

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

February —Month of the Holy Family

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8 February 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

SALT OF THE EARTH, LIGHT OF THE WORLD: FAITH THAT SHOWS

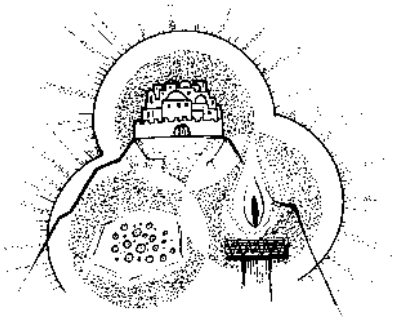
In the Gospel for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus offers two striking images that are as challenging today as they were two thousand years ago: salt and light. "You are the salt of the earth… You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13–16). These are not gentle compliments; they are bold responsibilities. Jesus is not describing what we *might* become someday—He is naming what His disciples *already are*, and what the world urgently needs them to be.

Salt exists for one reason: to affect what it touches. It preserves, it flavours, and it transforms. Yet Jesus warns that salt can lose its taste, becoming useless and discarded. The message is clear. Faith that remains private, cautious, or diluted by fear of standing out risks losing its purpose. Christianity was never meant to be a background identity or a label we wear quietly. It is meant to shape how we speak, act, forgive, and respond to injustice. When believers stop influencing the world around them, the problem is not the world—it is tasteless salt.

Light, too, exists to be seen. No one lights a lamp and hides it under a basket. Light reveals reality; it pushes back darkness simply by being present. In a culture often clouded by cynicism, division, and moral confusion, Jesus calls His followers to visible goodness. This does not mean self-promotion or moral superiority. In fact, Jesus is careful to say that good works should point not to the believer, but to the Father. True Christian witness is never about drawing attention to ourselves; it is about making God's mercy and justice unmistakably visible.

The first reading from Isaiah reinforces this message with uncomfortable clarity. God is not impressed by religious gestures that ignore the poor, the hungry, and the oppressed. Real worship is expressed through compassion, generosity, and solidarity. When faith becomes disconnected from justice, it grows dim. When prayer does not lead to love of neighbour, the light flickers.

This Sunday's readings confront a temptation many believers face: the temptation to reduce faith to something safe, personal, and unchallenging. Jesus refuses that version of discipleship. He places His followers in the middle of the world, not on the sidelines. Being salt and light means engaging society with courage, humility, and hope—even when it is uncomfortable, even when it costs something.



Ultimately, this Gospel is not a burden but an affirmation. Jesus trusts His disciples enough to say, "You are the light." Not "try to be," not "earn the right to be," but *you are*. The task, then, is not to manufacture light, but to stop hiding it. In small daily choices—kindness over cruelty, truth over convenience, generosity over indifference—the world catches a glimpse of God.

The Peace of Christ
Fr. Matteo

We pray for: **Those who are sick:** Jasper Terroni, Ranzilla Quadros, Eamon Lennon, Rose McDermott, Patrick Casey

Those who have died recently: Brid Herlihy, Margaret Scollan, Hannah Flynn, Doreen Creaner, Maria Mendanha Teixeira dos Santos

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Lucita Benoît, Oliver Simon, Sam Bennett, Nora Rita Gibbons, Sheila O'Callaghan, Michael Caulfield

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 1 February 2026 amounted to £1,647.23
Standing orders for January: £3,941
Contactless Income for January: £362.80
Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!

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 as we come together to celebrate and give thanks for all that you do.

HEALTH SCREENING EVENTS

Two free Health Screening Events will take place at the Church of the Transfiguration on **Monday 9 February 2026 and Monday 9 March 2026, from 10:30am to 2:30pm.**

Hosted by Brent Health Matters in partnership with the NHS, these events will offer free NHS health checks for the community, including blood pressure checks, diabetes risk assessments, clinical consultations, BMI measurements, and emotional wellbeing.

This is a walk-in service, so no appointment is needed.
If any concerns arise, the NHS team will contact your GP for further consultation.
If you have mobility issues, please contact the organiser, Rocio Maguire, on 07719 563125 to discuss accessibility arrangements.

ASH WEDNESDAY The beginning of Lent this year falls on Wednesday 18th February. Holy Mass with distribution of ashes will take place at **9:30am** and **6:30pm**.

PARISH DIARY

Monday 9th February **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** 5:30pm	Session 3: CELEBRATING OUR RESCUE St Mary Magdalen **School**
Monday 9th February **CONFIRMATION** 6:00pm	Session 3: WHY THE WORLD IS BROKEN Church of the Transfiguration
Monday 9th February	Pupils from St Mary Magdalen's school at morning Mass.

Mass Intentions commencing—Sunday 8 February

Saturday	6:30pm	Tom Kelly	**RIP**
Sunday	9:00am	Alan and Barbara Ward	**Ints**
	10:30am	Mary Sheridan	**RIP**
	12:00pm	Meliza and Macica Almeida	**Birthday Ints**
	6:30pm	People of the Parish	**Ints**
Monday	9:30am	Sam Bennett and deceased family members	**Anniv**
Tuesday	9:30am	Maria Mendanha Teixeira dos Santos	**RIP**
Wednesday	9:30am	Martin and Teresa Costello	**Ints**
Thursday	9:30am	Catherine McGloin	**RIP**
Friday	9:30am	Joseph Comerford	**RIP**
Saturday	9:30am	Catherine McGloin	**RIP**

St Mary Magdalen Youth Group TODAY!

from Year 9 and above

Sunday, 8th February at 4:30pm.

Members of the Westminster Youth Ministry will be leading our activities. Expect the usual mix of games, Youth Alpha, unhealthy (i.e. delicious) food & drink, discussion, and prayer.

I look forward to seeing you.
Your Outreach Worker, Barry.

The Installation of Archbishop Richard Moth

The Solemn Vespers for the Installation of Archbishop Richard will take place at **5.30pm on Friday 13 February** at Westminster Cathedral. Most of the Cathedral will be open to all **without a ticket**, and parishioners are welcome to attend.

Both the Vespers and the Mass of Installation (Saturday) will be **live-streamed** via the Cathedral website: www.westminstercathedral.org.uk.
The Mass will also be available to watch **on demand** afterwards.

THE ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MATRIMONY

will be celebrated in Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 23rd May 2026 at 2.30pm.

The Archbishop invites couples in the Diocese celebrating in 2026, their **5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage.

If you are celebrating an anniversary, please email the parish with the following details:
Names of husband and wife, wedding date, number of years married, postal address, email or phone number.
These details will be forwarded to the Diocese who will send out the invitation.
Please contact the office by the end of March.
Thank you.



World Day of the Sick – 11 February

On 11 February we mark the 34th World Day of the Sick, with the theme chosen by Pope Leo XIV:
"The compassion of the Samaritan: loving by bearing the pain of the other." This day invites prayer and reflection on our call to recognise Christ in the sick and vulnerable.
One way our diocese lives this call is through the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, supporting those who are ill or in need. The Westminster Diocese pilgrimage will take place from **17–24 July 2026**. Volunteers, medical staff, praying pilgrims, assisted pilgrims, and supporters are warmly invited.
For more information, visit **rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes** or contact the pilgrimage office on **020 7798 9173**.

The **Annual Mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes and for the World Day of Prayer for the Sick** will take place on **Saturday 14th February at 2pm** at Westminster Cathedral. This will be preceded by a talk at 11.30am in Westminster Cathedral Hall by Dr Kieran Moriarty on the extraordinary story of the Lourdes miracle of Jack Traynor. Tickets for the talk are £7 per person, available from https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dr-kieran-moriartys-talk-on-lourdes-71st-miracle-john-jack-traynor-tickets-1976728613495