

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

September—Month of The Sorrowful Mother

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

14 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
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

Friday Abstinence: A Mark of Catholic Identity

One of the worst meals of the week when I was at school was on Fridays. Every Friday we were confronted with what looked and tasted like an orange piece of cardboard, which was actually some sort of breaded fish. With it came soggy chips and tinned, grey peas. The people we blamed for this unappetising meal were Catholics. We all knew that Catholics had to eat fish on Fridays (not actually true, see below) and so the small number of Left Footers, as they were known, bore the brunt of our culinary criticism.

Some of you will remember that this discipline of abstaining from meat, which often meant eating fish, on Fridays was a defining mark of Catholics. In the same way as Jewish and Moslem people were known for not eating pork, so Catholics were brought together by their Friday discipline. The reason for this abstinence is rooted in penance. Jesus Christ died on the cross on Good Friday, and Catholics marked this every week. It was a sign of sorrow for our sins which crucified our loving Saviour, and also a mark of solidarity with those who could not afford meat. It became a hallmark of Catholic identity.

In 1966, the document Paenitemini of Pope St Paul VI kept the universal obligation of Friday penance, but left it to local Churches how this would be expressed. In England and Wales, Catholics were still obliged to an act of penance on Fridays, but could choose how to express this.

Many of us are unaware of this, but in 2011 the Catholic Church in England and Wales restored the obligation to abstain from meat on Fridays. This was done to re-establish a common Catholic identity, with a visible shared practice. In our daily lives this is one way of being recognisably Catholic. Our love, our charity and our faithfulness are, of course, other very important ways.

It is especially appropriate to remind ourselves of this discipline as we celebrate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross today. It is a concrete way of reminding ourselves week by week of the death of Jesus Christ on the cross out of love for each and every one of us.

So, please try to abstain from meat on Fridays, but please do not rush the confessional if you have not been observing this. This should not be about guilt, but about coming closer to Jesus in union with our fellow Catholics. If you do not normally eat meat, abstain from some other staple food. It is a way for a family week by week to remember Jesus' love as you eat together on a Friday. Once again, it should become one hallmark among others of being a Catholic.

Monsignor Roger

Those who are sick: Stella Murray, Sharon Evans, Betty McConnell, Rose McDermott
Those who have died recently: Patricia O'Shea, Martin Lynch, George Chambers, Margaret Mullins
Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Margaret Ita O'Neill, Kay Papp, Noreen Kelly, Patricia McGovern, Agnes and Anthony McDermott

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 7 September 2025 amounted to £1,589.18
Standing orders for August: £3,914.00
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.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE ON SATURDAY 20th SEPTEMBER

A few seats still available on the Kensal Rise coach.

A coach will leave the Church of the Transfiguration at 7:00am and return the same evening.
The cost per person is £30.00 for your coach travel and levy.

Booking forms are located at the back of our church and should be completed and returned to our parish office, with the fee enclosed by **Tuesday 16th September.**

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.

Mass Intentions commencing- Sunday 14 September

Saturday	6:30pm	Kay Papp	**Anniv**
Sunday	9:00am	Noreen Kelly	**Anniv**
	10:30am	People of the Parish	**Ints**
	12:00pm	John Savage	**RIP**
	6:30pm	Patricia McGovern and Agnes and Anthony McDermott	**Anniv**
Monday	9:30am	Holy Souls	**RIP**
Tuesday	9:30am	In honour of St Catherine Labouré	
	12:00pm	Funeral—Patricia O'Shea	**RIP**
Wednesday	9:30am	James Mitchell	**RIP**
Thursday	9:30am	Margaret Ita O'Neill	**Anniv**
Friday	9:30am	Gregorio & Maria Albuquerque	**Birthday Ints**
Saturday	9:30am	Samuel Ngwoke	**Birthday Ints**

FUNERAL NOTICES

The Reception and Requiem Mass of the late
Patricia O'Shea
will take place on Tuesday 16th September at 12noon
followed by burial at St Mary's RC Cemetery at 1:30pm.

May she 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 this Thursday, 18th September at 6:30pm

The Alpha course uses inspiring video testimonies to explore questions of faith, God, Christ, and creation. Open to Christians, other denominations, and agnostics, it offers spiritual and intellectual enrichment in a relaxed setting with no obligation to speak—just come and try a session. It's free!
For more information, contact Barry.
at wgoutreach@rcdow.org.uk

Family Fun Day

Sunday 21st September 2025 from 1:30 to 3:30pm
Willesden Sports Centre

The Parish Social Committee invites everyone to the annual Church Family Fun Day! Enjoy games and activities for all ages—football, dodgeball, tug of war, board games, face-painting, and folk dancing.
Bring a picnic and soft drinks to share with friends and family.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

The next course preparing parents for the baptism of their child, will be held next **Saturday, 8 November 2025** at 11:00am.
Please contact the office to book a place.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

There will be a **Health and Wellbeing Event** taking place on Tuesday 23rd of September between 1pm and 7pm at Our Lady of Willesden Parish Hall ('Marian Hall') 1 Nicoll Road, Willesden, NW10 9AX. This event is hosted by Brent Health Matters in partnership with the NHS, and they will be providing free NHS health checks to the community. This includes blood pressure checks, blood sugar testing, diabetes risk assessments, clinical consultations, and BMI (height and weight). A housing representative will also be present to provide advice and escalation support. This is a walk-in service, and no appointment is needed.