

# St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

## October—Month of The Holy Rosary

## Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary time

## 26 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
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 - 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

Last Thursday, the King paid a State Visit to the Vatican, meeting His Holiness Pope Leo XIV. This was not the first time in recent history that a British monarch has met the Pope, but it *was* the first time since the Reformation — and the break of the Church of England from the Catholic Church — that the monarch and the Pope will have prayed formally together at a public liturgy. They prayed Midday Prayer together, from the Liturgy of the Hours. This was an extraordinary moment — a sign of friendship and spiritual fellowship between the two Churches. I believe it marked an important step forward in the relationship between our country and the Catholic Church.

**From Persecution to Tolerance**
Historically, that relationship has passed through very different stages: from persecution to tolerance, and now towards acceptance and significance.
In the time of Henry VIII and the martyrdoms of St Thomas More and St John Fisher, through the major persecutions under Queen Elizabeth I (including the era of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales), Catholics in England suffered greatly for their faith. The last known major execution of a Catholic priest in England for his ministry was that of St Oliver Plunkett, Archbishop of Armagh, in 1681.
During those years, Catholics had to hide their faith, shelter priests, and pay heavy fines for not attending Anglican worship.

**The Growth of Tolerance and Renewal**
Eventually, a period of limited tolerance emerged. With the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829 it was no longer illegal to be Catholic, but many restrictions remained. Catholics could not serve in the army or sit in Parliament; and while they were permitted to build churches, these buildings had to appear outwardly like ordinary houses rather than public places of worship — a reminder of the lingering suspicion under which they lived.

In 1850, Pope Pius IX formally restored the Catholic hierarchy in England and Wales, re-establishing the diocesan structure that had been suppressed since the Reformation. We have recently celebrated this important anniversary. By then, nearly all the major legal restrictions on Catholics had been repealed, save those connected to the monarchy.
This period saw the building of many of our most beautiful churches and the growth of the Church in Britain, nourished by Irish immigration and notable conversions such as that of Cardinal (now Saint) John Henry Newman. The Church became a respected part of national life — contributing richly to education, the arts, and care for the poor.

**A New Chapter of Catholic Life**
I believe we are now entering a new era of Catholic life in our country. In many quarters, the Church is seen as a significant and trusted voice in the Christian life of this land. It was deeply moving to see the King, then Prince of Wales, attend the canonisation of John Henry Newman in Rome and speak so warmly about his witness. Away from the ceremonial of Papal and Royal events, what does this mean for us? In many parishes — though not all — our communities are flourishing. They certainly are in Kensal Rise and Willesden Green. We are home to many people from all over who have come to live here and enrich our community. The Church continues to speak clearly on the moral issues facing our society — for example, on the dignity of human life, in questions such as euthanasia and abortion, as well as the just treatment of refugees and prisoners.

At the same time, we recognise that the Church is not perfect. We have much still to do to ensure that, given past and present scandals, everyone is safe and valued in our community. With greater significance comes greater responsibility. We must strive to live authentic Catholic lives: relying on God and the sacramental life of the Church; giving excellence in education; showing compassion to the vulnerable; and being faithful stewards of creation.

**A Journey and a Calling**
Persecution, tolerance, acceptance and now significance — it has been quite a journey. May Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother sustain us as we continue forward in faith, hope and charity.

***Monsignor Roger***

# PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

**Collection 19 October 2025** amounted to £1,697.03
**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.

**Mass for deceased priests of the Brent Deanery** will take place in the Church of the Transfiguration, Kensal Rise, on **Tuesday, 11th November** at 11:30am.

**Mass of Remembrance**, for all those whose funerals or memorials have taken place in the parish, particularly in the past year, will be celebrated at **7:00pm on Monday, 24th November**. All are welcome to come and offer the greatest prayer we have—the Mass—for their deceased loved ones.



## First Holy Communion and Confirmation 2026

First Holy Communion—currently in Year Three and above
Confirmation—currently in Year Nine and above
**THIS IS THE LAST WEEKEND TO COLLECT AN APPLICATION FORM FROM THE CELEBRATING PRIEST.**

## Mass Intentions commencing Sunday 26 October

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| Saturday | 6:30pm | Eric, Ann and Stanley Lindford | **Anniv** |
| Sunday | 9:00am | Mary Enright | **Anniv** |
| | 10:30am | George Chambers and Margaret Mullins | **RIP** |
| | 12:00pm | People of the Parish | **Ints** |
| | 6:30pm | Mary Mackenzie | **Ints** |
| Monday | 9:30am | Private Intention | **Ints** |
| Tuesday | 9:30am | Joseph Flaherty | **Anniv** |
| | 11:30am | Funeral—Christine Lynch | **RIP** |
| Wednesday | 9:30am | Carol, David & James Portsmouth | **Anniv** |
| Thursday | 9:30am | Patrick Smullen | **RIP** |
| Friday | 9:30am | Roseline Ngwoke | **RIP** |
| Saturday | 9:30am | Sharon Evans | **Ints** |

## FUNERAL NOTICES

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

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The interment of the ashes of the late
**Jane O'Hara** *(of Balmoral Road)*
will take place on Monday, 27th October at 11:00am
at Willesden New Cemetery *(Section O near War Memorial)*

***May they rest in peace*** ✞

## St Mary Magdalen Youth Group

***from Year 9 and above***

Next meeting on **Sunday 9th November at 4:30pm.**
Enjoy games and exploring matters of faith through *Youth Alpha.*

**Nursery, Infant, and Primary School Applications.**
Monsignor Roger will be available to sign the Certificate of Catholic Practice for Nursery, Infant and Primary School applications on:

- **Saturday 15 November 1:00pm—3:00pm**
- **Sunday 16 November 4:30pm—6:00pm**
- **Saturday 22 November 1:00pm—2:00pm**

You will be seen on a 'first come, first served basis.' Meetings will take place in the Sacristy. Before your appointment please complete **one** 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). These forms can be found on our parish website at:
https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/willesdengreen/certificate-of-catholic-practice-applications/

**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**

**Those who are sick:** Sharon Evans, Antonia Brickell, T.P. O'Brien, L.E. O'Brien, Maria Joaquina Raposo
**Those who have died recently:** Christine Lynch, Michael McAnulty, Sean Kennedy, Jane O'Hara
**Those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Eric, Ann and Stanley Lindford, Joseph Flaherty, Mary Enright, Woody Welfare, Denis Dempsey, Carol, David and James Portsmouth

**REMINDER: FOODBANK COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND**