

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

December —Month of the Immaculate Conception

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

28 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
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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 (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

The Holy Family—A School of Love for Our Time

The Sunday of the Holy Family invites the Church to pause after the joy of Christmas and contemplate a quiet yet powerful mystery: God chose to enter the world within a family. Not a perfect or privileged household, but one marked by uncertainty, migration, hard work, and deep trust in God. In Mary, Joseph, and the child Jesus, we are given not an unreachable ideal but a living model of love shaped by faith, obedience, and daily sacrifice.

The Gospel scenes associated with the Holy Family are striking for their simplicity. There are no grand speeches or dramatic miracles. Instead, we see Mary pondering events in her heart, Joseph listening attentively to God's guidance, and Jesus growing "in wisdom, age, and grace." This ordinariness is precisely what makes the Holy Family extraordinary. It reminds us that holiness is most often forged not in public achievements but in the hidden faithfulness of everyday life.

In a world where the very meaning of family is often strained by economic pressure, migration, conflict, and cultural change, the Holy Family speaks with renewed relevance. Joseph and Mary knew fear and displacement; they fled to Egypt as refugees to protect their child. They experienced misunderstanding and uncertainty about the future. Yet they remained united, anchored not in comfort but in trust. Their story assures today's families that struggle does not disqualify them from God's presence. On the contrary, God often chooses to dwell most intimately where life is fragile.

The Holy Family also challenges modern assumptions about success. Our culture often measures family life by material stability, social status, or outward harmony. Nazareth offers a different measure: love expressed through responsibility, patience, and self-giving. Joseph's quiet fidelity reminds us that love is shown more in actions than in words. Mary's openness teaches us to listen deeply—to God, to one another, and to the quiet movements of grace within our homes.

This feast is not meant to idealize families or ignore their wounds. Rather, it invites healing. Every family carries brokenness, unmet expectations, and moments of failure. The Holy Family reassures us that God works within imperfect relationships, transforming them from the inside. When families forgive, persevere, and pray together—even imperfectly—they become places where God's presence is made visible.



As we celebrate this Sunday, we are invited to look at our own families—not with judgment, but with hope. Like Nazareth, our homes can become schools of love, places where faith is learned slowly, through kindness, listening, and perseverance. In honouring the Holy Family, we rediscover a simple truth: when love is rooted in God, even the most ordinary lives can reflect the light of Christ.

The Peace of Christ

Fr Matteo

Those who are sick: Rita Scanlon, Neville Burke, Monica Lynch, Jasper Terroni

Those who have died recently: Emmeline Lewis

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Kitty O'Mahoney, Brian McAlinden, Barry Keran

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 14 December 2025 amounted to £1,596.60
Standing orders for November: £3,775.00
Contactless Income for November: £621.39
Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.



THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the reverent and joyful celebration of Christmas. The church was beautifully prepared, the music was uplifting, and the children's Nativity was a source of great joy to all. It was most encouraging to welcome so many members of our parish community. Monsignor Roger, Fr. Matteo, and Fr. Kamal wish to express their heartfelt appreciation for the kindness and generosity shown to them during this blessed season.

TREE OF LIGHT – a symbol of shared remembrance and prayers

The 'Tree of Light' gives us a beautiful opportunity to honour the memory of a departed love one, or to express any other intention you may wish to pray for.

We ask that you bring your own personalised label to hang on the tree.



Crib Offering 2025



Our Christmas crib offering will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society to support their work helping vulnerable children in overcoming challenges so they can achieve their full potential and have hope of a brighter future. For more information, please go to: https://www.cathchild.org.uk/

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 28 December

Saturday	6:30pm	Brian McAlinden	**Anniv**
Sunday	9:00am	Velbijoy Fernandes	**Ints**
	10:30am	Sophia Ngwoke	**Birthday Ints**
	12:00pm	Seán, Paul, James and Aidan O'Sullivan	**RIP**
	6:30pm	People of the Parish	**Ints**
Monday	9:30am	Kathleen Quarel	**RIP**
Tuesday	9:30am	Conceicao and Margaret Coutinho	**30th Wedding Anniversary**
Wednesday	9:30am	Kitty O'Mahoney	**Anniv**
	10:30am	Funeral— Emmeline Lewis	**RIP**
	12:00pm	Celebrant's Intentions	
Thursday	**NEW YEAR'S DAY**		
	10:00am	Celebrant's Intentions	
Friday	9:30am	Anne and Harry Manning	**RIP**
Saturday	9:30am	Barry Keran	**Anniv**

FUNERAL NOTICE

The Reception and Requiem Mass for the late
Emmeline Lewis
will take place on Wednesday, 31st December at 10:30am
followed by burial in Carpenders Park Cemetery at 12:00pm

May she rest in peace ✝

As we begin a new year, I extend my warmest good wishes to each of you and your families. May this year be a time of renewed faith, hope, and charity, as we continue to grow together as a parish community. Let us entrust the days ahead to God's loving care, asking for His guidance and blessing in all that we do.
Be assured of my prayers for you, and I ask you to remember me in yours. ***Monsignor Roger.***

A prayer at the start of the New Year:

Remember us, O God; from age to age be our comforter.
You have given us the wonder of time,
blessings in days and nights, seasons and years.
Bless your children at the turning of the year and fill the months ahead with the bright hope that is ours
in the coming of Christ.
You are our God, living and reigning, forever and ever.
Amen.

St Mary Magdalen Youth Group

from Year 9 and above

Next meeting today **Sunday, 11th January at 4:30pm.**
Enjoy games and exploring matters of faith through *Youth Alpha.*

For more information, please contact our Outreach worker, Barry at wgoutreach@rcdow.org.uk

VOCATIONS: 'COME AND SEE' FOR MEN

If you are interested in exploring a vocation to the Priesthood or Permanent Diaconate, then please come along to one of the Vocations Team's 'Come & See' Vocations Mornings on:

Saturday 17 January,
10am-1.30pm - Our Lady of Victories (Kensington Room) - Kensington High Street, London W8 6AF

Saturday 28 February,
10am-1.30pm - St Anselm's, Southhall - St Anselm's Rectory, The Green, Southall UB2 4BE

Saturday 14 March,
12 noon-3.30pm - St Bonaventure's Church Hall - 81 Parkway, Welwyn Garden City AL8 6JF *(A short walk from Welwyn Garden City Station.)*

Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. To find out more and to register your attendance at one of the days, please contact: Canon Roger Taylor - Vocations Promoter rogertaylor@rcdow.org.uk or Deacon Tito Pereira – Assistant Director Permanent Diaconate 07977 599110 or titopereira@rcdow.org.uk

REMINDER: FOODBANK COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND