


# St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

## March—Month of Saint Joseph

## First Sunday of Lent

## 9 March 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

### Scrolling or Seeking? A Call to Lenten Renewal

One of the things I used to say to the young men being released from HMYOI Feltham, where I served as Catholic priest, was that they should think seriously about cutting up their SIM cards when they got their mobile 'phones back. Of course, I would also encourage them to find their nearest Catholic church and go to Mass, and I would sometimes even put them in touch with a priest. But the 'phone thing'—that was quite serious. Why should they cut up their SIM cards? Because while phones can be used for many good things, they can also lead people into a lot of trouble. Temptation to drugs, to violence, to bad relationships are just a text or a call away. And sometimes, just having that number in your phone makes it harder to move forward with a new life.

Now, as Lent begins, I am not going to suggest that you cut up your SIM cards. I hope your lives are much more straightforward. But we all know that our 'phones can sometimes lead us down paths we should not go. How much time do we spend scrolling mindlessly? How often do our phones distract us from prayer, from family, from our responsibilities? How often do they lead us to envy, comparison, or even sin? Is the WhatsApp group really so important?

Lent is asking us to make some radical decisions which will bring us closer to God. Our Lenten tasks focus on fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Fasting is not just about giving up chocolate. It's about giving up anything that takes us away from God. It might mean cutting down on social media, spending less time on screens, or being more mindful of how we use our devices.

But let's also remember that 'phones can be used for good. Many people have the Bible on their 'phones. Maybe this Lent, you could try using a prayer app or spending a few minutes reading scripture instead of scrolling through endless posts. Small choices like these can bring us closer to God.

And what about giving? If you find yourself saving money from the things you give up, think about using it to help others. Jesus calls us to give alms, to share what we have with those in need. Maybe that means donating to a charity, supporting CAFOD, or the Cardinal's appeal.

As Lent begins, let's take Jesus' words to heart. He urges us to fast, to pray, and to give. He calls us to a radical change in the way we think and live. Lent, then, can be a time that strengthens our faith and deepens our love for God.

***Monsignor Roger***

**Those who are sick:** Our Holy Father Pope Francis, Anthony Braganca, Patricia L. Coogan, Kathleen Guckian
**Those who have died recently:** Miriam Barron
**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Father James McNulty, Ellen Dunn, Patrick Butler

# PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

**Collection 2 March 2025** amounted to £1,494.47

**Standing orders for February:** £3,981

**Contactless Income for February:** £349.19

Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Will be prayed at 6pm every Friday in Lent.

## 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.

## Altar Servers from Year 4 and above



Training for altar servers will take place on Saturday **29 March at 12pm** in the church. New servers very welcome!

## EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS MEETING

There will be a session for all current Eucharistic Ministers on **Saturday 29th March at 2pm** in the church. It will be a chance for us to pray and reflect on our ministry.

## CYMFED flame — WEMBLEY ARENA SATURDAY 15 MARCH

There are only a few tickets left for this amazing event for young Catholics! It's definitely a worthwhile experience for young adults and secondary-age students. Please contact the office as soon as possible! We ask that children below Year 9 be accompanied by an adult. Application forms are available at the back of the church. DON'T MISS OUT….NEXT ONE IN 2027!

## Mass Intentions commencing Sunday 9 March

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| Saturday | 6:30pm | Pat Doyle | **Ints** |
| Sunday | 9:00am | Henry Joyce | **RIP** |
| | 10:30am | Ruth Kinfe | **Get Well Ints** |
| | 12:00pm | Patrick Butler | **Anniv** |
| | 6:30pm | People of the Parish | **Ints** |
| Monday | 9:30am | Maureen Murphy | **RIP** |
| Tuesday | 9:30am | Vince Feeney | **RIP** |
| Wednesday | 9:30am | Ellen Dunn | **Anniv** |
| Thursday | 9:30am | Anthony Braganca | **Birthday Ints** |
| Friday | 9:30am | Sebastian Chacko | **RIP** |
| | 10:30am | Funeral - Catherine Joseph | **RIP** |
| Saturday | 9:30am | Fr. James McNulty | **Anniv** |

# FUNERAL NOTICES

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late
**Catherine Joseph**
will take place on Friday 14th March 2025 at 10:30am
followed by cremation at West London Crematorium - 12:00pm

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The Reception of the late
**Mary Gavahan**
will take place on Tuesday 18th March at 6:00pm
The Requiem Mass will be held on
Wednesday 19th March at 12noon
followed by burial at Kensal Green Cemetery at 1:30pm.

***May they rest in peace*** ✞

## MISSION APPEAL



This weekend we welcome Fr Jude Burgers from the Comboni Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MCCJ), the Verona Fathers, who will be speaking at all Masses about the work of the congregation and how we can support them. For more details, please visit their website: https://www.comboni.org.uk/index.html

As part of our Lenten devotions, **Westminster Cathedral Choir** will perform Johann Sebastian Bach's retelling of **ST JOHN PASSION.** The event will take place on Tuesday 18th March 2025 at 7.30pm at Westminster Cathedral. This is a wonderful chance to hear the Cathedral's superb choir performing one of the greatest pieces of Easter music ever written. Discounted tickets are available at the following link, using the password below.
https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/event/1F006179F7594403?did=30off
Click **Enter Offer Code** and type the code: **SJP30**

## MASS FOR BEREAVED PARENTS



A Mass for bereaved parents will be celebrated in the Cathedral by Bishop Paul McAleenan on **Saturday 5th April at 2pm.**

**Lourdes Pilgrimage 25th July - 1st August 2025**

Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage led by Cardinal Vincent Nicholas is now open via the online form at https://pilgrimages.rcdow.org.uk or by contacting the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173. Options to travel by plane or train are available and there are many volunteering opportunities for those wishing to serve.

All applications need to be submitted by **Wednesday 30th April.**

# PARISH DIARY

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| Monday 10th March<br>**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**<br>5:30pm | Session 8:<br>DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME<br><br>St Mary Magdalen **School** |
| Monday 10th March<br>**CONFIRMATION**<br>6:00pm | Session 8: PRAYER - STAYING IN TOUCH<br>Church of the Transfiguration |

Pupils from St Mary Magdalen's School will be joining us at Mass this Monday and helping out at Coffee Morning on Tuesday.