

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

December —Month of the Immaculate Conception

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

29 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
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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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Luke 2:39–40

Today we honour family life in general by pausing to ponder the particular and beautiful hidden life within the home of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. In many ways, their daily life together would have been very similar to other families at that time. But in other ways, their life together is entirely unique and provides us with a perfect model for all families.

By God's providence and design, the family life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph was spoken of in the Scripture very little. We read of the birth of Jesus, the presentation in the Temple, the flight into Egypt and the finding of Jesus in the Temple at age twelve. But other than these stories of their life together, we know very little.

Today's Gospel, however, give us some insight worth pondering. First, we see that this family "fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord…" Though this is in reference to Jesus being presented in the Temple, it should also be understood to apply to all aspects of their life together. Family life, just like our individual lives, must be ordered by the laws of our Lord.

The primary law of the Lord regarding family life is that it must share in the very unity and "communion of love" found in the life of the Most Holy Trinity. Each person of the Holy Trinity has perfect respect for the other, gives selflessly to each other without reserve, and receives each person in their totality. It is their love that makes them one and enables them to act together in perfect harmony as a communion of divine Persons. Though Saint Joseph was not immaculate in his nature, the perfection of love did live in his divine Son and in his immaculate wife. This overwhelming gift of their perfect love would have daily drawn him into the perfection of their lives.

Ponder your own closest relationships today. If you are blessed with a close family, ponder them. If not, ponder the persons put into your life who you are called to love with familial love. Who are you to be there for in good times and in bad? Who are you to sacrifice your life for without reserve? Who are you to offer respect, compassion, time, energy, mercy, generosity and every other virtue? And how well do you fulfil this witness of love?

Reflect, today, upon the fact that God wants you to share in a communion of life, not only with the Most Holy Trinity but also with those around you, especially your family. Try to ponder the hidden life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and seek to make their family relationship the model for how you love others. May their perfect communion of love be a model for us all.

The peace of Christ
Fr Matteo

Those who are sick: 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, Sheila O'Driscoll

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Violet and Damayanthi Peiris, Mary Hopkins, Kitty O'Mahoney

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.



Thank you to everyone who played a part in making our Christmas celebrations so special. The church was beautifully decorated, the music was inspiring, the children's Nativity brought joy to all, and it was wonderful to see so many of you join us. Monsignor Roger, Fr. Matteo, and Fr. Kamal are sincerely grateful for the kindness and generosity shown to them during this blessed season.

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/

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.

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.

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.

Envelope Offertory

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 don't include you in the order. If you would like to start using offering envelopes, let us know as soon as possible so we can allocate a number for you. Thank you.

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.

REMINDER: FOODBANK COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

FUNERAL NOTICES

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late
Maureen Casey
will take place on Friday 10th January 2025
at Corpus Christi Church,
51 Langdon Street, Tring, HP23 6BA
at 10:30am
followed by burial at Kensal Green Cemetery at 1:00pm

May she rest in peace ✞



13 to 18 year olds
BRENT YOUTH SUMMIT
On Wednesday 29th January 2025
7 - 9pm

This will replace January's Youth Group session.

DIOCESAN NEWS

VOCATIONS: 'COME AND SEE' FOR MEN

If you are interested in exploring a vocation to the Priesthood or Permanent Diaconate, then please come along to one of the Vocations Team's 'Come & See' Vocations Mornings on:

- Saturday 25th January, 10am-2pm at Vaughan House, 46 Francis Street, SW1P 1QN
- Saturday 8th February, 10am-2pm at SS Peter & Paul parish hall, 38 Camborne Ave, Northfields, W13 9QZ
- Saturday 1st March, 10am-2pm at Sacred Heart of Jesus and St Joseph parish hall, 1 King Edward's Road, Ware, SG12 7EJ

Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided.
To find out more and to register attendance at one of the days please contact Canon Roger Taylor, the Vocations Promoter, at rogertaylor@rcdow.org.uk or Deacon Tito Pereira, Assistant Director of the Permanent Diaconate, at titopereira@rcdow.org.uk or phone 07977 599110.

Mass Intentions commencing Sunday 29 December

Saturday	6:30pm	Violet and Damayanthi Peiris	**Anniv**
Sunday	9:00am	People of the Parish	**Ints**
	10:30am	André Terasawmy	**RIP**
	12:00pm	In thanksgiving from the O'Reilly-Serao family	**Ints**
	6:30pm	Private Intention	
Monday	9:30am	Tony Mackenzie	**Ints**
Tuesday	9:30am	Kitty O'Mahoney	**Anniv**
	Midnight	Celebrant's Intentions	

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Wednesday	10:00am	Celebrant's Intentions	
Thursday	9:30am	Bridie Hall	**Ints**
Friday	9:30am	Christina O'Sullivan	**RIP**
Saturday	9:30am	Dennis Dempsey	**RIP**