

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

May—Month of The Blessed Virgin

Third Sunday of Easter

4 May 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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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

Recall the first time there was a miraculous catch of fish in the Gospels. In Luke 5:1–7, Jesus was preaching to the people on the shore from where He sat in Peter's boat just a short distance away. After preaching, Jesus told Peter, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Peter did so and there was such a large catch of fish that the Apostles needed help to haul it in.

In today's Gospel, some three years later after the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples from the shore and instructed them to cast their nets "over the right side of the boat." They did so and caught 153 large fish. In commenting on these two passages, Saint Augustine teaches that the first miraculous catch was a sign that the Gospel would be preached to all people, which is indicated by Jesus simply saying "lower your nets." But after the Resurrection, Jesus specifically tells the disciples to cast their nets "over the right side" to indicate that grace is now given to those who stand on His right side and are separated from the condemned who are on His left. Thus, this second miraculous catch symbolizes the end of the age when the good and the bad are judged.

Saint Augustine also notes that the 153 large fish, caught off the right side of the boat, are a symbolic representation of those who conform not only to the Ten Commandments but also receive the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit by grace. He explains that 10 + 7 = 17 and if you add all the numbers together between 1 and 17 you arrive at 153. Thus, these 153 fish represent everyone who receives His gift of grace and obtains salvation. The boat represents the Church, and the gift of salvation is offered by Christ through His Church.

One clear message we must take from Saint Augustine's interpretation is that grace and mercy are offered to all, but not received by all. At the end of our lives and at the end of the world, judgment will take place. Those who responded to the offer of grace and mercy, repented of their sins and gave their lives to Christ will eternally share in the Resurrection. But those who refused to follow His Commandments and closed themselves to the transforming power of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit will be separated from eternal joys.

Reflect, today, upon the symbolism found in this Resurrection account. Consider the fact that the Gospel has, indeed, been shared with you. Have you listened to the Word of God as it is preached by the Church? Do you immerse yourself in the grace given through the Sacraments? Do you follow the Ten Commandments faithfully? Do you continually open yourself to the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit? Seek to be among that catch of fish caught on the "right side." Never doubt that hell is real and possible. For that reason, never waver from your fidelity to Christ, so that you will remain firmly grounded in His grace and share one day in His Resurrection.

The Peace of Christ
Fr Matteo

Those who are sick: Mary O'Flaherty, Noel Armstrong, Padraic Gibbons, Winston Ingram, Ildefonso Fran, Nidukshi Seresinhe, Ethel Cuff, Andrew Tompkins, John Sullivan

Those who have died recently: Our Holy Father- Pope Francis, Charlotte Westley, Jim McDonald, Nora O'Neill

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Martin Doyle, Phil and Theresa McGovern, J.P.Gunaratne

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 27 April 2025 amounted to £1,191.97

Standing orders for March: £4,130

Contactless Income for April: £651.23

Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

CONGRATULATIONS to all our young parishioners who received their First Holy Communion this weekend. May this special step in your journey of faith, bring you closer to Jesus each day. Thank you to the families, catechists, and all in our parish who helped prepare and support them for this blessed occasion.



YOUTH GROUP

The SMM Youth Group meets again on **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 on 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!

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.

NEW TO THE PARISH?

Welcome! We are delighted you have come to join us. Please introduce yourself to Monsignor Roger and fill out a registration form - available in the entry porch. If you have any questions, please speak to a parishioner or email Maria in the office.

Mass Intentions commencing Sunday 4 May

Saturday	6:30pm	J.P. Gunaratne	**Anniv**
Sunday	9:00am	Phil and Theresa McGovern	**Anniv**
	10:30am	People of the Parish	**Ints**
	12:00pm	Martin Doyle	**Anniv**
	6:30pm	Kamala Ruth Brereton	**Anniv**
Monday	9:30am	John Reilly	**RIP**
Tuesday	9:30am	Mary Gavahan	**RIP**
Wednesday	9:30am	Peter and Marita 12th Wedding Anniversary	**Thanksgiving**
Thursday	9:30am	Leo Braganca	**RIP**
Friday	9:30am	Evette	**Ints**
Saturday	9:30am	Johnny	**Ints**

PRIEST TRAINING FUND

Next Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, the day we pray for priests and for vocations to the priesthood. The annual collection for the Priest Training Fund will take place next weekend. 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. This fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your generous donation helps ensure we can support these men who are called to be like Christ the Good Shepherd.

Donation envelopes are available in the back of the church. Please take one home, read the information, and bring it back next weekend with your donation. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our priests. 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

RETREAT AFTERNOONS TO CELEBRATE OUR JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Let us join together, across parishes, to celebrate Pope Francis' legacy to us: Through Reflection, Prayer, Listening and Adoration.

Venue: **St Margaret Clitherow Church**
Everglade Strand, London NW9 5PX

Dates: 10th May

Time: 2.00 pm. to 4.00 pm

LEARN TO PRAY DAY

10:00am - 5:00pm Saturday 10th May 2025

at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, White City

All are welcome to join us for a one-day course on how to develop a personal prayer life that helps you grow deeper in your relationship with God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The day is free; all we ask is that you let us know you are coming. For more information please pick up a leaflet from the back of the church or email the parish office, and to book, email evangelisation@rcdow.org.uk with the name(s) of people coming along.

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 on

Sunday, 11th May, at 3pm.

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.