

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

September—Month of The Sorrowful Mother

Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary time

28 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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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

A Call to Compassion and Justice

This Sunday's Gospel from Luke (16:19–31) offers one of Jesus' most striking parables—a vivid and unsettling story about a rich man and a poor beggar named Lazarus. On the surface, it's a tale of reversal: the rich man, who lived in luxury, ends up in torment after death, while Lazarus, who suffered on earth, is comforted in the afterlife. But beneath the imagery lies a deeper challenge—a warning not just about wealth, but about blindness, indifference, and missed opportunities for compassion.

The rich man isn't condemned for being wealthy. Rather, he is condemned for **ignoring** Lazarus. Day after day, Lazarus lay at his gate, hungry and covered with sores. The rich man had countless chances to show mercy. He didn't exploit or harm Lazarus—he simply did nothing. His sin was complacency, his heart hardened by comfort, his eyes closed to suffering at his doorstep.

This parable speaks directly to us today. In a world of staggering inequality, where millions go hungry while others live in excess, Jesus' message cuts to the core: **How do we respond to the suffering around us?** Are we like the rich man, absorbed in our own lives, unaware—or unwilling—to act?

It's easy to think of injustice as something distant, abstract, or out of our control. But Lazarus isn't far away; he's at our gate. He's the homeless person on the corner, the refugee seeking safety, the single parent struggling to provide, the elderly neighbour facing loneliness. The Gospel calls us not only to **see** Lazarus but to **cross the threshold**—to engage, to help, to love.

The rich man's downfall was not sudden. It was the slow erosion of empathy, the quiet habit of looking away. Jesus warns that such a life leads to a chasm—not just in eternity, but here and now: the growing divide between rich and poor, between those with power and those without, between those who are seen and those who are invisible.

This Sunday's reading ends on a sobering note. Even in torment, the rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his brothers. But Abraham replies, "They have Moses and the prophets; let them listen to them." In other words, we already have all the instruction we need—Scripture, conscience, community. The question is whether we will **listen** and act.

As we reflect on this 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, let it not be just another reading or moral lesson. Let it be a mirror. Who are we in this story? Where are the Lazaruses in our lives? And most importantly, what are we doing—or failing to do—for them?
May this Gospel awaken in us a renewed sense of compassion, responsibility, and solidarity. May we not wait until it's too late to love as Christ calls us to love.

The Peace of Christ
Fr Matteo

Those who are sick: Rose McDermott, Carmeletta O'Sullivan, Ethel Cuff, Monica Lynch
Those who have died recently: Annie Granahan, John Paul Kirk, Gerard James Paton
Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Christine O'Sullivan, Jackie Grefte, Oliver Ndukwe, Rosa Salgado, Dean Marshall

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 21 September 2025 amounted to £1,523.87
Standing orders for August: £3,914.00
Contactless Income for August: £386.90
Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.



A huge thank you to our Social Committee for organising last Sunday's **Family Fun Day** for both our parishes, enjoyed by parishioners of all ages. The afternoon featured country dancing, board games, children's sports, volleyball, and a spirited tug-of-war, with a shared picnic lunch bringing everyone together.
We were also pleased to welcome the **London Fire Brigade**, who invited children and adults to explore their fire engine and learn about their vital work.
Thank you to all who took part and helped make the afternoon such a happy and friendly joint-parish occasion.

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.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation 2026

All children who are due to receive their First Holy Communion (currently in Year Three and above) or make their Confirmation (currently in Year Nine and above) must obtain an application form. **These forms will be available from the celebrating priest after all weekend Masses in October.**

Pupils from St Mary Magdalen's School will be helping out at Coffee morning this Tuesday. All are welcome!



Mass Intentions commencing- Sunday 28 September

Saturday	6:30pm	Valerie and Peter Peyton	**RIP**
Sunday	9:00am	Christine O'Sullivan	**Anniv**
	10:30am	Private Intention	
	12:00pm	People of the Parish	**Ints**
	6:30pm	Oliver Ndukwe	**Anniv**
Monday	9:30am	Nicky Dias	**Birthday Ints**
Tuesday	9:30am	Lora Okpeahior	**Ints**
Wednesday	9:30am	For peace in our world	
Thursday	9:30am	Agnelo Fernandes	**RIP**
Friday	9:30am	Eileen Delaney	**Ints**
Saturday	9:30am	Velbijoy Fernandes	**Birthday Ints**

St Mary Magdalen Youth Group – we're back!

Yes! After a long, reasonably well-deserved summer break, the St Mary Magdalen Youth Group returns with its batteries fully recharged and raring to go on **Sunday 12th October at 4:30pm.** I'm very happy to announce that this year we're joined by the **Westminster Youth Ministry** team. Over the coming year, they will be guiding us through the *Youth Alpha* course, in which matters of faith are explored at both a personal level and in the context of the community. Doubtless they will also be organizing lots of fun activities and games (if you've been on a Confirmation retreat day at the SPEC centre in Pinner, you'll know the sort of thing I'm talking about).

As for me, I'll be doing what I always do: arranging the chairs and ordering the pizzas.
If you're good at something, stick with it.
Interested? Any questions? Contact me at wgoutreach@rcdow.org.uk
Barry Phillips- Outreach officer, St Mary Magdalen

CARDINAL VINCENT'S PASTORAL LETTER

On 29 September 1850, Pope Pius IX established the Diocese of Westminster and appointed Nicholas Wiseman as its first Archbishop. From those modest beginnings, our Diocese has grown into a vibrant, diverse family of faith. Today we give thanks for 175 years of God's grace, for the clergy, religious, and lay faithful who have guided us, and for the many cultures and nations now united in Christ. May our patron saints continue to pray for us as we hand on this rich inheritance to future generations.
The Cardinal's letter is available at the back of the church for you to take home and read in full.

CAFOD *Family Fast Day* Appeal this Harvest

Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection to share God's abundant gifts with our global neighbours as they find lasting solutions to poverty and climate challenges. Your generosity offers "signs of hope" in this Jubilee Year, helping build more water tanks in communities like Waré's in Ethiopia where women have to walk for hours to get water.
Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at **cafod.org.uk/envelope** or call **0303 303 3030**.
You can also **text CAFOD to 70560** to donate £10.
Thank you.

Do you want to become a Catholic?

If you come to Mass but are not Catholic, you are warmly welcome.
If you are considering **baptism** or **reception from another Christian church**, a good first step is our **Alpha** course this autumn—a friendly way to learn more about **Jesus Christ** and meet others from the parish.
Monsignor Roger
(rogerreader@rcdow.org.uk to register your interest)

THE ALPHA COURSE IS BACK!



Thursdays at 6:30pm in the annexe.
For more information, contact Barry.
at wgoutreach@rcdow.org.uk