

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

October—Month of The Holy Rosary

Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary time

19 October 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
matteodigiuseppe@rcdow.org.uk
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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 - 3:00pm

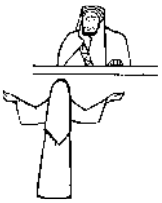
Parish Outreach Worker
Barry Phillips-Devaney
wgoutreach@rcdow.org.uk

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

THE POWER OF PERSISTENT FAITH



In the Gospel for the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C, Jesus offers us the parable of the persistent widow and the unjust judge (Luke 18:1–8). This short but powerful story invites us into a deeper understanding of prayer, justice, and the enduring nature of faith in the face of delay and apparent silence.

The parable opens with Jesus' explicit purpose: "to teach them that they should always pray and not give up." In a world that often values quick results and instant gratification, this teaching is both countercultural and deeply relevant. The widow in the story has no power, no wealth, and no influence. In the society of Jesus' time, she would have been among the most vulnerable. Yet, it is her persistence—her refusal to be silent or sidelined—that ultimately compels the corrupt judge to act.

This judge, described as someone who "neither feared God nor respected people," represents a worldly figure who acts not out of justice or compassion but out of self-interest. And yet, even this unjust man is moved by the widow's relentless pleas. Jesus' rhetorical question drives the point home: if such a man can be swayed, how much more will a just and loving God respond to His people's cries?

But the parable does more than encourage persistent prayer—it places a challenge before us. Jesus ends with a sobering question: "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" This is not merely a commentary on the end times but a mirror held up to our own hearts. How resilient is our faith? Do we trust God only when answers come quickly, or can we remain faithful when God seems silent?

In our time, many people struggle with doubt, discouragement, and the apparent absence of justice. We see systems that favour the powerful, voices that go unheard, and prayers that feel unanswered. The temptation to give up—on prayer, on justice, even on God—is real. But this Gospel reminds us that God is not like the unjust judge. He is attentive, loving, and merciful. Delayed answers are not denials. Silence does not mean abandonment.

The widow becomes a model of faith not because she is powerful, but because she is faithful. She teaches us that prayer is not passive resignation; it is an act of protest against injustice, an affirmation of hope, and a declaration that God's kingdom is worth fighting for.

As we reflect on this Sunday's Gospel, let us renew our commitment to persistent prayer—not merely asking for things, but engaging deeply with God in trust. Let us also become persistent witnesses for justice, like the widow, refusing to be silent in the face of wrong.

May we have faith that does not fade, hearts that do not grow weary, and voices that echo the widow's cry until justice is done.

The Peace of Christ
Fr Matteo

Those who are sick: Monica Lynch, Kit Mahoney, Stella Murray, Sharon Evans, Antonia Brickell, T.P. O'Brien, L.E. O'Brien, Maria Joaquina Raposo

Those who have died recently: Barbara Wohlfarth, Patrick Conway, Noel Armstrong, Michael Pitt

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 12 October 2025 amounted to £1,841.40
Standing orders for September: £4,115.00
Contactless Income for September: £634.31
Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

The **Solemnity of All Saints** this year will be celebrated on Sunday, 2nd November.

All Souls' Day will be commemorated on Monday, 3rd November. Masses will be celebrated at 9:30am and 6:30pm.

November Dead List
During November, Masses will be said for the Holy Souls. Please write the names of your deceased relatives and friends on one of the sheets and return with any offering you might like to make. Please post it through the presbytery letterbox or give it to one of the clergy. Thank you.

The Bi-Annual Concelebrated **Requiem Mass** at St. Mary's Cemetery NW10 5NU, Kensal Green will be on **Monday, 3rd November** at 11.30am. Graves will be blessed at Kensal Green and St Mary's cemeteries following this Mass.

Remembrance Sunday – 9th November 2025
The 12 noon Mass will be a Solemn Requiem for the Fallen.

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 (it's not too late to join!)—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)

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.

Mass Intentions commencing Sunday 19 October

Saturday	6:30pm	Valerie and Peter Peyton	**RIP**
Sunday	9:00am	Teresa Costello	**Ints**
	10:30am	People of the Parish	**Ints**
	12:00pm	Shaun Fogarty	**Ints**
	6:30pm	Patrick O'Leary and family	**Ints**
Monday	9:30am	Paul Seres	**RIP**
Tuesday	9:30am	Janet Johnson	**Ints**
Wednesday	9:30am	Martin Ryan	**Get Well Ints**
Thursday	9:30am	Felix Rodrigues	**RIP**
Friday	9:30am	Martin Lynch	**RIP**
	5:00pm	Funeral—Noel Armstrong	**RIP**
Saturday	9:30am	Colleen Carpen	**Birthday Ints**

FUNERAL NOTICES

The Reception and Requiem Mass for the late
Noel Armstrong
will take place on Friday, 24th October at 5:00pm
followed by repatriation to Ireland.

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The Reception of the Body of the late
Christine Lynch
will take place on Monday, 27th October at 6:30 pm
The Requiem Mass will be held on
Tuesday, 28th October at 11:30 am,
followed by cremation at Golders Green Crematorium at 1:00 pm

May they rest in peace ✞

This Sunday is **WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**, when the Church unites in prayer and generosity to support communities facing poverty and hardship.
Pope Francis's theme, *"Missionaries of Hope Among All Peoples,"* calls us to share Christ's hope in this Jubilee Year.
Please pray for missionaries, and if you would like to donate to Missio, please visit *missio.org.uk* or call 020 7821 9755.
Thank you for your support.



ALPHA COURSE
Thursdays at 6:30pm in the annexe. All welcome!

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.

Convent of Jesus and Mary Catholic Infant School & Nursery
OPEN DAYS
RECEPTION – Wednesday 5th November @ 3.30pm
NURSERY – Thursday 6th November @ 3.30pm

If you have a child due to start Nursery or Reception September 2026, you are welcome to attend the open day. There is no need to reserve a place.
Applications for Nursery and Reception and Junior School are to be made no later than 15th January 2026

21 Park Avenue, Willesden Green, NW2 5AN 020 8459 5890
www.cjminfantschool.co.uk admin@conventinf.brent.sch.uk

Consultation of the possible Merger of Stonebridge & Neasden Parishes.

This is an invitation for parishioners who would normally worship at either St Patrick's, Neasden (currently closed after fire damage) & Five Precious Wounds, Stonebridge to respond to the possible merger of those parishes.
What are you views on the advantages and disadvantages of the possible merger of the Parishes of St Patrick's, Neasden and Five Precious Wounds, Stonebridge?
Please respond to the Dean, Fr Stephen Willis, via your parish email address, using the subject line: PARISH MERGER. Submissions in the form of emails can be made until **Sunday 2nd November.** In addition Fr Stephen will be holding a Surgery at the Church of the Five Precious Wounds on Tuesday 21st October from 6-7pm. Thank you.