

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

December —Month of the Immaculate Conception

Third Sunday of Advent—Year A

14 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

REJOICE IN THE QUIET WORK OF GOD

The Third Sunday of Advent, traditionally called *Gaudete Sunday*, invites us to pause in the midst of Advent's quiet longing and to rejoice. Not because everything is perfect, but because God is already at work—often in ways we cannot yet see. This Sunday's readings challenge us to recognize divine action not in spectacle or speed, but in patience, transformation, and quiet faithfulness.

Isaiah's vision in the first reading bursts with hope: the desert will bloom, the feeble will grow strong, the blind will see, and the lame will walk. These words were first spoken to a people who knew exile, desolation, and anxiety about the future. And like them, we too face deserts—deserts of doubt, fatigue, division, and fear. Isaiah does not promise a quick escape from hardship; instead, he promises that God's presence will transform the very ground we think is barren. The promise is not an instant miracle, but a blossoming. Flowers bloom slowly, almost imperceptibly. Yet bloom they do.

James, in the second reading, echoes this theme through the image of the farmer who waits for the "precious fruit of the earth." The farmer cannot force the seed to grow. He can only prepare the soil, tend to the field, and trust the rains. In the same way, James invites us to strengthen our hearts and be patient. God's work in us—and in our world—often unfolds in hidden ways. Patience, in this sense, is not passive resignation but active faith. It is the courage to keep hoping, keep working, and keep trusting even when results seem delayed.

The Gospel presents John the Baptist in a moment of deep uncertainty. From prison, he sends his disciples to ask Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come?" This is the same John who leapt in his mother's womb, who preached boldly in the wilderness, who pointed out the Lamb of God. Yet now he faces darkness, confinement, the seeming failure of his mission. Jesus does not criticize John's doubt; instead, he responds with evidence of quiet transformation: "The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear." In other words, *Look at what God is doing—perhaps not as you expected, but unmistakably real.*

In our own lives, we often want God to act dramatically and immediately. We want clarity, resolution, and certainty. But Jesus invites us to look again—at the small healings, quiet reconciliations, hidden graces, and surprising strengths that emerge in difficult times. Advent joy does not come from ignoring pain or pretending everything is fine. It comes from recognizing that God is already present, working gently but powerfully in us and around us.

On this Gaudete Sunday, we are invited to rejoice—not because we have arrived, but because God is on the way. The desert is beginning to bloom. The seed is beginning to grow. The Messiah is already among us, transforming the world one quiet miracle at a time.



The Peace of Christ
Fr Matteo

Those who are sick: Rita Scanlon, Neville Burke

Those who have died recently: Paul Rossiter, Johnny Dolan, Anne Deeney

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Vivienne Mangan, Mary Langan, Margaret Keane, Anna Chalissery, Francis McGeown

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 7 December 2025 amounted to £2,083.20
Standing orders for November: £3,775.00
Contactless Income for November: £621.39
Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

St Mary Magdalen Youth Group TODAY

from Year 9 and above

Good news! The Westminster Youth Ministry team will be joining us for our youth group today **Sunday, December 14th at 4.30pm.** They'll be all sorts of Christmassy activities, discussion and snacks happening. Why not give it a go? See you there!

You may have noticed that the church has recently been repainted. This wonderful improvement was made possible by a very generous legacy, for which we are deeply grateful.



Further tests are still required before we proceed with repainting the ceiling, to ensure that any work undertaken will be worthwhile and long-lasting.

PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT 2024



Our Parish Financial Report for 2024 is now available. It provides a clear overview of our income and expenditure over the past year, including the essential maintenance and repairs to the church and presbytery, as well as our utilities and staffing costs.

We are able to meet our financial responsibilities thanks to the faithful generosity of our parishioners. Your ongoing support through donations and offerings makes all of this possible, and we thank you sincerely.

Please do take a copy of the report home with you. If you have any questions for Monsignor Roger or the Finance Committee, you are warmly invited to email the parish office. *Thank you.*

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.

Mass Intentions commencing—Sunday 14 December

Saturday	6:30pm	Jenell Carvalho	**Thanksgiving**
Sunday	9:00am	Vivienne Mangan	**Anniv**
	10:30am	People of the Parish	**Ints**
	12:00pm	Anne O'Donovan	**RIP**
	6:30pm	Private Intention	
Monday	9:30am	Mary Langan	**Anniv**
	11:00am	Funeral—Paul Rossiter	**RIP**
Tuesday	9:30am	Catherine Manning	**Ints**
Wednesday	9:30am	Tim and Maureen Ryan	**Ints**
Thursday	9:30am	Margaret Manning	**Ints**
Friday	9:30am	Phillip Keenan	**RIP**
Saturday	9:30am	Private Intention	

FUNERAL NOTICE

The Reception and Requiem Mass for the late
Paul Rossiter
will take place on Monday, 15th December at 11:00am
followed by cremation at West London Crematorium at 1:00pm

May he rest in peace ✝

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

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.

Christmas Rotas for Readers and Eucharistic Ministers

Please sign the sheet at the back of the church to indicate which Mass you can volunteer for. To ensure everyone has an opportunity to take part in these special celebrations, we ask that you sign up for **one Mass only** to begin with. If more volunteers are needed, the list will be displayed again next week for additional sign-ups.

Altar Servers – your rota sheet is in the Sacristy. Please check with your parents and let us know when you are available to serve over Christmas and the New Year. *Thank you.*

THANK YOU

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Mark Finnerty would like to extend his heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported him during the Galway Bay Marathon in October. Thanks to your generosity and encouragement, he was able to raise an amazing £5,200 for Macmillan Cancer Research. Well done Mark!

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.