

CHRIST

THE

KING

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

November—Month of The Holy Souls

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

23 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
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

Christ the King: A Kingdom of Love

Humour is a funny thing—literally. What makes one person howl with laughter can leave someone else staring blankly, wondering what the joke was. It comes in all shapes and sizes: a quick meme, a cartoon in a newspaper, a silly video, a whole comedy movie. At its best, humour lifts us up, helps us relax, brings people together. But it can just as easily do the opposite.

When I talk with young people, I often hear stories like this: *"I sent a joke to my friend, but they totally took it the wrong way. I didn't mean to upset them—but it turned into an insult."* What started as harmless banter became hurtful. It's a reminder that humour can become mockery if we're not careful.

And that's exactly what we see in today's Gospel. On the Cross, Jesus is mocked by three different groups: the community leaders who sneer and say 'He saved others, let him save himself'. The soldiers who throw the title King of the Jews back at Jesus as an insult, and, maybe worst of all, one of the criminals beside him who taunts him saying 'Aren't you the Christ – save yourself and us'.

This is not the kingship anyone expected. In the world's eyes, kings are powerful, impressive, untouchable. Yet today we celebrate Christ the King—a King who reigns from a Cross.

St Paul, in the letter to the Colossians, tells us that Christ is *"the image of the invisible God"* and the one who *"holds all things together."* It's hard to picture the same Jesus—mocked, bleeding, dying—as the King of the universe. Christians have wrestled with that tension for centuries.

But here is the surprising, challenging, beautiful truth - God chose to reveal the kingship of his Son through the Cross.

Jesus is not a king who rules by force, fear, or fame. Instead he is a King who rules through: service, sacrifice and love. It is through love that he holds all things together, not through coercion or violence.

And it is this crucified King—rejected by many, yet faithful to the end—who opens the door to eternal life. We see this most powerfully in the other criminal on the cross, the one who simply says, *"Jesus, remember me."* And Jesus replies with a king's authority: *"Today you will be with me in paradise."*

So as we celebrate Christ the King, we're invited to think about the kind of power Jesus shows us. Not the power to dominate or mock, but the power to forgive, to heal, and to love even when it is hardest. That is real strength. That is real kingship. And that is the King we follow.

Monsignor Roger

Those who are sick: Rita Scanlon, Paul Mulhern, Paddy Delaney
Those who have died recently: Ellen Rafferty
Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Jimmy Braganca, Muriel and George Wilson, Martin McMahon, Michael McDonagh, May Hetherton

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 16 November 2025 amounted to £1,453.19
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: 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.

Please note that this coming Friday, 28th November, there will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament before the morning Mass. The church will be open as usual for private prayer.

School and Parish

The pupils from St Mary Magdalen's school will be helping out at coffee morning this Tuesday. All are welcome!

Mass Intentions commencing- Sunday 23 November

Saturday	6:30pm	Muriel and George Wilson	**Anniv**
Sunday	9:00am	Timothy and Breda Kelleher	**Ints**
	10:30am	Nina Manuelina Viegas Braganca	**RIP**
	12:00pm	People of the Parish	**Ints**
	6:30pm	Martin McMahon	**Anniv**
Monday	9:30am	Jimmy Braganca	**Anniv**
	7:00pm	For all our departed brothers and sisters who have died during the past year.	**RIP**
Tuesday	9:30am	Holy Souls	**RIP**
Wednesday	9:30am	Holy Souls	**RIP**
Thursday	9:30am	John and Josephine Savage	**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

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund collection last weekend. Your generosity means our sick and retired priests will receive the care and support they need.

If you haven't had the chance to make your donation, there is still time. You will find envelopes at the back of the church or you can donate online through the Diocese website – look out for the 'QR Code' on the envelopes and poster or scan it above.

Please do consider giving on a regular basis, assuring the care of our priests in their old age, or at a time of illness. This fund is a priority of the Church, and it provides us a chance to come together and say 'Thank you' to the priests who have served us. May God bless you for your kindness.

CANTUS 8 CANTUS CAROLS

Join us on
18th December at 7pm
for a **CAROL SERVICE**
at the
Church of the Transfiguration.

Come along, sing some carols, and enjoy the start of this joyous season.

Festive food and warm drinks will be served during the interval!

Church of the Transfiguration, 1 Wrentham Avenue, Kensal Rise, NW10 3HT

A HEALTH AND WELLBEING EVENT

will take place at The Five Precious Wounds, Stonebridge, on **Tuesday 25th November** from 1pm to 7pm. Hosted by Brent Health Matters in partnership with the NHS, the event will offer free NHS health checks, including blood pressure and blood sugar testing, clinical consultations, and BMI measurements. The service is open to all residents of the Borough of Brent and is provided on a walk-in basis, with no appointment required.

Young Adults ADVENT RETREAT DAY
with the Assumption Sisters on
Saturday 6th December 2025, 10am – 6pm.
Venue: Milleret House, 20 Kensington Square, London, W8 5HH (closest tube station: High Street Kensington).
Programme includes talks • prayer, adoration and confessions faith sharing • mass and social time. £5 registration fee/ subsidised student places available on request.
Register now by emailing: rebecca@assumpta-eu.org

PARISH VACANCY

A Parish Administrator/Secretary is needed to work 12 hours per week to provide administrative support to the team in the parish of Dollis Hill.
Tuesday to Thursday, 9.30am to 1.30pm.
For more information, including a full job description please visit http://rcdow.org.uk/diocese Closing date 5th December.