

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

November—Month of The Holy Souls

Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

16 November 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 - 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

Hope in the Midst of Upheaval:

As the liturgical year draws to its close, the Church invites us to gaze into the horizon of time and eternity. The readings for the Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C, confront us with images of destruction, persecution, and judgment—but beneath their sombre tone lies a message of deep hope and perseverance.

The prophet Malachi speaks first, proclaiming that "the day is coming, blazing like an oven," when all arrogance and evil will be burned away (Mal 3:19). Yet, for those who fear the Lord, "the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings." Here we glimpse both divine justice and divine mercy. God's judgment is not arbitrary vengeance but a purification that restores creation to its intended harmony. The wickedness of the world will not have the final word; the final word belongs to the healing light of God.

In the Gospel of Luke (21:5–19), Jesus speaks to his disciples in the Temple, warning that even this sacred structure will one day fall. His words unsettle them—how could God's dwelling place be destroyed? But Jesus shifts their focus from temporal security to eternal faithfulness. Wars, earthquakes, famines, and persecutions are not signs that God has abandoned the world, but that the world's fragile structures are passing away. "Do not be terrified," Jesus says. "By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

This call to perseverance is not passive resignation. It is a courageous endurance rooted in trust. Jesus prepares his followers to witness amid hostility, promising that he himself will give them "a wisdom in speaking" that no adversary can refute. Even in suffering, God remains present—active, speaking, and sustaining. Christian hope is not naïve optimism but a steadfast confidence that God's plan unfolds even through turmoil.

St. Paul's exhortation to the Thessalonians (2 Thess 3:7–12) grounds this apocalyptic vision in daily fidelity. Some believers, expecting the world's end, had abandoned work and responsibility. Paul firmly corrects them: "If anyone is unwilling to work, neither should that one eat." Waiting for the Lord does not mean escaping the demands of ordinary life. True discipleship is lived in the tension between the already and the not-yet—in prayer, in labour, in service, and in perseverance.

As we stand near the end of the liturgical year, these readings challenge our own complacency. The "end times" are not merely future events; they are the ongoing drama of conversion in every age. The world's instability—political unrest, ecological crisis, social division—echoes the Gospel's warnings. Yet, we are not to yield to fear. The Christian stance is one of vigilance, fidelity, and active hope.

The XXXIII Sunday in Ordinary Time reminds us that faith is not a refuge from the world's chaos but a lens through which we see God's hidden work within it. Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, rises even now, bringing light to our darkness. Our task is to stand firm, to work diligently, and to witness boldly—trusting that, in the end, God's healing light will prevail.

The Peace of Christ, Fr Matteo

Those who are sick: Rita Scanlon, Paul Mulhern, Paddy Delaney
Those who have died recently: Kathleen McGloin
Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Brendan Howard, Mary Ann Quinn, Conceicao Coutinho

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 9 November 2025 amounted to £2,049.02
Standing orders for October: £4,331.00
Contactless Income for October: £702.12
Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

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.

November blessing of graves for local cemeteries by diocesan priests:

Paddington Old Cemetery (Willesden Lane):
Sunday November 16th at 3pm
Kensal Green: Sunday November 23rd at 3pm

Join Our Altar Servers Team!

Would you like to do something special at Mass? If you're in **Year 4 or above**, or in **secondary school**, we'd love for you to join our altar servers! Come along to our **training session on Saturday, 29th November at 1:00pm** and learn how to take part in this amazing way to serve God and our parish family.



SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES

The first meeting for candidates and parents/guardians will take place on **Monday, 1st December** in **St Mary Magdalen Church**.
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026 at 5:30pm
CONFIRMATION 2026 at 7:00pm
Important information and dates will be shared at these meetings.
All those who have registered are required to attend.
This information has been emailed to all families. Please contact the office if you did not receive it.

ROME PILGRIMAGE November 2025

There will be a meeting of Pilgrims at **Our Lady of Willesden Church**, Nicoll Road, Harlesden, on **Wednesday, 19th November at 7.30 pm** in the **Marian Hall**.
Simple Italian refreshments will be served.
Please email Fr Stephen to register attendance:
willesden@rcdow.org.uk

Mass Intentions commencing- Sunday 16 November

Saturday	6:30pm	Mary Brady	**RIP**
Sunday	9:00am	Margaret Mitchell	**Ints**
	10:30am	People of the Parish	**Ints**
	12:00pm	William O'Sullivan	**RIP**
	6:30pm	John O'Brien	**RIP**
Monday	9:30am	Holy Souls	**RIP**
Tuesday	9:30am	Conceicao Coutinho	**Anniv**
Wednesday	9:30am	Holy Souls	**RIP**
Thursday	9:30am	Philomena Fernandes de Souza	**RIP**
Friday	9:30am	Holy Souls	**RIP**
Saturday	9:30am	Holy Souls	**RIP**

Masses for the Holy Souls include all our faithful departed from the November Dead lists.

Diocese of Westminster
SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND

Our second collection today will be in support of the SICK & RETIRED PRIESTS' FUND.

Most priests offer their resignation as a parish priest at the age of 75, but many continue to serve their communities, working in our parishes, schools, hospitals and chaplaincies. We must ensure no priest is worried about meeting essential costs during their senior years and, as such, Cardinal Nichols and the Diocese of Westminster are committed to ensuring that no retired or sick priest is left without support. Last year, the Diocese provided care to 73 retired priests, at a cost of £1,270,000.

By giving a gift to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund today, you can help us to ensure all of our sick and retired priests are cared for at their time of need. The fund is used to meet essential costs, like making a flat accessible to a disabled priest, or that a priest has regular visits from a carer after undergoing surgery.

If you took a donation envelope last weekend, please place it in the collection bag today. If you do not have an envelope, there are some available in the pews and/or at the back of the church. The envelopes and posters feature a 'QR Code' that you can scan with a phone camera to give online. If you are able, please consider filling out section 4 on the envelope form, meaning you become a Patron and make a regular gift to support our sick and retired priests. By becoming a Patron, and assuring income to the fund, the Diocese can plan its continued care for our retired and sick priests.

Thank you for your generosity and please remember to pray for our clergy, in active ministry, retired or ill.

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEER GARDENERS

We are very grateful to our dedicated team of volunteer gardeners, who have so generously given their time and energy to clearing, weeding, and tidying the church grounds. Your care and commitment are deeply appreciated—thank you!

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:

- **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/

#RED WEDNESDAY—AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

This year we will be at St George's Cathedral, Southwark at 6pm on **Wednesday 19th November** for a special evening filled with prayer, music, light and hope.
The focus for this year's Mass will be on suffering young Christians around the world. Please book your free place through:
https://acnuk.org/redwednesday-holy-mass-london-event