

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

February —Month of the Holy Family

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

23 February 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

Priests and People Working Together

Two weeks ago, I was lucky enough to be able to spend four days in Padua (Padova) in Northern Italy. This beautiful town is the home of St Anthony, one of the most beloved saints of so many of us. The basilica where his body and relics are preserved is stunning. The devotion of the pilgrims is profound.

But there is more to Padua than St. Anthony. Among the many ancient churches is Santa Sofia. For 900 years it has been a centre of prayer and worship for its local community. It has recently been restored and returned to its gothic beauty. When Bishop John heard that I was going to Padua, he suggested that I should go to Mass there to see the church and also to meet the parish priest, Don Giorgio. Don Giorgio is an extraordinary man. As a result of a major car crash he is now tetraplegic – he has lost all movement in his arms and legs, apart from a little movement in his hands. At the Mass, he entered the church from the sacristy using an electric wheel chair, accompanied by two women who were to assist him throughout. His voice is strong, but his movement greatly restricted. He needed the help of these good lay people to grip the chalice and paten, to pour the wine and water into the chalice and to give himself Holy Communion. It was such a moving witness to perseverance and faith even through sever disability. If you speak Italian, you can see a video of him on YouTube: 'La Seconda Chiamata Don Giorgio Ronzoni'. What made a huge impression on me was that he could not exercise his priesthood without the active participation of the laity.

It was a great pleasure to welcome Bishop John to our parishes for his visitations. Of course, he was keen to speak with Fr Matteo and myself, but he was also very keen to speak with you – the lay people. He met so many of you after Mass, he met with both finance committees, with the safeguarding representative, with the catechists and the young people from both parishes. This shows so clearly that a parish community is far more than just the priests – it must have the active ministry of the people at its heart. Your priests do not need you physically to help us raise the Host and Chalice at Mass, but we cannot function without you. Bishop John was very pleased to see how you all contribute to the life of the parish. God bless you all in whatever way you support our life.

Monsignor Roger



Those who are sick: Our Holy Father Pope Francis, Modupe Adeyeye, Miriam Barron

Those who have died recently: Sheila O'Callaghan, Mary Gavahan, Lip Hor Lum, Derrick Akakpo, Catherine Joseph

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Fraxier Fernandes, George and Beatrice Wallace, Brian Patrick Monahan

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 16 February 2025 amounted to £1,758.79

Standing orders for January: £4,266

Contactless Income for January: £701.96

Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

YOUTH GROUP Year 9 to 13

March's meeting has been moved to Saturday, 15th March. Monsignor Roger encourages all our Youth Group members to sign up for Flame - an exciting day at Wembley Arena with thousands of other young Catholics.

Filled with inspiring speakers, incredible live music, prayer, and adoration, it's an event like no other!

Please see the application form attached to this newsletter.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Our parish community is strengthened and enriched by the commitment and generosity of our wonderful volunteers. No matter how you contribute, your time and effort make a real difference.

Monsignor Roger invites you to a special **Volunteer Thank You Evening** on **Tuesday, 4th March at 7pm** in **St Mary Magdalen's School Hall**.

Join us for an evening of **live music, delicious food, and refreshments** as we celebrate and give thanks for all that you do. We look forward to seeing you there!

LENT PRAYER COURSE - WE DARE TO HOPE

Lent is often thought of as a time for giving something up, but the liturgy reminds us, that it is also a season for the Lord to pour out his grace and blessing upon us. Join this 5 week course and encounter the Hope which Christ Jesus offers us through five familiar Gospel moments.

When: Thursdays in Lent
Start: Thursday 13th March for 5 weeks
Where: In St Mary Magdalen church annexe
Time: 7pm - 8pm



An accompanying booklet will be provided, as will refreshments. To register your interest or find out more, email Barry at wgoutreach@rcdow.org.uk.

Mass Intentions commencing Sunday 23 February

Saturday	6:30pm	George and Beatrice Wallace	**Anniv**
Sunday	9:00am	Mary Higgins	**Ints**
	10:30am	People of the Parish	**Ints**
	12:00pm	Julia Naughton	**RIP**
	6:30pm	Catherine Horan	**RIP**
Monday	9:30am	Paula Redmond	**Ints**
Tuesday	9:30am	Bea Mangan	**Ints**
Wednesday	9:30am	Peter Mangan	**RIP**
Thursday	9:30am	Margaret Ginnelly	**Ints**
Friday	9:30am	Fraxier Fernandes	**Anniv**
Saturday	9:30am	Sheila O'Driscoll	**RIP**

REMINDER: FOODBANK COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

ASH WEDNESDAY The beginning of Lent this year falls on Wednesday 5th March. Holy Mass with distribution of ashes will take place at **9:30am** and **7:00pm**.

The family of the late Mary Gavahan wishes to inform parishioners of her sad passing on 17th February. Funeral arrangements are yet to be confirmed. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope.

Have you tried the **Westminster Way**? A 5 mile walking pilgrimage from Tower Hill to the Cathedral.

Find out more about this and other ways we can take part in this special year in our **Year of Jubilee 2025** leaflet available at the back of the church or on our website under 'Newsletters 2025'.

LAST CHANCE TO BOOK!

Brent Deanery Pilgrimage to Rome for the Holy Year.

24th November - 28th November 2025

Includes visits to all 4 major basilicas of Rome and a Papal Audience (depending on the Pope's schedule). The cost (based on 2 people sharing) is £1,130 with some single rooms available for a supplement. Please visit www.pilgrimagepeople.org for further details, and quote BRENT01 when booking.

Closing date is on Monday - 24th February 2025.



Caritas Westminster

Make 2025 a rewarding year through volunteering!

A Jubilee Volunteering Fair will take place on **Saturday 8th March, 3pm - 5pm,** as part of the Jubilee of the World of Volunteering weekend. Come along to **Westminster Cathedral Hall** and discover a wide range of opportunities with charities and social action projects across the diocese! You can also find out about volunteering and lay ministries in parishes.

Search for volunteer roles across London and Hertfordshire by clicking this link: https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/volunteer/

PARISH DIARY

Monday 24th February **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** 5:30pm	Session 6: BREAD TO OFFER St Mary Magdalen **School**
Monday 24th February **CONFIRMATION** 6:00pm	Session 6: THE COMEBACK OF JESUS Church of the Transfiguration
Tuesday 25th February	Students from Newman Catholic College attending morning Mass. This will not be live-streamed. Pupils from St Mary Magdalen's school helping out at coffee morning.