

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

January —Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

25 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
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Father Matteo Di Giuseppe
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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

A Great Light in Ordinary Time

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A, arrives quietly, without the drama of Christmas or the intensity of Lent. Yet its message is anything but ordinary. In the rhythm of the Church's calendar, this Sunday reminds us that God's most decisive actions often take place in the midst of daily life, where hope is needed most and expectations are lowest.

The readings open with Isaiah's powerful proclamation: *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."* Originally spoken to a nation wounded by exile and uncertainty, these words resonate across centuries. Darkness here is not only political or social; it is spiritual—confusion, fear, and the sense of being forgotten. Into this darkness, God does not send an abstract idea but a living light. The Gospel of Matthew makes clear that this prophecy finds fulfillment in Jesus, who begins his public ministry not in Jerusalem's centers of power but in Galilee, a region considered marginal and insignificant.

This choice is itself editorial-worthy. God's light does not wait for perfect conditions or ideal audiences. Jesus proclaims, *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand,"* not as a threat, but as an invitation. Repentance here means a change of direction, a reorientation of life toward the nearness of God. Ordinary time thus becomes extraordinary: daily routines are transformed into spaces where God's reign can take root.

Matthew then tells us of the calling of the first disciples—fishermen at work, casting and mending nets. Jesus' call, *"Follow me,"* is direct and disruptive. They leave their nets "at once." This detail is striking. The Gospel does not romanticize their response; it underscores urgency. Encountering Christ demands a decision. What nets—habits, securities, divisions—are we being asked to leave behind today?

St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians sharpens this question by addressing division within the community. His plea for unity is urgent: *"Let there be no divisions among you."* The light of Christ exposes not only personal darkness but also communal fractures. Allegiances, labels, and rivalries—then and now—can obscure the Gospel. Paul reminds us that we are not baptized into personalities or ideologies, but into Christ crucified. Unity, like discipleship, is not optional; it is a visible sign that the light has truly reached us.

This Sunday challenges us to examine how we live our faith in ordinary time. Do we believe that light can break into our routines, our workplaces, our divided communities? Do we hear Christ's call as something addressed personally to us, here and now?

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time offers no spectacle, but it offers clarity. Christ is the light. The kingdom is near. The call is urgent. In choosing to follow, to repent, and to seek unity, we discover that ordinary time is precisely where God's transforming grace is most at work.

The Peace of Christ
Fr Matteo

We pray for:

Those who are sick: Jasper Terroni, Eileen Rodden, Ranzilla Quadros, Eamon Lennon

Those who have died recently: Piedade Pereira, Alison Griffin

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Gerry Quinn, Mary Shaughnessy, Mary Carmody,

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 18 January 2026 amounted to £1,612.54
Standing orders for December: £4,205
Contactless Income for December: £864.31
Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Our parish community is strengthened and enriched by the dedication and generosity of our wonderful volunteers. Every contribution, great or small, truly makes a difference.

Monsignor Roger warmly invites all volunteers to a **Volunteer Thank You Evening** on **Tuesday, 17th February at 7.00pm** in **St Mary Magdalen's School Hall**.

Please join us for an enjoyable evening of live music, delicious food, and refreshments as we come together to celebrate and give thanks for all that you do. We very much look forward to seeing you there.

PALM ASHES To help us prepare for the Lenten Season, please return your Palm Crosses to the church by the second week of February so they can be burned for use on Ash Wednesday (18th February). Thank you.



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.

PARISH DIARY

Monday 26th January **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** 5:30pm	Session 1: IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER St Mary Magdalen **School**
Monday 26th January **CONFIRMATION** 6:00pm	Session 1: GETTING STARTED Church of the Transfiguration

Mass Intentions commencing—Sunday 25 January

Saturday	6:30pm	Albert Watney	**Ints**
Sunday	9:00am	Piedade Pereira	**RIP**
	10:30am	Molloy Family	**Ints**
	12:00pm	People of the Parish	**Ints**
	6:30pm	Ita O'Brien	**RIP**
Monday	9:30am	Teresa O'Sullivan	**RIP**
Tuesday	9:30am	Antonio Texeira	**RIP**
Wednesday	9:30am	Tim and Maureen Ryan	**Ints**
Thursday	9:30am	June and William Wright	**RIP**
Friday	9:30am	Jovial Emmanuel Fernandes	**Birthday Ints**
Saturday	9:30am	Maria Texeri	**Ints**

REMINDER: FOODBANK COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

CATHEDRAL ANNUAL MASS FOR THE SICK WITH ANOINTING.

On **Saturday 7th February 2026**, 2.00pm, Cardinal Vincent will celebrate the Annual Mass for the sick at Westminster

Cathedral, during which anointing 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.

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.

Today we celebrate the Seventh Sunday of the **WORD OF GOD,** under the motto: *"The word of Christ dwells among you"* (Col 3:16). Observed each year on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, this day invites us to reflect on, celebrate, and share the Word of God in our daily lives.



These are some **Catholic apps** you may be interested in exploring: YouCat Daily · Bible in one year · Hallow · Laudate · The Catholic App ·

WAYS TO DONATE TO OUR PARISH

In answer to some recent enquiries, we have listed below the different ways you can donate to our parish:

- Cash in the Sunday collection
- Using the offertory envelopes (contact the office for more information)
- Using the contactless machine at the back of the church at the weekends.
- Through our website. Just go to the 'Donate' button at the top of the page: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/willesdengreen/
- By bank transfer— details available on our website under 'Donate' → 'Other ways to give.

Please contact the office if you have any questions. Thank you!

Gift Aid Your Donation

If you are a UK taxpayer, Gift Aiding your donation allows the parish to reclaim an extra 25p for every £1 you give, at no additional cost to you. If you would like to Gift Aid your donations forms are available from the parish office. To Gift Aid, you must pay enough UK tax to cover the amount reclaimed. If your circumstances change, please contact us so we can update our records. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.