

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

March—Month of Saint Joseph

Third Sunday of Lent

23 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
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Parish Office
Maria Nowicka
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Parish office open:
Tuesday-Friday 10:00am - 2:00pm

Parish Outreach Worker
Barry Phillips-Devaney
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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

Some of you may have heard me talk before about my grandmother. She was an extraordinary woman in my eyes. She was born in Bradford, and her grandfather had been a refugee who helped establish the first synagogue there. My grandmother was very proud of her Jewish heritage. Even though she wasn't technically Jewish—her father had married outside of the faith—her love for her roots and her passion for learning were clear.

She used to share many stories with me, but there was one that really stood out: the story of Moses and the burning bush. In this story, Moses encounters a bush that is on fire but doesn't burn up. He realizes that he is standing on holy ground, in the presence of something far greater than himself—he is in the presence of God. And in this moment, Moses asks the burning question: "Who are you?" And God responds with a name that is so mysterious, so sacred, that it's difficult to comprehend. God says, "I AM WHO I AM." You can see it written in Hebrew here:



This name is so holy that Jewish people, like my grandmother, would never speak it. It's a name that reminds us of God's infinite nature, something beyond our full understanding That's the mystery we're dealing with today.

What does this have to do with me? I'm not standing in front of a burning bush, and I don't feel like Moses. But think about this: every time we come into church, we are in the presence of God. We don't have a burning bush in front of us, but we have something even more incredible: the Eucharist, the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle. We encounter the burning bush every time we come into church. God is truly present with us, just as He was with Moses in the desert.

When we are in church, we need to recognize that we are standing on holy ground. And sometimes, I feel that we forget how to show reverence. We might chat with our friends, pull out our phones, or even forget why we're here. But in the presence of God, we need to be respectful. We need to be still and quiet. We should fall to our knees in reverence – genuflect.

I know it's hard. We live in a world that's fast-paced, where distractions are everywhere. But just like Moses took off his shoes because he was standing on holy ground, we can show reverence by slowing down, by being still, by silencing our phones, and by focusing on the presence of God.

Now, once Moses understood God's name, he was given a mission: to go out and free the Israelites from slavery. God didn't just reveal Himself to Moses for Moses' sake. He gave him a mission. And that mission was to go out into the world and share God's message.

Just like Moses, when we come into God's presence—especially in the Eucharist—we are given strength and a mission. We are called to go out into the world and bring others to this presence, to show them the love and power of God by the way we live our lives, by the words we say, and by the kindness we show to others.

So, in Lent, let's take some time to reflect on how we approach God, both here in church and in our daily lives. Let's take a moment to recognize that we are standing on holy ground, and let that change how we think, speak, and act. Let's also remember that we are not just here to receive; we are here to be sent out. Just as Moses was called to lead his people, we are called to lead others to the presence of God.

Monsignor Roger

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 16 March 2025 amounted to £1,550.29
Standing orders for February: £3,981
Contactless Income for February: £349.19

Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

PARISH EVENTS THIS WEEK

Monday 24th March Tuesday 25th March	We welcome pupils from St Mary Magdalen's school at morning Mass and at Coffee morning on Tuesday.
Thursday 27th March **LENT PRAYER COURSE** 7:00pm	Week 3 of our prayer course **We Dare to Hope** St Mary Magdalen church annexe All welcome!
Friday 28th March 6:00pm	**Stations of the Cross** 
Saturday 29th March 12noon	**Training for Altar Servers** from Year 4 and above. New servers very welcome!
Saturday 29th March 2:00pm	**Meeting for all Eucharistic Ministers** A chance to pray and reflect on our ministry.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES 2025/2026

For existing envelope users, the envelopes for 2025/26 are now available for collection after Mass. Please go to the Sacristy. If you are unable to collect them in person, please email or call the office to arrange an alternative collection or postage.
We also have a few spare envelopes available, so if you would like to sign up to this method of donating, please contact the office.
Thank you.

Mass Intentions commencing- Sunday 23 March

Saturday	6:30pm	Mary Brady	**Anniv**
Sunday	9:00am	People of the Parish	**Ints**
	10:30am	Josie Lord	**RIP**
	12:00pm	Pam and Monica Morrow	**Anniv**
	6:30pm	Elaine Lydon	**Anniv**
Monday	9:30am	Michael McGovern and family	**Ints**
	11:30am	Funeral - Miriam Barron	**RIP**
Tuesday	9:30am	Michael Caulfield	**RIP**
Wednesday	9:30am	Breda Kelleher	**Ints**
Thursday	9:30am	Maria Filomena Albuquerque	**Anniv**
Friday	9:30am	Angela Knight	**RIP**
Saturday	9:30am	Sister Phillepe and The Sisters of the Temple	**Ints**

BAPTISM PREPARATION The next course preparing parents for the baptism of their child, will be held on **Saturday 26 April 2025** at 11:00am. Please contact the office to book a place.

FUNERAL NOTICES

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late
Miriam Barron
will take place on Monday 24th March at 11:30am
followed by cremation at Golders Green Crematorium - 1:00pm

May she rest in peace ✞

THANK YOU!

The recent Comboni Missionaries' Appeal raised **£1,099.03**. This will go towards their work in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ, serving and supporting young churches, and distributing funds for the relief of famine and extreme poverty.
On behalf of the missionaries, thank you for your generosity!

CAFOD Lent Appeal—Family Fast Day collection

Next weekend we will hold a special Family Fast Day parish collection for CAFOD—the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. You'll be supporting communities experiencing the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope. For more information, please visit: https://cafod.org.uk/

CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
FAMILY FAST DAY

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL 2025

CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL

This Holy Year invites us to be 'Pilgrims of Hope'. We invite you to consider supporting work being done in the Diocese of Westminster to bring hope into many lives. Your contributions will help fund vital projects across our Diocese, including Youth & Evangelisation, Social Action, Marriage & Family Life, and Catholic Education Initiatives. His Eminence, Cardinal Nichols, extends his heartfelt thanks to all who give what they can to this meaningful cause. Donation envelopes are available at the back of the church, and you can also contribute online using the QR code.
Thank you for your kindness and support.

WINTERSHALL
Experience the story



THE PASSION OF JESUS

Live in Trafalgar Square, London.
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Good Friday 18 April 2025
FREE performances
12noon and 3:15pm
Also live streamed on Facebook.

Those who are sick: Our Holy Father Pope Francis, Anthony Braganca, Patricia L. Coogan, Kathleen Guckian, Monica Lynch
Those who have died recently: John Reilly, Canon Bernard Scholes, Bernie Jennings, Tina Machado, Marzena Drężek, Colleta Chitate,
Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary Brady, Pam and Monica Morrow, Elaine Lydon, Kamala Ruth Brereton