

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

January —Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

18 January 2026

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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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, 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

Towards the end of last year, someone died who was a real link with my late father. She was 96 years old and had worked closely with him when he was in advertising over 60 years ago. She was even invited to my parents' wedding. That sounds very straightforward, except for one detail: she was a faithful Catholic, and the wedding was to take place in a Church of England church. Concerned to do the right thing, she asked her parish priest whether she could attend. He told her she could go – but only on very strict conditions. She must not join in any prayers or hymns, not even the Our Father. This was before the Second Vatican Council, and things were very different then. This all changed dramatically with the Second Vatican Council.

For the first time, the Catholic Church officially committed itself to the search for Christian unity. The Council taught that other Christians are not strangers, but brothers and sisters in Christ through baptism. In the document *Unitatis Redintegratio*, the Council stated:

"The restoration of unity among all Christians is one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council."

It encouraged dialogue instead of suspicion, prayer instead of silence, and cooperation instead of separation. Catholics were no longer told to stand apart, but to walk together with other Christians, trusting that the Holy Spirit is at work beyond the visible boundaries of the Catholic Church.

This vision was powerfully reaffirmed by Saint John Paul II in his encyclical *Ut Unum Sint* (*That They May Be One*), where he wrote:

"The desire for unity springs from the Father's plan for the whole of creation. Jesus himself prayed: 'That they may all be one.' This unity is not optional; it is a duty."

It is so good that we have moved on from the 1950s. I am thinking about this now because this week is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and the ecumenical world has changed beyond recognition.

One of the two really significant events last year was the meeting of Pope Leo and the Ecumenical Patriarch in Turkey to mark the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. The Pope and the Patriarch prayed together and urged greater unity among Christians. The other was the visit of King Charles III to the Vatican, where the King of England and the Pope prayed together at a public liturgy – the first time this has happened since the Reformation. That is a long way from the situation at my parents' wedding.

So what does this word ecumenism mean? It is the journey Christians take together towards unity. The journey of ecumenism is not an easy one. The unity of the Church is not a human idea or a polite gesture. It is the will of Christ himself. As *Ut Unum Sint* reminds us, unity belongs to the very heart of the Gospel.

In the second reading today, Saint Paul writes to the Corinthians: "Called to be saints together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Notice that word *together*. Not separately. Not in competition. But together.

You probably have friends who are Anglican, Orthodox, Methodist, Pentecostal – or who don't belong to any church at all. The question is not whether unity matters, but what kind of Christians you will choose to be. So, we pray for unity, speak respectfully about other Christians, and never forget that anyone who calls on the name of Jesus is closer to us than we sometimes realise.

Monsignor Roger

Those who are sick: Jasper Terroni, Eileen Rodden, Ranzilla Quadros
Those who have died recently: Stanley Fernandes, Brid Herlihy
Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Hilda Finnerty, Michael Brady, Lubov Savina, Helen Langan, Francis Benoît, Bose Modinatu Yesufu-Eke, Frank Donnellan, Michael Doyle

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 11 January 2026 amounted to £1,351.55
Standing orders for December: £4,205
Contactless Income for December: £864.31
Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

CHARITY COLLECTIONS & DONATIONS IN 2025

Last year our fundraising campaigns raised £9,785.87 in support of the following charities:

Holy Places	£ 847.98
Sick and Retired Priests	£1,630.47
Priests' Training Fund	£1,344.71
Cardinal's Lenten Appeal	£ 76.15
Apostleship of the Sea	£ 607.56
CAFOD Family Fast Day Appeals	£ 940.82
Catholic Children's Society	£1,378.99
Comboni Missionaries Appeal	£1,099.03
Prison Advice & Care Trust (PACT)	£ 15.00
Good Counsel Network	£ 50.00
Friends of the Holy Land	£1,795.16

On behalf of all the charities, thank you for your amazing generosity!

CATHEDRAL ANNUAL MASS OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK.

On **Saturday 7th February 2026**, 2.00pm, Cardinal Vincent will celebrate the Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes at the Cathedral, during which anointing of the sick will be offered.

To help with the planning, you are asked to book a free ticket, this can only be done through the parish office.

Tickets are in 3 categories:

1. Wheelchair users who require anointing
2. Walking sick who require anointing
3. Those assisting the sick, who do not require anointing.

To reserve a place, please contact the office stating: Your name, number of tickets and category. Thank you.

Mass Intentions commencing—Sunday 18 January

Saturday	6:30pm	Mary Lennon	**Ints**
Sunday	9:00am	Helen Langan	**Anniv**
	10:30am	Michael Brady	**Anniv**
	12:00pm	Hilda Finnerty	**Anniv**
	6:30pm	People of the Parish	**Ints**
Monday	9:30am	Sr. Sarah Lennon	**Ints**
Tuesday	9:30am	Sebastiao M. Dsouza and Lourenca P. Fernandes	**RIP**
Wednesday	9:30am	Christine Lynch	**RIP**
Thursday	9:30am	Noel Armstrong	**RIP**
Friday	9:30am	Catherine Manning	**Ints**
Saturday	9:30am	Bose Modinatu Yesufu-Eke	**Anniv**

WORKING SAFELY TOGETHER: SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

All volunteers involved in activities with children, young people, and vulnerable adults are asked to attend a Safeguarding training evening on **Monday, 19th January at 6:30pm**, in **St Mary Magdalen Church**, with Monsignor Roger and our Safeguarding Representative.

The purpose of this meeting is to help us work safely with these groups, and attendance is a **Diocesan requirement**. Please confirm your attendance by emailing Maria: willesdengreen@rcdow.org.uk

Thank you.

School and Parish Pupils from St Mary Magdalen's school will be joining us for Mass this Monday. This will not be live-streamed.

Today is **PEACE SUNDAY** when we are encouraged to reflect on the message of Pope Leo ***'Peace be with you all: towards an "unarmed and disarming" peace.'*** Resources for children and young people are available on the Pax Cristi website paxchristi.org.uk. The Bishops' Conference have also produced a statement on this topic: Called to be Peacemakers: https://www.cbcew.org.uk/called-to-be-peacemakers/

SPECIAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING

A Special Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated in gratitude for the Cardinal's ministry of sixteen years and more as Archbishop of Westminster.

Thursday 5 February 2026 at 5.30pm, in **Westminster Cathedral**. All are warmly welcome to attend as we give thanks to **Cardinal Vincent Nichols** for his faithful service.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Tuesday 20th January at 5pm – Westminster Cathedral are hosting the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral, to sing Vespers together, in thanksgiving for the recent proclamation of St John Henry Newman as a Doctor of the Church. The preacher will be Archbishop Rowan Williams.

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Friday 23rd January—join an ecumenical walking pilgrimage from Westminster Cathedral to St Paul's Cathedral, visiting Temple Church as well as a Catholic Church along the way, finishing at St Paul's for Evensong, sung by the Choir of Westminster Cathedral.

Meet at 1pm outside Westminster Cathedral or 4:30pm at St Paul's.

Please email 'ecumenism@rcdow.org.uk' to register attendance.

MARRIAGE CARE

Join Marriage Care for a Growing Together Marriage Enrichment Day. The workshop style event, for couples at any stage of marriage, is on Saturday 21st February, from 10 am to 5 pm in Finchley. The day offers a meaningful opportunity to strengthen and deepen your bond alongside developing some practical tools. The cost is £75 per couple, but please speak to us if this is more than you can afford to pay. For more details or to book, contact Marriage Care on 0800 389 3801 (Monday–Thursday, 9 am–6 pm) or email: appointments@marriagecare.org.uk