


# St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

## March—Month of Saint Joseph

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

## 30 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
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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

***Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them Jesus addressed this parable*. Luke 15:1–3**

This is good news! Our Lord "welcomes sinners and eats with them." For that reason, there is room at His table for you!

Sometimes it's hard to admit that we are sinners. Of course we know in our minds that we are. But our pride can easily lead us to justify our sin, downplay it and conclude that we are not that bad after all. If you find yourself thinking this way, be careful. Doing so will make you like the Pharisees and scribes in the passage above. Clearly they did not see themselves as sinners, which is why they condemned Jesus for welcoming sinners and eating with them.

Return, again, to the passage above that introduces the parable: "Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus." Once they drew near, Jesus spoke to them about the joy of finding that which was lost. Perhaps as Jesus initially spoke about the finding of the lost sheep and lost coin, this would have resonated with these tax collectors and sinners to a certain degree. But then our Lord tells them the long and detailed story about this boy who disrespects his father, takes his inheritance, squanders it on illicit living, and ends up with nothing. The story expresses the confusion of this boy, his desperation, his guilt and his shame. We learn of his interior thinking, reasoning, fears and anxiety.

As you ponder this parable, try to understand the effect that it would have had upon the tax collectors and sinners who all drew near to our Lord. They were spiritually hungry, just as the prodigal son was. They had a past full of regret, just as this boy. They were unsatisfied in life and were looking for a way out, just as this son of the loving father was. For these reasons, those tax collectors and sinners who drew near Jesus would have been mesmerized by all that Jesus taught them and filled with hope that they, too, could share in the joy that was so generously bestowed upon this wayward son.

Reflect, today, upon the touching image of these tax collectors and sinners drawing near to Jesus. Though they may have had a certain fear and caution, they would have also had hope. Try to understand what they must have thought and felt as they heard this story of the father's abundant mercy. Think about how they would have related as they discovered that there was hope for them, too. If you struggle with being like the scribes and Pharisees, reject that temptation. Instead, see yourself as one of those sinners who drew near to our Lord and you will be the cause of joy in the Heart of the Father in Heaven.

***The Peace of Christ***
***Fr Matteo***

**Those who are sick:** Anthony Braganca, Kathleen Guckian, Monica Lynch

**Those who have died recently:** Sheila Gilroy, Willie Somers, Alan Morley, Moira Ring, Patrick Quille

**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Zofia and Henryk Nowicki, Thomas Egan, Oliver Fay, Eden Espineda, Jesus Suarez

# PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

**Collection 23 March 2025** amounted to £1,467.89
**Standing orders for February:** £3,981
**Contactless Income for February:** £349.19

Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

### A MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

I said a Mother's Day prayer for you
to thank the Lord above
for blessing me with a lifetime
of your tenderhearted love.
I thanked God for the caring
you've shown me through the years,
for the closeness we've enjoyed
in time of laughter and of tears.

And so, I thank you from the heart
for all you've done for me
and I bless the Lord for giving me
the best mother there could be!
*- Author Unknown*

God bless all mothers



### CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE - YEAR 9 TO 13

On **Friday, April 11th**, we're inviting YOU to help lead the
**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**
in a way that will truly inspire.

You'll have the opportunity to bring this beautiful prayer to life using **thought-provoking images**, **uplifting music**, and **meaningful texts**. Whether you're a reader, a musician, or someone who enjoys working behind the scenes, there's a spot for you!

Here's how you can get involved:

- **Read the texts for each station**
- **Lead the prayers**
- **Help with the music**
- **Work the visuals**
- **Serve**
- **Hand out prayer cards**

**Rehearsal is at 4:30pm** (with some refreshments to keep you energised!) and the **service starts at 6pm**.

**We can't wait to see YOU there!**

### Mass Intentions commencing- Sunday 30 March

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| Saturday | 6:30pm | Oliver Fay | **Anniv** |
| Sunday | 9:00am | People of the Parish | **Ints** |
| | 10:30am | Zofia and Henryk Nowicki | **Anniv** |
| | 12:00pm | Eden Espineda | **Anniv** |
| | 6:30pm | Thomas Egan | **Anniv** |
| Monday | 9:30am | Liubov Savina | **RIP** |
| Tuesday | 9:30am | The family of baby Ayda (RIP) | **Ints** |
| Wednesday | 9:30am | Hilary Tighe | **RIP** |
| Thursday | 9:30am | Sharon Evans | **Ints** |
| Friday | 9:30am | William and Espy Fernandes | **Thanksgiving** |
| Saturday | 9:30am | Molloy Family | **Ints** |

**REMINDER: FOODBANK COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND**

### CAFOD LENT APPEAL THIS WEEKEND

Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection and be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. You'll be supporting communities experiencing the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope.

Use the CAFOD envelope in church,
donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope
or call us on 0303 303 3030.
You can also text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

**Thank you!**

CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
FAMILY FAST DAY

### CARDINAL'S LENTEN APPEAL 2025

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. Thank you for your kindness and support.

### SVP AT THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WILLESDEN

SVP4NW10: The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is a network of volunteers, motivated by faith, who visit vulnerable or isolated people to offer friendship and practical support. If you, or someone you know, would like support, you can phone and leave a message on the dedicated number 07554 198901.

### PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES 2025/2026

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

## PARISH DIARY

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| Thursday 3rd April<br>**LENT PRAYER COURSE**<br>7:00pm | Week 4 of our prayer course<br>**We Dare to Hope**<br>St Mary Magdalen church annexe |
| Friday 4th April | **Stations of the Cross 6:00pm** |

