

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

November—Month of The Holy Souls

First Sunday of Advent—Year A

30 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
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

WAKING TO THE DAWN

Advent begins not in festive light but in the quiet dark before dawn. The Church invites us into a season that is less about ornament and more about awakening. Before the candles grow brighter and the Christmas story comes into view, the First Sunday of Advent asks us to look honestly at the world as it is—and to train our hearts to watch for the world as God promises it will be.

Isaiah's vision sets the tone: a mountain to which all nations stream, swords reshaped into ploughshares, and the end of war's long, bitter night. It is a breathtaking image precisely because it is not yet our reality. The prophet does not pretend otherwise. Instead, he places before us a horizon of hope that pulls us forward. Advent hope is not escapism; it is the conviction that God's future is coming toward us even when the present feels heavy or disordered. Isaiah ends with an invitation: *"Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord."* Advent begins there—in choosing to walk as though God's peace is already stirring beneath the surface of history.

St. Paul picks up this same theme of urgency in his letter to the Romans. "It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep," he writes, for salvation is nearer than when we first believed. Advent's call to "wake up" is not the alarm of fear but of purpose. We are reminded that spiritual sleepiness—distraction, indifference, resignation—is one of the great threats to discipleship. Paul invites believers to "put on the armour of light," to live visibly, courageously, and compassionately. The world is deeply in need of such luminous lives.

The Gospel, however, gives the most jarring note. Jesus speaks of the days of Noah, when ordinary life lulled people into forgetting what truly mattered. His message is unmistakable: the coming of the Son of Man will not be announced with fanfare but will arrive in the midst of daily routines, where vigilance is easiest to lose. Jesus is not inviting fear; he is inviting readiness—a heart attuned to God's presence in every moment, alive to grace, alert to the needs of others, resistant to complacency.

Together, these readings form Advent's opening chord: a mixture of longing, vigilance, and quiet hope. The season does not ask us to pretend the darkness is gone. It asks us to light a candle anyway. It asks us to be people who believe God is still writing the story of the world, and who are willing to take our place within that unfolding work.

As Advent begins, we stand on the threshold of mystery. We wait for Christ's coming—past, present, and future. We watch for signs of God's kingdom already breaking in. And we walk, step by deliberate step, toward the light Isaiah saw from afar. The dawn is nearer than we think.

The Peace of Christ
Fr Matteo

Those who are sick: Paddy Delaney

Those who have died recently: Catherine McGloin

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Helen Sullivan, Maria Pereira, Sean Higgins, John Boland, James McGrath and Edward Leeson, Stephen Moriarty, Christine Elizabeth Casey, Cathy Kirwan, Margaret and John Murphy

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.

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.

Join Us for a Festive Morning with mince pies and refreshments!

We warmly invite you to help us put up the Christmas trees and lights on **Saturday, 13th December**, after morning Mass. Our wonderful team of cleaners will also be preparing the church for Christmas and would greatly appreciate any extra helping hands.



St Mary Magdalen Youth Group

from Year 9 and above

Good news! The Westminster Youth Ministry team will be joining us for our next youth group on **Sunday December 14th at 4.30pm.** They'll be all sorts of Christmassy activities, discussion and snacks happening, and there may even be a game of *bim bam bom* (those who came last month will know all about this!).
So SAVE THE DATE and we'll see you there!

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

A limited number of Christmas Mass bouquet cards and 2026 calendars are now available from the parish office.

School and Parish

At 9:30am this Monday, we will be welcoming pupils from St Mary Magdalen's School to join us for morning Mass. This will not be live-streamed.

Mass Intentions commencing—Sunday 30 November

Saturday	6:30pm	Helen Sullivan	**Anniv**
Sunday	9:00am	Deceased members of the O'Connor family	**RIP**
	10:30am	People of the Parish	**Ints**
	12:00pm	Sean Higgins	**Anniv**
	6:30pm	Maria Pereira	**Anniv**
Monday	9:30am	John Boland, James McGrath and Edward Leeson	**Anniv**
Tuesday	9:30am	Mary Mackenzie	**Ints**
Wednesday	9:30am	Elias Albuquerque	**Birthday Ints**
Thursday	9:30am	Christine Elizabeth Casey	**Anniv**
	12:00pm	Funeral—Catherine McGloin	**RIP**
Friday	9:30am	Holy Souls	**RIP**
Saturday	9:30am	Cathy Kirwan	**Anniv**

FUNERAL NOTICE

The Reception and Requiem Mass for the late
Catherine McGloin
will take place on Thursday, 4th December at 12:00pm
followed by cremation at West London Crematorium at 2:00pm

May she rest in peace ✝

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

The **St Mary Magdalen Special Needs Group** will be hosting their annual Christmas party on Friday 19th December. This is open to all children and adults with additional learning needs and their families and carers.
If you would like to find out more about this event, please email us on willesdengreen@rcdow.org.uk *Thank you*

CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

Wednesday 24 December	9:30am	
	6:30pm	*First Mass of Christmas*
	9:30pm	*Carols & Readings*
	10:00pm	*Christmas Night Mass*

The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Day
Masses at 9:00am and 11:00am
No evening Mass.

CONFESSION
Available after every morning Mass (Monday to Saturday) from Monday 15th December until Christmas Eve.

A more detailed leaflet will be available next weekend.

Explore The Chosen - 2:00pm - 4:30pm
Saturday 6 December at Vaughan House

The Chosen TV series on the life of Jesus provides us with a wonderful opportunity to invite people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ and the makers of this production are keen to encourage Evangelistic efforts. We would therefore love to see anyone who has or would like to show The Chosen as a means to opening up spiritual conversations that help people come closer to Christ. This will be an interactive afternoon that we hope will inspire watch parties, Bible studies and conversations about the Good News throughout the diocese. The event is free and open to all. For more information and to book, please visit https://forms.monday.com/forms/82fce391acf81a899009f03ec11915b0?r=euc1&text0=

REMINDER: FOODBANK COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND