

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

April—Month of The Holy Eucharist

Fifth Sunday of Lent

6 April 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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Father Matteo Di Giuseppe
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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

A Call to Mercy

As we approach the final days of Lent and prepare our hearts for Holy Week and Easter, today's Gospel reading of the Woman taken in Adultery invites us to reflect on mercy — a gift that we all need. This powerful passage, where Jesus shows compassion to this woman caught in adultery, reminds us that none of us is without sin. While the nature of our sins may vary, from the most serious offences to seemingly minor ones, the underlying truth remains: we all fall short, and we all need God's mercy.

Having spent years working with offenders, with young people in schools, and in the weekly confession slots in this parish, I have witnessed first-hand how sin manifests itself in various forms. From horrific violence and even murder, to smaller failings, such as telling a white lie about who ate the last piece of chocolate cake, sin takes many shapes. But in all of these cases, one thing is true — sin distorts our perception. It distorts our view of God, others, and even ourselves.

Sin clouds our understanding of who we are as beloved children of God, and instead can lead us to see ourselves as unworthy or disconnected from His goodness. Just as last week's Gospel about the Prodigal Son illustrated the power of God's mercy, today's story of the woman caught in adultery further emphasises that God's forgiveness is not cheap. It requires a turning away from sin and a desire to be embraced by God's unconditional love.

Jesus, in His encounter with the woman, does not condone her actions, but He offers her mercy. He encourages those around her to examine their own lives and challenges them to let go of judgment – they are not without sin themselves. His words to her are not condemnation, but an invitation to change — "Go, and from now on do not sin again." This is the essence of repentance: acknowledging our faults, turning away from them, and seeking to live in the light of God's grace.

As we prepare for Holy Week, now is the perfect time for each of us to reflect on our own need for mercy. Whether our sins are grave or less serious, whether we've hurt others deeply or simply told a little lie, we are all invited to come before God and ask for forgiveness. His arms are always open to welcome us, just as they were open to the Prodigal Son and the woman in today's Gospel.

In this spirit, I invite you all to take advantage of the additional opportunities for confession in both parishes during this season. And on **Monday, April 14th at 7pm**, I encourage you to join us at St. Mary Magdalen's for a Penance Service with the opportunity for individual confession. The parish clergy, along with guest priests, will be available to help guide us through this sacred moment of reconciliation.

As we approach the great days of Holy Week, let us all prepare our hearts by seeking the mercy of God. None of us is without sin — but with sincere repentance, we can experience the loving embrace of our Saviour, who longs to forgive and restore us to His grace.

Monsignor Roger.

Those who are sick: Anthony Braganca, Kathleen Guckian, Monica Lynch, Patrick Joseph Conway, Fursey Keleghan

Those who have died recently: Roy Victor Clackson, Bryan Allen Ocang

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Michael O'Connor and Elizabeth Mason, Ronnie McClay, Agnes Cleary, Eddie O'Shaughnessy, Kay Conway

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 30 March 2025 amounted to £2,140
Standing orders for March: £4,130
Contactless Income for March: £774.97

Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

CONFESSIONS BEFORE LENT

There will a be **Penitential Service** on Monday 14th April at 7pm, at the start of Holy Week. There will be at least 5 priests present and it will be a great opportunity for individual confession before Easter.
This will be the main occasion to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter. If you cannot manage this service there will be additional times after Mass.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES Please take a leaflet home with all the dates and times of our Holy Week Liturgies and times of Confession. They are available at the back of the church.

CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE - YEAR 9 TO 13

On **Friday, April 11th**, we're inviting YOU to help lead the

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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**.

Readers Rota for Holy Week and Easter

Thank you to everyone who signed up to help at the Holy Week liturgies. Unfortunately, the original list has gone missing, and we kindly ask that you sign your name once again. Thank you.

Mass Intentions commencing- Sunday 6 April

Saturday	6:30pm	Henry Joyce	**RIP**
Sunday	9:00am	People of the Parish	**Ints**
	10:30am	Michael O'Connor and Elizabeth Mason	**Anniv**
	12:00pm	Sean and Breda Hough	**Ints**
	6:30pm	Agnes Cleary	**Anniv**
Monday	9:30am	Kathy Doyle	**Ints**
Tuesday	9:30am	John Baptist Fernandes	**RIP**
Wednesday	9:30am	Stella Murray	**Ints**
Thursday	9:30am	Ana Piedade Braganza	**RIP**
Friday	9:30am	Judith Fernandes	**Birthday Ints**
Saturday	9:30am	Mary Gavahan	**RIP**

Pastoral Letter on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill

This weekend's pastoral letter from Cardinal Vincent highlights the significant issues surrounding this Bill. As Catholics, we uphold the sanctity of life and strongly oppose this Bill, which prioritises individual autonomy over the dignity of life itself. The process surrounding the Bill has been rushed and lacks proper scrutiny, raising serious concerns about its implications for families, healthcare, and vulnerable individuals.

Even though this Bill may be postponed, the Bishops urge everyone to contact their MPs and ask them to vote against it, advocating instead for compassionate palliative care.

A copy of the letter is available at the back of the church.

ALTAR SERVERS' PRACTICE FOR HOLY WEEK

There will be an Altar Servers' practice for the ceremonies of Holy Week at **12 Noon** on **Saturday 12 April,** for about an hour. I hope all altar servers, new and experienced, will be able to attend.



EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES

Should you wish to make an Easter Offering to the Church this year, the envelopes are available at the back of the church.
For this donation to be assigned to the priests' stipend, it must be returned by the **Saturday 3rd May.**
We thank you greatly for supporting them.

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. Thank you for your kindness and support.

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

Thursday 10th April **LENT PRAYER COURSE** 7:00pm	Last week of our prayer course **We Dare to Hope** St Mary Magdalen church annexe
Friday 11th April 6:00pm	**Stations of the Cross** Led by our young people
Saturday 12th April 12 Noon	**Altar Servers' Practice** for Holy Week and Easter