

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

JANUARY —Month of the Holy Name of Jesus

The Baptism of the Lord

11 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
matteodigiuseppe@rcdow.org.uk
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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord brings the Christmas season to a quiet but profound close. After angels, shepherds, magi, and the wonder of Bethlehem, the Church leads us to the banks of the Jordan River. There, Jesus steps out of the anonymity of Nazareth and into public view—not with spectacle, but with humility.

Matthew's Gospel presents a striking scene. John the Baptist, the fiery prophet who calls others to repentance, is unsettled. He knows who Jesus is. He knows that this man standing before him has no need of cleansing. Yet Jesus insists: *"Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfil all righteousness."* In that simple insistence lies a revelation of God's way of working.

Jesus does not begin his mission by distancing himself from sinful humanity, but by standing fully among them. He enters the waters not to be purified, but to sanctify. He aligns himself with all who seek conversion, healing, and new life. The Son of God chooses solidarity over separation, humility over privilege. From the very beginning, Jesus shows us that salvation will not come from above in power alone, but from within our human story.

The heavens opening at Jesus' baptism are not just a dramatic sign; they are a declaration that the long silence is over. God speaks again, and the words are not condemnation but delight: *"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."* These words reveal Jesus' identity, but they also echo far beyond him. Through baptism, they become words spoken over each of us. Before we achieve anything, before we do anything, God claims us as beloved.

This feast, then, is not only about Jesus' baptism—it is about ours. It invites us to remember who we are and whose we are. Baptism is not a past ritual tucked away in family photo albums; it is a present calling. It names us as sons and daughters and sends us, as it sent Jesus, into the world to live that identity openly.

The Spirit descending like a dove signals the beginning of Jesus' mission of healing, justice, and mercy. That same Spirit rests upon the baptized today, urging the Church to continue that mission. In a world fractured by division, violence, and indifference, baptism calls Christians to be bridges rather than barriers, servants rather than spectators.

The Peace of Christ
Fr Matteo



WE PRAY FOR:

Those who are sick: Monica Lynch, Jasper Terroni, Eileen Roddan

Those who have died recently: Fr Edward Carroll, Elvira Wood, Bridie Kelly, Galatia Zangoulou

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Sean Hendry, Antony John Chalissery, Denis O'Donovan, Jean Sylvain "John" Gavrel, Alfred (Freddy) Cuff,

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 4 January 2026 amounted to £1,728.25
Standing orders for December: £4,205
Contactless Income for December: £864.31
Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

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.

RCIA Programme—Journey into the Catholic Faith.
All those who are already part of the programme will need to continue in order to be baptised and welcomed into the Catholic Church. Anyone who has already been baptised and wishing to complete their Christian initiation can make contact with Barry at: **wgoutreach@rcdow.org.uk.** More details to come.

ENVELOPE OFFERTORY DONATIONS

It's almost time to order the next set of envelopes for 2026/27. If you no longer wish to use them, please contact the office so we do not order your number. If you would like to start using envelopes, let us know as soon as possible so we can order a new set for you. 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 11 January

Saturday	6:30pm	Kendra and Jamie Dowdall	**Ints**
Sunday	9:00am	Antony John Chalissery	**Anniv**
	10:30am	Gail and Joan Robinson and Dale Frank	**RIP**
	12:00pm	People of the Parish	**Ints**
	6:30pm	Pauline Davison	**RIP**
Monday	9:30am	Noel Armstrong	**RIP**
	12:00pm	Funeral—Elvira Wood	**RIP**
Tuesday	9:30am	Christine Lynch	**RIP**
Wednesday	9:30am	Sean Hendry	**Anniv**
Thursday	9:30am	Michael McAnulty	**RIP**
Friday	9:30am	Brian Cantwell	**RIP**
Saturday	9:30am	Efrém de Magalhaes	**RIP**

FUNERAL NOTICE

The Reception and Requiem Mass for the late
Elvira Wood
will take place on Monday, 12th January at 12:00pm
followed by burial in Hendon Cemetery at 1:30pm

May she rest in peace ✞

St Mary Magdalen Youth Group TODAY

from Year 9 and above

Sunday, 11th January at 4:30pm.

Enjoy games and exploring matters of faith through *Youth Alpha.*

Why not give it a go? You'll find us in the annexe.

School and Parish Students from Newman Catholic College will be joining us for Mass this Tuesday and pupils from St Mary Magdalen's school will be helping out at Coffee morning.



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.

Young Adults Discernment Retreat in Aylesford Priory, Kent
(Men & Women, ages 18–30) **6–8 February 2026.**
This weekend offers space to step away from daily busyness for prayer, reflection, and community, in partnership with the Religious of the Assumption and the Carmelite Friars.
Cost: £200. For more information or to register, email vocations@assumpta-eu.org