

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

July—Month of The Precious Blood of Jesus

Solemnity of St Mary Magdalen

20 July 2025

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

Mealtimes in our house growing up were always lively — sometimes a little too lively. My mother, Yorkshire-bred and as direct as they come, had no qualms about speaking her mind. If guests were present, that didn't matter much — honesty came first. She had high standards, expected everyone to do their bit, and didn't hesitate to find fault, for example not clearing up. As a teenager, this could be mortifying, especially when I would rather have been chatting at the table than helping with the dishes. In retrospect, I think my mother had more than a touch of Martha in her.

Today we meet once more Martha and Mary, who welcome Jesus into their home. Mary sits at Jesus's feet, absorbing every word, while Martha is left to prepare the meal and keep the house running. Understandably, she gets frustrated and appeals to Jesus: "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone?" You can perhaps imagine how that went down, bringing tension into an otherwise peaceful environment. But, instead of siding with her, Jesus replies gently yet firmly, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the better part, and it will not be taken away from her."

It's a striking moment. Martha's appeal to Jesus aims to involve him in a family dispute to gain support. But Jesus doesn't play along. Instead, he redirects the conversation toward something deeper: the spiritual cost of anxiety.

Anxiety is something most of us know intimately. We care about people, our responsibilities, and our future — but with care often comes worry. Even when life seems stable, many of us carry a persistent unease, a restlessness. It can be about anything – family, work, health even climate change. Sometimes it's justified. Other times, it simply clouds our inner peace and distracts us from the deeper truth of who we are and what matters most.

Jesus doesn't dismiss Martha's work — hospitality was vital, and someone had to prepare the meal. But he gently points out that her anxiety is consuming her, pulling her away from what is most needed: presence. Attentiveness. Connection with the divine. In Mary, Jesus sees someone who has recognized the moment for what it is — an opportunity to sit at the feet of love and truth.

This passage invites us to ask ourselves: What are the "many things" that trouble us? And what is the "one necessary thing" we're in danger of neglecting? In the words of the prayer after the Our Father at Mass: 'that, by the help of your mercy… we may be safe from all distress.'

There is a time to work, to serve, to carry responsibility — but there is also a time to be still, to listen, and to draw close to Christ. We need both Martha and Mary within us. But perhaps today, Jesus is inviting us, as he invited Martha, to pause and consider whether we've made enough room in our lives for the better part — that which cannot be taken away.

Monsignor Roger

Those who are sick: Felica Unaka, Antonio Pereira, Mary Walsh, Carmel Hollowed, Rose McDermott, Monica Lynch, Grasmila Andrade

Those who have died recently: Patrick Francis Connor

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary Oghogho Iyamu, Macario Sahagun, Juliana Sahagun, Rene Graham, Ellen McCarthy, Aleksandra Markul, Kazimierz Markul, Agnes Lakomy

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
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 (Vigil Mass of Sunday)
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

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 13 July 2025 amounted to £1,532.38
Standing orders for June: £3,971.00
Contactless Income for June: £1,123.68

Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

SEA SUNDAY 2025

Thank you for giving to Sea Sunday. Your generous gifts will ensure that Stella Maris chaplains can continue to be a friend for seafarers and fishers in times of need. To find out more about how your support helps those who live and work at sea, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk

STELLA MARIS

If you did not get a chance to support this charity last week, you can visit www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, or text 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. You can also Gift Aid your donation by using the envelope at the back of the church.

Thank you.

ST. MARY MAGDALEN PARISH SPECIAL NEEDS GROUP invites you to a charity **Race Night** on Saturday, **26th July at 7:30 p.m**.

at Tony's Bar, 356-360 Willesden High Road.

All proceeds will go toward funding events for the group.
We look forward to seeing you there!



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.

BAPTISM PREPARATION The next course preparing parents for the baptism of their child, will be held next **Saturday, 6 September 2025** at 11:00am. Please contact the office to book a place.

Mass Intentions commencing- Sunday 20 July

Saturday	6:30pm	Michael Brady	**RIP**
Sunday	9:00am	People of the Parish	**Ints**
	11:00am	All clergy who have served our parish	**Ints**
	6:30pm	Mary Oghogho Iyamu	**Anniv**
Monday	9:30am	Catherine Crowley	**Get Well Ints**
Tuesday	9:30am	Catherine Crowley	**Get Well Ints**
Wednesday	9:30am	Paul Mountain	**RIP**
Thursday	9:30am	Winston Ingram and deceased family members	**RIP**
Friday	9:30am	Paul Cronin	**RIP**
Saturday	9:30am	Paul Cronin	**RIP**



CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF ST MARY MAGDALEN

Please remember:
Mass at **11:00am** will replace the 10:30 am and 12:00 noon Masses.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ALTAR SERVERS

We congratulate those servers who are being admitted to the Guild of St Stephen and receiving the bronze medal, a sign of their commitment to serving at the Church's liturgies.



Now that school terms are ending, we would like to wish all our parishioners a happy and enjoyable summer holiday!

Coming soon...
Watch this space!

Alpha

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday
20th September

We will be organising a coach to join the Diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham.
Details to follow.

