

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

December —Month of the Immaculate Conception

Second Sunday of Advent—Year A

7 December 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

Have you been watching The Kingdom, Sir David Attenborough's latest series on the BBC? I am lost in admiration for the cameramen and technicians who make these programmes. We are sometimes given an insight into the complexities of capturing animal behaviour as at the end they show us how some of the scenes were filmed. Basically, these people need huge amounts of patience. The world they portray is not a comfortable one. The sweet little lion kittens will grow up into amazing killing machines, whose instinct teaches them to hunt down, ambush and then kill their prey. There is a lot of blood and the tearing of flesh as they eat.

Isaiah in our most beautiful first reading looks forward to a time of peace and integrity. This is not the world The Kingdom Portrays. Yes, most people today, they would say they seek peace—peace in the world and peace in the whole of creation. They would like the wolf and lamb to lie down together. However, scripture's constant link of peace with personal and institutional integrity is not so popular, because it challenges us. Isaiah tells of the coming time of the true judge, the person of perfect integrity who, filled with the spirit of wisdom, inaugurates a time of peace in a transformed creation.

But think for a moment: wolves that don't fancy lamb for supper, or lions lunching on straw in preference to oxen, is not natural. Isaiah's vision is of a seriously transformed creation; truly a new creation rooted in integrity. It bears no relation to the world David Attenborough shows us. Isaiah lifts our eyes beyond this natural world and gives us a prophetic foreshadowing of the world renewed in Christ.

That is why the Church gives us John the Baptist so prominently in Advent. John stands at the hinge between the promise of Isaiah and the fulfilment in Jesus. He announces that the transformation Isaiah foresaw is not merely poetic imagery—it requires real conversion. John confronts the crowds with uncompromising honesty: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." His call is not about outward gestures or pious sentiment but about the deep re-shaping of the heart. True conversion, he insists, bears fruit. It redirects lives. It restores integrity. It prepares a people ready to welcome the One who judges with righteousness and sees beyond appearances.

And yet, the transformation John demands is not confined to the Jordan River in the first century. It reaches into our daily living. Today, in the UK at least, we no longer face the brutal punishments, public executions or disregard for the vulnerable that marked many earlier periods of history. This is because of our Christian history and values. We live in a society where the infirm are valued, where the weak are assisted. We cannot take this for granted, however, as some parts of our society lose their Christian belief. The weak are being pushed to one side once more and abortion and Euthanasia take control.

We must treasure Isaiah's vision and defend it against those who seek to marginalise the weak and return us to the cruelty of past civilisations. We are not lions hunting down the vulnerable. We are the followers of Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah.

Monsignor Roger

Those who are sick: Rita Scanlon, Neville Burke
Those who have died recently: Elizabeth Mary Johnson, Hannah Cahillane, Paul Mulhern, Carmeletta O'Sullivan, Norma Cambran, Lorden Joseph Bardouille, Ron Fielder, Emmeline Lewis, Paul Rossiter
Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Benny Kilcoyne, Benedict Tugbobo, Habtay Aibu, Michael McAndrew, Maureen Hennessy, Olga Daly, Vitale Giraud

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 23 November 2025 amounted to £1,418.14
Collection 30 November 2025 amounted to £1,200.55
Standing orders for November: £3,775.00
Contactless Income for November: £621.39
Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

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 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Should you wish to make a Christmas Offering to the Church this year, the envelopes are available on the back table. Your offering helps to cover the cost of our Priests stipends. We thank you greatly for supporting them.

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

BAPTISM PREPARATION The next course preparing parents for the baptism of their child, will be held on **Saturday 17 January 2026** at 11:00am. Please contact the office to book a place.

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



NEW TO THE PARISH?

Welcome! We are delighted you have come to join us. Please introduce yourself to Monsignor Roger and fill out a registration form - available in the entry porch. If you have any questions, please speak to a parishioner or email Maria in the office.

Mass Intentions commencing—Sunday 7 December

Saturday	6:30pm	People of the Parish	**Ints**
Sunday	9:00am	Sr Sarah Lennon	**Ints**
	10:30am	Benny Kilcoyne	**Anniv**
	12:00pm	Benedict Tugbobo	**Anniv**
	6:30pm	Patrick and Delia O'Sullivan	**RIP**
Monday	9:30am	Betty O'Callaghan	**RIP**
Tuesday	9:30am	Danny O'Neill	**RIP**
Wednesday	9:30am	Melvin Osbourne	**RIP**
Thursday	9:30am	Patrick Smullen	**RIP**
Friday	9:30am	Patrick Smullen	**RIP**
Saturday	9:30am	Samuel Efant Fernandes	**RIP**

A MESSAGE FROM ANTHONY GALLAGHER - SEMINARIAN

I was born in Haywards Heath in West Sussex, my parents hailed from county Mayo in Ireland and moved to the south of England to set up home and raise myself and my two older brothers. I attended Catholic primary and secondary schools before going on to pursue a career in the construction industry (plastering-Bricklaying).
I believe I had a vocation as a child but I shied away from it, God, however, had other plans and I am now a Seminarian For Arundel and Brighton diocese. Monsignor Roger kindly agreed to let me spend my pastoral placement this year with you. I'm extremely grateful and look forward to meeting you all.

CANTUS

CANTUS CAROLS

Director: Benjamin Jardim

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

Come along, sing some carols.

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.*

VINNIE PACKS

The SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Each pack contains thermal gloves, thermal hat, two pairs of socks, flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste, information sheet and pen. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.10 per pack? Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West **sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237**. Thank you so much for your support.

Next week, **CAFOD's Jubilee Icon** is arriving in the Diocese of Westminster. Over the weeks leading up to Christmas, the Icon will be travelling around the Diocese, visiting "Places of Hope".



This Advent, the Icon's visit reminds us of God's presence in each other, enlivening our own calling to be tangible signs of hope to those who need it this Christmas.

To find out more about the Icon's visit, please go to: https://rcdow.org.uk/jubilee-2025/jubilee-icon-tour/.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

Leaflets with details of our Christmas and New Year Services are available at the back of the church.