L E N T



St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

March —Month of Saint Joseph

Fourth Sunday of Lent

15 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

May this Mothers' Day be a time of gratitude, peace, and cherished memories. We give thanks for all mothers, and for those who mother, guide, and care for others with faith and love. Today and always, we honour you, we thank you, and keep you in our prayers.



I have been happy to discover that History is not just an old man's game. Every Monday at Confirmation Class I try to have a one to one chat with all the young people making their confirmation, and I often ask them what their favourite subject is at school. While many, of course, come up with Maths (to my astonishment), science, computing and DT, quite a few do talk about history. When I ask them why history fascinates them, they will say that it's important to know our nation's past, good and bad, and to try to learn from it. They like to know how people thought in the past, and how that affects what people do today.

Well, lots of people call today Mother's Day, which is really a modern Americanism. It focusses just on mothers within families, and while indeed that is very important, it is far from the whole story of the celebration so many of you will be having this weekend. If we take an historian's view of this Sunday, we can dig a lot deeper and find even more riches about today. It all starts with the opening words at the beginning of Mass – Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. These words focussed Christians for many generations on the city of Jerusalem, which was looked on as a sort of mother. This Sunday comes half way through Lent, and it is a time maybe slightly to relax some of the fasting. It was a time when younger servants were allowed to go home and see their families. But, by calling this day Mothering Sunday, our attention is moved from just *one* mother to mothering in general.

Mothering is about *nurturing*, about caring, about protecting and about enabling. I very much hope that for nearly all of you, that is your experience of being part of the Catholic Church. I do know, we all know, that this has gone very wrong at times, but I do hope that here at Mass you encounter the love of Jesus Christ. The Church brings us to Jesus Christ and we are *nurtured* by the sacraments of the church – from Baptism to communion to confirmation. For those of you who are married I hope the life of the church *nurtures* your love. I hope that if you or someone you love is sick you feel supported by our prayers. I hope that when somebody you love dies, you again feel supported and comforted by the Church, by this community. I hope that for those of you who have been to Catholic schools, or who send your children to Catholic schools, they have been places of *nurture*, care and spiritual growth – of pastoral care and concern.



For Catholics, of course, we look very much to one mother in particular for inspiration, example and intercession. Without this mother, salvation would not have happened, without her opening her heart to God's will and God's love Jesus Christ would not have been born. Today is a day when we call on our Mother Mary to pray for us and especially for all mothers. Of course, today is about mothers, about our own mothers whether this world holds them still or not. It is a day to give thanks for them, to support them, to show our love for them.

So, yes it's mother's day – but a bit of history shows us it's more than that – it's a day when we can reflect on and give thanks for God *nurturing* us. It is Mothering Sunday.

Monsignor Roger

We pray for:

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

Those who have died recently: Breda Foley, Paul Hayes, Joseph Pick, Alicia O'Grady, Antonio Valdez Jr, Kathleen Connolly

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Thomas Dias, Mary Killian, Fr James McNulty, Tom Curran, Festus Sumoila Yesufu-Eke, Laffa Fedelina Viegas, Patrizia Falcone, Mary Ryan, Zofia and Henryk Nowicki,

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 8 March 2026 amounted to £1,665.74
Standing orders for February: £3,698
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, 18th March at 7.00pm:
WE DARE TO ASK - theme: Baptismal Vocation.
This course runs for two more weeks in the upstairs hall of
The Church Of The Transfiguration, Kensal Rise.
For more info email Barry at wgoutreach@rcdow.org.uk

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.

BAPTISM PREPARATION The next course preparing parents for the baptism of their child, will be held on **Saturday 18 April 2026** at 11:00am. Please contact the office to book a place.

PARISH DIARY

Monday 16th March **HOLY COMMUNION 5:30pm**	Session 7: BREAD TO OFFER St Mary Magdalen school
Monday 16th March **CONFIRMATION 6:00pm**	Session 7: IN SEARCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT Church of the Transfiguration
Monday 16th March **9:30am Mass**	We joined by the pupils of St Mary Magdalen's school.
Thursday 19th March **7:00pm**	**Mass of Thanksgiving in Kensal Rise** (see notice ↗)
Friday 20th March **6:00pm**	**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**
Saturday 21st March **3:00pm**	**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** in Konkani.

Mass Intentions commencing—Sunday 15 March

Saturday	6:30pm	Manuel Meshasha and friends	**Birthday Ints**
Sunday	9:00am	Fr James McNulty	**Anniv**
	10:30am	Zofia and Henryk Nowicki	**Anniv**
	12:00pm	Margaret Keane	**RIP**
	6:30pm	People of the Parish	**Ints**
Monday	9:30am	Martin	**Ints**
Tuesday	9:30am	Mary Killian	**Anniv**
	1:00pm	Funeral—Bridget (Breda) Foley	**RIP**
Wednesday	9:30am	Laffa Fedelina Viegas	**Anniv**
	11:30am	Funeral—Paul Hayes	**RIP**
Thursday	9:30am	Thomas Dias	**Anniv**
	10:45am	Funeral—Joseph Pick	**RIP**
Friday	9:30am	Festus Sumoila Yesufu-Eke	**Anniv**
Saturday	9:30am	Anne Deeney	**RIP**

FUNERAL NOTICES

The Reception of the Body of the late
Bridget (Breda) 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

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

The Reception and Requiem Mass for the late
Paul Antony Hayes
will take place on Wednesday, 18th March at 11:30am
followed by cremation at West London Crematorium at 1:00pm

♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

The Reception and Requiem Mass for the late
Joseph Edward Pick
will take place on Thursday, 19th March at 10:45am
followed by cremation at West London Crematorium at 12:00pm

May they rest in peace ✞



A **MASS OF THANKSGIVING** celebrating the 30th anniversary of Monsignor Roger's ordination to the priesthood will be held on **Thursday, 19th March at 7:00pm at Kensal Rise.** The preacher for this occasion will be Bishop James Curry, and the music will be provided by the Schola Cantorum of the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School.

All are warmly invited to offer thanksgiving for Monsignor Roger's faithful ministry and service.

DIOCESAN LENTEN APPEAL



"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