

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

September—Month of The Sorrowful Mother

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

7 September 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
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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
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

COUNTING THE COST AND EMBRACING GRACE

This Sunday's readings confront us with a sobering truth: to follow Christ is not comfortable, easy, or sentimental. It is a serious, lifelong commitment—one that calls for wisdom, detachment, and wholehearted devotion.

In the **Gospel (Luke 14:25–33)**, Jesus turns to the large crowds following Him and says something startling: *"Whoever does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, even his own life, cannot be my disciple."* At first glance, this language seems extreme—even harsh. But Jesus is not promoting hatred in the literal sense. He is using powerful, Semitic hyperbole to make a point: nothing and no one can take precedence over our relationship with Him.

In a culture that often promotes comfort, convenience, and compromise, Jesus' words are deeply countercultural. He calls us to **"carry the cross"** and to **"renounce all possessions."** In other words, discipleship demands a willingness to let go—of control, of comfort, of anything that keeps us from giving ourselves fully to God. It is not a part-time identity, but a full surrender of one's life, decisions, and priorities to Christ.
The **first reading (Wisdom 9:13–18b)** sets the stage beautifully by reminding us of our human limitations: *"Who can know God's counsel, or who can conceive what the Lord intends?"* The reading emphasizes that we cannot understand divine things on our own; we need the gift of God's wisdom. This wisdom helps us discern not only what to believe, but how to live. Without it, we risk following our own plans instead of God's will.

In the **second reading (Philemon 9–10, 12–17)**, we see what this kind of wisdom and discipleship looks like in action. St. Paul, writing from prison, appeals to Philemon on behalf of Onesimus, a runaway slave who has become a Christian. Paul asks Philemon to receive Onesimus *"no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a brother."* Here, the Gospel upends societal norms and redefines relationships. True discipleship transforms not just our beliefs but our relationships and social structures as well.
Together, these readings paint a vivid picture of what it means to truly follow Christ: it is not about popularity or personal gain, but about **radical love, sacrifice, and transformation**. It is about making difficult choices, counting the cost, and still choosing to walk the narrow path.

So as we reflect this Sunday, the question comes to each of us: **What am I unwilling to give up for Christ?** Is there something—or someone—I have placed above Him? Am I living as a part-time disciple, or a full-time follower?
Discipleship is not about perfection, but direction. It's a daily "yes" to Jesus, even when it costs. And in the end, we discover that what we gave up was nothing compared to what we gained—Christ Himself.

The Peace of Christ
Fr Matteo

Those who are sick: Christine Lynch, Stella Murray, Sharon Evans, Betty McConnell, Rose McDermott
Those who have died recently: Dinar Tsehaye, Mary O'Toole, Peter Ring, Eileen Brosnan
Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Patroxina Rodrigues, Mary and Alan Statham, Patrick O'Sullivan, Nina Manuelina Viegas Braganca

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 31 August 2025 amounted to £1,542.85
Standing orders for July: £3,931.00
Contactless Income for August: £386.90
Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

PRAYING FOR PEACE BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



The Cardinal has asked us to pray for peace in the Holy Land and in Gaza on Monday **15th September.** I would like to invite you to come and pray before the Blessed Sacrament for this, in St Mary Magdalen's church from 6pm to 7pm on that day.

We warmly welcome everyone back after the summer break.
A special prayer goes to all our students, teachers, and families as a new school year begins. May the months ahead be filled with growth, learning and God's blessings.

Signing of School Forms for Roman Catholic Secondary Schools and Sixth Form Applications

Monsignor Roger will be available to sign the Certificate of Catholic Practice for **Secondary and Sixth form applications only**

on **Saturday 4 October 1:00pm - 3:00pm**
Sunday 5 October 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Monsignor Roger will see you on a first come, first served basis. Meetings will take place in the Sacristy, not Clergy House. Before your appointment please complete a CCP Application form, and a Certificate of Catholic Practice form for each school you are applying for (top half of each certificate should be pre-completed). Both of these forms can be found on our parish website at: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/willesdengreen/certificate-of-catholic-practice-applications/ Paper copies will also be available on the table at the back of the church.

The Parish Diary 2026 is now open for booking Masses. Please contact the office.



PLEASE NOTE: There will be no coffee/tea morning this Tuesday, 9th September.

Mass Intentions commencing- Sunday 7 September

Saturday	6:30pm	Mary and Alan Statham	**Anniv**
Sunday	9:00am	P.J. Conway	**RIP**
	10:30am	Patrick O'Sullivan	**Anniv**
	12:00pm	Cleaver Sampson	**RIP**
	6:30pm	People of the Parish	**Ints**
Monday	9:30am	Patroxina Rodrigues	**Anniv**
	12:00pm	Funeral—Dinar Tsehaye	**RIP**
Tuesday	9:30am	Tony Mackenzie	**Ints**
Wednesday	9:30am	Nina Manuelina Viegas Braganca	**Anniv**
Thursday	9:30am	The Goes Family	**Good health Ints**
	12:30pm	Funeral—Eileen Brosnan	**RIP**
Friday	9:30am	In thanksgiving to St Mary Magdalen	
	12:00pm	Funeral—Mary O'Toole	**RIP**
Saturday	9:30am	Mary Mackenzie	**Ints**

FUNERAL NOTICES

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late
Dinar Tsehaye
will take place on Monday 8th September at 12noon
followed by burial at Willesden New Cemetery at 2:00pm.

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The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late
Eileen Brosnan
will take place on Thursday 11th September at 12:30pm
followed by cremation at Golders Green Crematorium at 2:30pm

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The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late
Mary Teresa O'Toole
will take place on Friday 12th September at 12noon
followed by burial at Willesden Cemetery at 1:45pm.

May they rest in peace ✝

Do you want to become a Catholic? I know that some of you who come to Mass are not Catholic – and you are, of course, very welcome to worship with us. It may be that you would like to become a Catholic, either through baptism or reception from another Christian church. As a first step along that road, I would like to invite you to join our **Alpha** course this autumn. It is a great way to get to know Jesus Christ a bit better, and to come to know other people who come to Mass. The details are on the sheet included with this newsletter.

Monsignor Roger
(rogerreader@rcdow.org.uk to register your interest)

THE ALPHA COURSE IS BACK!

Starting on Thursday 18th September

See the sheet included in this newsletter for more details.

Interested? Contact Barry at wgoutreach@rcdow.org.uk

