L E N T



St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

March —Month of Saint Joseph

Third Sunday of Lent

8 March 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

III SUNDAY OF LENT: THIRSTING FOR LIVING WATER

On this Third Sunday of Lent, Year A, the Church places before us one of the most intimate and transformative encounters in the Gospel: Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well. It is a story about thirst—but not merely for water. It is about the deep, restless longing that lives in every human heart.

At first glance, the scene is ordinary. A tired traveller sits by a well at noon. A woman arrives alone to draw water. Yet beneath the simplicity lies a profound crossing of boundaries—social, religious, and personal. Jews did not associate with Samaritans. Men did not publicly engage women in theological discussion. And yet Jesus speaks. He asks. He listens.
"I thirst," He seems to say—not only for water, but for her faith, her trust, her heart.

The woman comes to the well at the hottest hour of the day, perhaps to avoid the judgment of others. Her past is complicated; her life, fragmented. She has searched for fulfilment in relationships that have not endured. But instead of condemnation, she receives conversation. Instead of accusation, invitation.

How different this is from the way our world often handles human weakness. We categorize, label, and dismiss. We reduce people to their worst mistakes. Jesus does none of this. He names the truth of her life without shaming her. He reveals her thirst while offering something greater: "living water."

This "living water" is not a metaphor for comfort or temporary relief. It is the very life of God—a grace that wells up from within and reshapes identity. The woman begins the conversation seeing Jesus as a Jewish stranger. Then as "Sir." Then as "prophet." Finally, she leaves her jar behind and proclaims Him as Messiah.

That abandoned jar may be the most telling symbol in the entire narrative. She came for water; she leaves with a mission. What once defined her daily routine is forgotten in the excitement of encountering truth. The woman who avoided her neighbours now runs toward them. The one who arrived in isolation becomes an evangelist.

Lent invites us to stand beside that well. What are we drawing from day after day that never truly satisfies? Achievement? Approval? Control? Distraction? Like the Samaritan woman, we return repeatedly to sources that cannot quench the deeper thirst within us.

Our culture is rich in options yet poor in fulfilment. We scroll endlessly, purchase impulsively, argue passionately, and still feel empty. The Gospel this Sunday gently but firmly confronts us: are we willing to admit our thirst?

Admitting thirst is an act of humility. It means acknowledging that self-sufficiency is an illusion. It requires courage to let Christ speak into the hidden corners of our lives. Yet the encounter at the well shows that vulnerability before God is not dangerous—it is liberating.

The Peace of Christ
Fr Matteo

We pray for:

Those who are sick: Virginia Ndukwe, Nula Neill, Hashane Fernando

Those who have died recently: Agata Licciardello, Nicola Leahy, Bernadette Redmond, Fr David Kelly

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bridget Connell, Patrick Quille, Alex and Yvonne Lobo, Dinar Tsehaye

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 1 March 2026 amounted to £1,596.94
Standing orders for January: £3,941
Contactless Income for February: £730.60
Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

COME AND JOIN THE NEXT SESSION OF OUR LENT COURSE:

Wednesday, 11th March at 7.00pm:
WE DARE TO ASK - theme: Baptismal Vocation.
This course runs for three more weeks in the upstairs hall of
The Church Of The Transfiguration, Kensal Rise.

More information in our LENT 2026 leaflet
Or email Barry at wgoutreach@rcdow.org.uk



St Mary Magdalen Youth Group TODAY

from Year 9 and above

Sunday, 8th March at 4:30pm.
Anthony, our Seminarian,
will be talking about vocations and his path to priesthood.
We will also be preparing to lead the parish in
the Stations of the Cross this Friday, 13th March.
Why not join us? You'll find us in the annexe.

For more information, email Barry: wgoutreach@rcdow.org.uk

PARISH DIARY

Monday 9th March **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** **5:30pm**	Session 6: THE WORD OF THE LORD St Mary Magdalen school
Monday 9th March **CONFIRMATION** **6:00pm**	Session 6: THE COMEBACK OF JESUS Church of the Transfiguration
Tuesday 10th March **COFFEE & TEA** after morning Mass	Pupils from St Mary Magdalen's Junior School will be helping out at Coffee Morning.
 Friday 13th March 6:00pm	**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** Led by the **YOUTH GROUP**
Saturday 14th March 10:30am to 2:30pm	**DAY OF RECOLLECTION** At the Convent of Jesus & Mary 21 Park Ave NW2 5AN

Mass Intentions commencing—Sunday 8 March

Saturday	6:30pm	Catherine Manning	**Ints**
Sunday	9:00am	Bridget Connell	**Anniv**
	10:30am	Velbijoy Fernandes	**Ints**
	12:00pm	Patrick Quille	**Anniv**
	6:30pm	People of the Parish	**Ints**
Monday	9:30am	Paddy Delaney	**Ints**
Tuesday	9:30am	Neville Burke	**Get Well Ints**
Wednesday	9:30am	Billy Delaney	**RIP**
Thursday	9:30am	John D'Souza	**Birthday Ints**
Friday	9:30am	Johnny Dolan	**RIP**
Saturday	9:30am	Remmie and Gracy on their Anniversary	**Thanksgiving**

FUNERAL NOTICE

The Reception of the Body of the late
Breda (Bridget) Foley
will take place on Monday, 16th March at 5:00pm
The Requiem Mass will be held on
Tuesday, 17th March at 1:00pm
followed by cremation at West London Crematorium at 2:00 pm

May she rest in peace ✞

WELCOME MASS for the Brent and Harrow deaneries

Archbishop Richard Moth warmly invites you to share in the celebration of Mass on **Tuesday, 10th March at 6:30pm** in St Joseph's Catholic Church, 339 High Rd, Wembley HA9 6AG. The Archbishop is keen to meet parishioners and will be available to speak to afterwards.

HEALTH SCREENING EVENT WALK-IN SERVICE

Another Health Screening Event will take place at
the **Church of the Transfiguration on Monday 9 March 2026,**
from **10:30am to 2:30pm.**

Hosted by Brent Health Matters in partnership with the NHS, this event will offer free NHS health checks for the community.

Talks on Nutrition and on Pharmacy
and Medication Advice at 12pm & repeated at 1pm.

PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES 2026/2027

For existing envelope users, the envelopes for 2026/27 are now available for collection from the Sacristy after Mass. If you are unable to collect them in person, please email or call the office. We also have a few spare envelopes available. If you would like to sign up for this method of donating, please contact the office.

DIOCESAN LENTEN APPEAL

LENTEN APPEAL 2026

"Because we are formed in faith, we are sent in love."
Our annual Lenten Appeal across the Diocese supports one shared mission: helping people encounter Christ and live that faith in love and service. Through **Education, Youth & Evangelisation,** and **Marriage & Family Life,** the diocese forms hearts, nurtures faith and strengthens families within our parishes. Through **Social Action**, that formed faith reaches outward, ensuring that no one in our communities faces life's hardest moments alone. Your generous support this Lent will enable the Church to continue walking with people at every stage of life and be a visible sign of Christ's love, both within our parishes and among our neighbours. To donate today please visit:

www.rcdow.org.uk/LentenAppeal

Alternatively, envelopes are available in church. Thank you for your support and for helping our diocesan family to continue this vital work.

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 their **5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2026.

If you are celebrating an anniversary and wish to attend this ceremony , please email the parish by the end of March