L E N T



St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

March —Month of Saint Joseph

Fifth Sunday of Lent

22 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
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Father Matteo Di Giuseppe
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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, 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 Fifth Sunday of Lent in Year A draws the Church into one of the most dramatic and revealing moments in the Gospel of John: the raising of Lazarus of Bethany by Jesus Christ. As the Lenten journey approaches its final days, this Gospel confronts us with a profound question: Do we truly believe that Christ has power over death—not only at the end of life, but in the broken places of our lives today?

The story is familiar. Lazarus, the brother of Martha of Bethany and Mary of Bethany, falls gravely ill. The sisters send word to Jesus, confident that their friend and teacher will come quickly. Yet Jesus delays. By the time he arrives, Lazarus has been in the tomb for four days. For Martha and Mary, hope appears lost. Their grief echoes a sentiment many believers know well: "Lord, if you had been here…"

This moment captures a central tension in the Christian life. Faith does not prevent suffering, confusion, or delay. Often, it deepens the questions we carry. Why does God seem late? Why do prayers appear unanswered? The Gospel does not dismiss these feelings; instead, it allows them to surface honestly.

Martha meets Jesus with both sorrow and faith. Her words are striking: she believes that even now God will grant whatever Jesus asks. In response, Jesus declares one of the most powerful statements in the New Testament: "I am the resurrection and the life." This is not merely a promise about the distant future. It is a revelation of who Jesus is—life itself standing before them.

The narrative then reaches its emotional centre. Jesus stands before the tomb and weeps. These brief but powerful words remind us that divine power does not eliminate compassion. Christ does not stand outside human suffering; he enters it. His tears affirm that grief is not a failure of faith but part of love.

Yet the story does not end at the tomb. Jesus calls Lazarus out, and the dead man walks free. The miracle is astonishing, but the command that follows is just as significant: "Unbind him, and let him go." Resurrection is not only an act of divine power; it becomes a shared responsibility. The community must help remove the grave clothes.

This detail speaks directly to our world today. Many people walk through life bound by fear, despair, injustice, or loneliness. The Church's mission is not only to proclaim resurrection but also to participate in the unbinding—to help remove whatever keeps people trapped in spiritual or social tombs.

As Lent nears its climax, the raising of Lazarus prepares us for the mystery of Easter. It points forward to Christ's own death and resurrection. But it also invites personal reflection. Each of us carries places that feel sealed off like a tomb—relationships that seem beyond healing, hopes that appear buried, faith that has grown weak.

Into these spaces, Christ still speaks the same command: "Come out."
The Fifth Sunday of Lent reminds us that resurrection is not merely a doctrine; it is an encounter. The voice that called Lazarus from death continues to call believers today—from fear to courage, from despair to hope, and from darkness into life.

The Peace of Christ
Fr Matteo

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 15 March 2026 amounted to £1,771.22
Standing orders for February: £3,698
Contactless Income for February: £730.60
Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES 2026

Leaflets are available at the back of the church with details of all our Holy Week and Easter services including confession times.



A **PENITENTIAL SERVICE** will be held at the beginning of Holy Week on **Monday, 30th March at 7.00pm in Willesden Green**. A number of priests will be present, providing an opportunity for individual confession. This will be the main occasion to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for Easter.

ROTAS FOR READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

If you are able to assist during Holy Week and Easter services, please sign up on the sheet in the sacristy.

WASHING OF THE FEET If you would like to volunteer to have your feet washed at the Maundy Thursday service on 2nd April at 8:00pm, please sign your name on the list in the sacristy.

EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you wish to make an Easter Offering, envelopes are available at the back of the church. To support the priests' stipend, please return them by **Sunday 19th April.** Thank you for your generosity.

PARISH DIARY

Monday 23rd March **HOLY COMMUNION 5:30pm**	Session 8: FRUIT OF THE VINE St Mary Magdalen school
Monday 23rd March **CONFIRMATION 6:00pm**	Session 8: PRAYER—Staying in touch Church of the Transfiguration
Tuesday 24th March **9:30am Mass**	We are joined by the students of Newman Catholic College.
Friday 27th March **6:00pm**	**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**
Tuesday to Thursday	Restoration of damaged church floor. We apologise for any disruption caused.

Mass Intentions commencing—Sunday 22 March

Saturday	6:30pm	Mary Brady	**Anniv**
Sunday	9:00am	Mary Molloy	**Anniv**
	10:30am	Patrick Punch	**Ints**
	12:00pm	Margaret Ginnelly	**Ints**
	6:30pm	Ryan and Stacey Punch & family	**Ints**
Monday	9:30am	Nelly O'Leary	**RIP**
Tuesday	9:30am	Miriam Barron	**Anniv**
Wednesday	9:30am	Chris Rodrigues	**Birthday Ints**
Thursday	9:30am	Catherine Manning	**Ints**
Friday	9:30am	Dane Punch	**Ints**
Saturday	9:30am	Sharon McConnell Evans	**RIP**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

CAFOD A better world needs all of us

Thank you for your contributions, for CAFOD, so far, **£1,036.92** has been donated. If you haven't done so it's not too late to make a donation. Donations can be handed into the Parish Office. If you wish to 'Gift-Aid' your donation, please use one of the CAFOD green envelopes or if you would like to go online you can donate using this link https://cafod.org.uk/give

CAFOD is deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to the recent CAFOD appeal. Your donations will make a real difference, helping to support communities facing poverty, crisis, or injustice around the world.

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 us 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 giving:

Names of husband and wife, wedding date, number of years married, postal address, email or phone number.

We pray for:

Those who are sick: Nula Neill, Hashane Fernando, Mary Hall, Jasper Terroni

Those who have died recently: Virginia Ndukwe, Gareth Hayes, Patrick Varley (Month's Mind)

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary Brady, Mary Molloy, Elaine Lydon, Kamala Brereton, Miriam Barron, Henryk and Aleksandra Betkowski