

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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

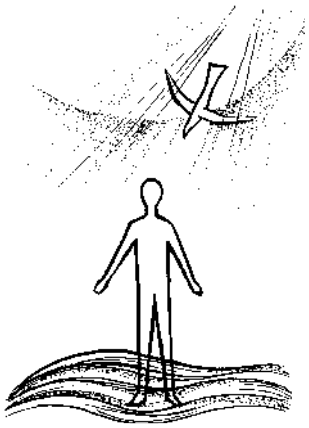
"You are My Beloved Son"

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord concludes for us the Christmas Season and transitions us into the beginning of Ordinary Time. From a Scriptural point of view, this event in Jesus' life is also a transitional moment from His hidden life in Nazareth to the beginning of His public ministry. As we commemorate this glorious event, it's important to ponder a simple question: Why was Jesus baptized? Recall that John's baptism was one of repentance, an act by which he invited his followers to turn from sin and to turn to God. But Jesus was sinless, so what was the reason for His Baptism?

First of all, we see in the quoted passage above that Jesus' true identity was made manifest through His humble act of baptism. "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased," spoke the voice of the Father in Heaven. Furthermore, we are told that the Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove. Thus, Jesus' baptism is in part a public declaration of Who He is. He is the Son of God, a divine Person Who is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit. This public testimony is an "epiphany," a manifestation of His true identity for all to see as He prepares to begin His public ministry.

Second, by His baptism, Jesus' incredible humility is made manifest. He is the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, but He allows Himself to become identified with sinners. By sharing in an act that was focused upon repentance, Jesus speaks volumes through His action of baptism. He came to unite Himself with us sinners, to enter our sin and to enter into our death. By entering the water, He symbolically enters into death itself, which is the result of our sin, and rises triumphantly, allowing us to also rise with Him to new life. For this reason, Jesus' baptism was a way of Him "baptizing" the waters, so to speak, so that water itself, from that moment onward, would be endowed with His divine presence and could be communicated to all who are baptized after Him. Therefore, sinful humanity is now able to meet divinity through baptism.

Lastly, when we share in this new baptism, through water that has now been sanctified by our divine Lord, we see in Jesus' baptism a revelation of who we become in Him. Just as the Father spoke and declared Him as His Son, and just as the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, so also in our baptism we become the adopted children of the Father and are filled with the Holy Spirit. Thus, Jesus' baptism gives clarity as to whom we become in Christian baptism.



The peace of Christ
Fr Matteo

Those who are sick: Carmeletta O'Sullivan, Esme Ellington, Ethel Cuff, Agnes Trimble, Mary Walsh, Bridie Grealish, Ruth Kinfe, Fr John Buckley

Those who have died recently: Margaret Keane, Fr Sean Carroll

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Sean Hendry, Helen Langan, Bernadette, Teresa and Bernard Mahon, Frank Donnellan, Michael Doyle

PARISH NEWS

Collection 5 January 2025 amounted to £1,163.38

Standing orders for November: £4,086

Contactless Income for December £954.00

Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

CHARITY COLLECTIONS IN 2024

Last year our fundraising campaigns raised £8,198.34

in support of the following charities:

Holy Places	£1,451.92
Sick and Retired Priests	£1,256.58
Priests' Training Fund	£1,295.54
Cardinal's Lenten Appeal	£ 314.00
Apostleship of the Sea	£ 497.14
CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeals	£ 84.00
Catholic Children's Society	£1,258.90
Columban Mission Appeal	£1,044.81
Mary's Meals	£ 301.95
Day for Life	£ 693.50

On behalf of all the charities, thank you for your amazing generosity!

Thank You for Gift Aiding Your Donations!

The parish received an impressive £16,695.62 in Gift Aid during the last financial year (2023/24). These funds make a significant difference to our parish finances, and they come at no additional cost to you or the parish. To enable the parish to claim Gift Aid, all you need to do is sign a Gift Aid declaration form and donate using any of the following methods: Envelope, Standing order, Contactless machine, Online donation via our website.

If you can help the parish by Gift Aiding your donations, please contact the parish office.

Envelope Offertory Donations

It's almost time to order the next set of envelopes for 2025/26. If you no longer wish to use them, please contact the office so we do not order your number. If you would like to start using envelopes, let us know as soon as possible so we can allocate a new number for you. Thank you.

Mass Intentions commencing- Sunday 12 January

Saturday	6:30pm	Tony Mackenzie	**Ints**
Sunday	9:00am	People of the Parish	**Ints**
	10:30am	Bernadette, Teresa and Bernard Mahon	**Anniv**
	12:00pm	Sean Hendry	**Anniv**
	6:30pm	Ineda Braganca	**Thanksgiving**
Monday	9:30am	All Saints	
	12:30pm	Funeral - Margaret Keane	**RIP**
Tuesday	9:30am	The priests of our parish	**Ints**
Wednesday	9:30am	For all souls in purgatory	**RIP**
Thursday	9:30am	Demetrio Goes	**RIP**
Friday	9:30am	For all souls in purgatory	**RIP**
Saturday	9:30am	Helen Langan	**Anniv**

FUNERAL NOTICES

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late

Margaret Mary Keane

will take place on Monday 13th January 2025

at 12:30pm

followed by burial at Willesden New Cemetery at 2:00pm

May she rest in peace ✝

13 to 18 year olds

BRENT YOUTH SUMMIT

On Wednesday 29th January 2025 at 7 - 9pm

At Our Lady of Willesden RC Church

1 Nicoll Rd, London, NW10 9AX

Social • Food • Adoration

This will replace January's Youth Group session.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Get involved with Westminster Youth Ministry in celebrating the Jubilee Year!

We have art and writing competitions in January and February, open to those in the following age categories: 11-14, 15-17, and 18-35. Youth leaders are also warmly invited to our retreat day in March, for a day of community, formation, encouragement and prayer. To find out more, head to

youth.rcdow.org.uk/jubilee-year-2025

A Welcoming Space at Kensal Rise - Volunteers Wanted!

Last year's Synodal Survey indicated that parishioners think there should be greater involvement in local community issues. In response to this, we are working on an initiative to provide a welcome/warm space **and we need your help.**

In early 2025, we are launching a community centre at the Church of the Transfiguration, Kensal Rise, where, once a week, people can meet, chat, or quietly relax for a few hours.

We are looking for volunteers to help run the centre, providing drinks, refreshments, and maybe a friendly ear. But there's a whole raft of other ways that you can help, such as admin, fundraising, and cake-baking. Maybe you've worked on a project like this yourself: if so, we want to hear from you.

We'll be holding a meeting at the Church of the Transfiguration on Tuesday 21st January at 7.00pm: we'd really like to see you there. ***Monsignor Roger***

Any questions? Contact Barry at **wgoutreach@rcdow.org.uk**

PARISH DIARY

Monday 13th January **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** 5:30pm	Chapter 1: IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER St Mary Magdalen School
Monday 13th January **CONFIRMATION** 6:00pm	Session 1: GETTING STARTED Church of the Transfiguration