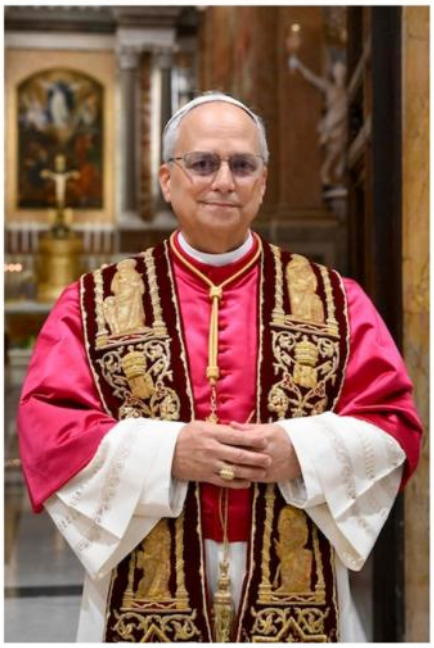
HABEMUS PAPAM



Rejoicing in the election of
POPE LEO XIV
We pray for him, and for the Church.

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

May—Month of The Blessed Virgin

Fourth Sunday of Easter

11 May 2025

This Parish is part of Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity No: 233699

Last Friday was a special day at The Cardinal Vaughan School- it was the last "normal" school day for the Upper VIth pupils. While they'll be back for exams, it marked the end of an era. Lots of them spent most of the morning finding people to sign their shirts or blouses. I think I signed about 25 shirts over lunchtime. As I signed them, I asked each pupil, "What's next for you?"

The answers were as varied as they were inspiring – engineering, law, sport management, accountancy. Two of them stood out for me especially: one young woman hopes to study philosophy and then become a catechist in our Diocese. One young man said priesthood was one of the paths he's thinking about. He's the third pupil to say that to me in recent years.

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day when we are especially asked to pray for vocations to the priesthood. These vocations don't come out of thin air. They begin in ordinary places – in schools, universities, families, parishes. They begin when someone says, "Have you ever thought about becoming a priest?" Or when someone sees what a priest does and says, "I want to live like that."

In today's Gospel, Jesus says: *"My sheep listen to my voice. I know them, and they follow me."* Listening, knowing, following. That's the heart of a vocation. Jesus doesn't shout or force. He calls each of us. And especially to some young – and not so young - men, he whispers: *"Come, be a shepherd with me."*

But we need to help one another to listen for that voice. I know a young man now seriously considering priesthood – not because a priest approached him, but because an older parishioner quietly tapped him on the shoulder and asked whether he had ever thought about priesthood. That's often how it works. It's all about relationships, examples, and encouragement.

It may well be that Pope Leo XIV began his journey to priesthood as a young man. In his family, in his parish, in his school, people encouraged him and prayed for him, not knowing where that journey would end – not for a moment, I should imagine, thinking he would be the next Pope.

I hope that most of you have reason to be grateful to a priest at some time in your life. Maybe he has baptised your children; helped them to the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation. Perhaps he has helped you through a bereavement. Perhaps a homily has opened up God's love to you. He has certainly celebrated Mass with you and for you Sunday by Sunday.
Please pray for more priests. Maybe, just maybe, there is a future priest among us today.

Monsignor Roger

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)

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
Sunday: 9:00am*,
10:30am, 12noon & 6:30pm
Monday— Saturday: 9:30am*
**Livestreamed*
Confession
Saturdays: 10:00am—10:30am
5:30pm— 6:15pm & At Call

Those who are sick: Ildefonso Fran, Nidukshi Seresinhe, Ethel Cuff, Andrew Tompkins, John Sullivan, Antonio Pereira, Emma Bennett

Those who have died recently: Fr Francis Press, Padraic Gibbons

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary Sullivan, Bernadette McHugh and Matthew Crooke, Ernest and Catherine Lindford, Augustine Williams, Bose Yesufu-Eke, Mary Oghogho Iyamu, Nancy and Michael Dollery, Nancy Quirke

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 4 May 2025 amounted to £1,539.79
Standing orders for April: £3,956.00
Contactless Income for April: £651.23

Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

YOUTH GROUP TODAY!

The SMM Youth Group meets again today **Sunday, May 11th** when we will be joined by Zuzanna from Westminster Youth Ministry. She will be leading us through all sorts of interesting (and actually quite fun) activities, deepening our understanding of our faith and maybe even each other.

Food and drink will be provided.

It all starts at **4.30pm**. Hope to see you then.

Open to anyone in Year 9 to 13.

WELCOME SPACE

at the Church of the Transfiguration

Starting this Monday, 12th May at 10:30am

(straight after 10am Mass)

Everybody is welcome to come along and join this friendly group for tea, companionship and conversation. We look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new friends. No need to book—just drop in on a Monday and enjoy good company and a cuppa!

If you are **housebound**, even for a short period, please let Monsignor Roger know so arrangements can be made for a visit. If you are **going into hospital** and wish to see a priest, you will need to inform the staff so a visit can be arranged by the Catholic Chaplain.

BAPTISM PREPARATION The next course preparing parents for the baptism of their child, will be held on **Saturday 7 June 2025** at 11:00am. Please contact the office to book a place.

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.

Mass Intentions commencing Sunday 11 May

Saturday	6:30pm	Mary Sullivan	**Anniv**
Sunday	9:00am	The Cooney family	**RIP**
	10:30am	People of the Parish	**Ints**
	12:00pm	Nancy and Michael Dollery	**Anniv**
	6:30pm	Bernie Jennings	**RIP**
Monday	9:30am	Nancy Quirke	**Anniv**
Tuesday	9:30am	Caitano Braganza	**Ints**
Wednesday	9:30am	Avito Goes	**Birthday Ints**
Thursday	9:30am	Ernest and Catherine Lindford	**Anniv**
Friday	9:30am	Antonio Inacio & Maria Joaquina	**RIP**
Saturday	9:30am	Bernadette McHugh and Matthew Crooke	**Anniv**

PRIEST TRAINING FUND

This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday and our second collection will support the Priest Training Fund. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 50 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 13 of whom are from our own Diocese. 2 of these are deacons for Westminster. We also have 2 seminarians at the Royal English College in Valladolid. Last year 3 deacons who studied at Allen Hall were ordained priests. The fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your gift ensures we can provide training for these men responding to Christ's call to dedicate their lives to serve God's people. Please be as generous as you can. Please also pray for vocations and for all our priests. If you do not have a donation envelope, plenty are still available at the back of the church. You can use the QR code to make your donation online or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. Thank you for your generosity.

Diocese of Westminster
PRIEST TRAINING FUND
Registered charity no. 233699

Recently, Adam (one of our parishioners) made a music video called **AT THE CROSS**.
Please take a look – and you should recognise the church in the video:
https://youtu.be/iU5ITKuApCg?si=BK6Nt96NWDW1Mhqc

OUR LADY OF WILLESDEN MAY PROCESSION



The annual **MAY PROCESSION** in honour of Our Lady will take place at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden today **Sunday, 11th May, at 3pm** the Preacher will be the Rt Rev Hugh Allan, O.Praem.

Thanksgiving Mass for Bishop Sherrington

There will be an opportunity to pray in thanksgiving for Bishop John Sherrington's ministry in our Diocese, and to ask God's blessing on him as he prepares to move to his new appointment as Archbishop of Liverpool, on Thursday 15 May 2025 at 5.30pm at Westminster Cathedral.

PARISH DIARY

Monday 12th May **CONFIRMATION** 6:00pm	Session 11: PREPARATION FOR CONFESSION Church of the Transfiguration
Monday 12th May	Year 3 pupils from St Mary Magdalen's school joining us at morning Mass.
Tuesday 13th May	Coffee morning after 9:30am Mass. Everyone is very welcome!