

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

March —Month of Saint Joseph

PALM SUNDAY

29 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

Please see Holy Week and Easter Service Times leaflet and overleaf.

Eucharistic Adoration

Normally weekdays and Saturday:
One hour before morning Mass

Confession Times

Saturdays: 10:00am—10:30am
5:30pm— 6:15pm
& At Call

Last Wednesday, I had the privilege of attending the Year 5 Holy Week assembly at St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Junior School. It was a most impressive and moving afternoon. At the outset, the Head Teacher gently reminded both children and parents/carers that this was not a theatrical performance, but an act of worship. She invited everyone to refrain from applause and instead to engage prayerfully with what was unfolding. This simple instruction created a deeply reverent and special atmosphere.

Year 5 presented the trial and crucifixion of Jesus. Nearly every child was involved—whether through acting, reading, singing, or providing technical support. The singing, in particular, was among the best I have heard from the children in a long time. The entire presentation was of a very high standard and, more importantly, it led all present into a profound reflection on the suffering and love of Christ.

The final days of Jesus' life have inspired artists and musicians for centuries. Some of the most sublime works in human history have emerged from these events—from the paintings of Francisco de Zurbarán to the deeply moving Passions of Johann Sebastian Bach, in his settings of St Matthew and St John. More recently, Mel Gibson's film The Passion of the Christ offered a stark and powerful portrayal of the physical suffering endured by Jesus. It is not an easy film to watch, but few who have seen it could remain unmoved.

All these retellings point back to real events—events that took place in Jerusalem around AD 33. This is not fiction or imagination, but history: what truly happened to Jesus Christ. It brings into sharp focus the words from St John's Gospel: *"Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost, but may have eternal life"* (John 3:16).

How, then, do we respond to such love? How do we respond to the Passion we have heard proclaimed today, to the witness of the children, or to the great works of art and music inspired by these events?

Surely our response must be one of humility and repentance. It is our sins that brought Jesus to the Cross. As we gaze with love upon Christ, who looks down upon us with love from the Cross, we are invited to seek his forgiveness. One of the most powerful ways to do this is through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Do not be afraid to come to confession. Prepare your heart in prayer. It does not matter if it has been a long time, if you cannot remember the words, or if you feel unsure—simply be honest. You will encounter not judgment, but God's mercy and loving forgiveness.

I warmly encourage you to attend the Penance Service tomorrow (Monday) evening at 7pm. Our parish priests, along with visiting priests, will be available to welcome you. If that doesn't work for you, there are other times advertised in the newsletter.

Inspired by the events of the Passion of Jesus Christ, may our hearts be open to his love this Holy Week.

Monsignor Roger

We pray for:

Those who are sick: Mary Hall, Jasper Terroni

Those who have died recently: Michael McGrath

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Michael O'Connor, Oliver Fay, May and Ronnie McClay

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 22 March 2026 amounted to £1,702.73
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

Thank you to everyone who has signed up for the Holy Week and Easter services. All slots are now full.

WASHING OF THE FEET Thank you to all those who have volunteered to have their feet washed at the Maundy Thursday service on 2nd April at 8:00pm. There are still a few places available. Please sign your name on the list in the sacristy. Thank you.

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.

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.



Mass Intentions commencing Sunday 29 March

Saturday	6:30pm	June and William Wright	**RIP**
Sunday	9:00am	Martina Cummins & family	**Ints**
	10:30am	Michael O'Connor	**Anniv**
	12:00pm	Shaun Fogarty	**Ints**
	6:30pm	People of the Parish	**Ints**
Monday	9:30am	Paul Rossiter	**RIP**
Tuesday	9:30am	May and Ronnie McClay	**Anniv**
Wednesday	9:30am	Paul Mulhern	**RIP**
Thursday	8:00pm	Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper	
Friday	3:00pm	The Celebration of the Lord's Passion	
Saturday	8:00pm	Easter Vigil in the Holy Night	

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY	8:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
	10:50pm Compline (Night Prayer)
GOOD FRIDAY	11:30am Stations of the Cross
	3:00pm The Passion of the Lord
HOLY SATURDAY	8:00pm The Easter Vigil
EASTER SUNDAY	9:00am, 10:30am, 12noon only.

For more information, please see the leaflet at the back of the church with all Easter services.

CONFESSION TIMES:
Monday and Wednesday of Holy Week: 10:00am—10:30am
Good Friday: 12:30pm—1:30pm
Holy Saturday: 10:00am—11:00am

The collection on Good Friday is for the Holy Land. It helps to support Christian communities, priests and religious, and to maintain the holy sites.

WINTERSHALL PASSION OF JESUS

Good Friday April 3rd, Trafalgar Square
Free performances at 12pm and 3.15pm.
A dramatic presentation of the Passion of Jesus which should not be missed. Get there early to get the best views in Trafalgar Square. Come prepared for all weathers.
You won't regret witnessing this extraordinary event.
For those who cannot get to the Square it is also livestreamed: https://www.wintershall.org.uk/event/the-passion-of-jesus-2026/

Fundraising Dance in Memory of Elaine Lydon

In loving memory of one of our lifelong parishioners, **Elaine Lydon**, and her mother **Nora O'Brien**, both of whom passed away in 2024, a fundraising dance will be held:
Saturday, 18th April
Mazenod Social Club, Quex Road, Kilburn, NW6 4LS
7:00pm until late
There will be live music and a warm welcome for all.
The family kindly invites donations, with a suggested minimum of £5 per ticket.
All proceeds will go to **Cancer Research**.
To donate please visit:https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/michaelas-giving-page-719

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 as soon as possible giving:

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

NO FOODBANK COLLECTION NEXT WEEK
Newman College is closed for the Easter holidays.