

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

April —Month of the Holy Eucharist

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

26 April 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

The Fourth Sunday of Easter, often called "Good Shepherd Sunday," invites us into one of the most intimate and enduring images in Christian faith: Christ as the shepherd who knows, calls, and lays down his life for his sheep. In Year A, this theme is drawn especially from the Gospel of John, where Jesus contrasts his own self-giving leadership with the false shepherds who exploit rather than serve.

In a world saturated with noise, competing loyalties, and fractured trust in leadership, the image of the Good Shepherd feels both comforting and challenging. Comforting, because it speaks of a God who is not distant or abstract, but attentive and personal—one who "calls his own sheep by name." Challenging, because it forces us to ask whose voices we are truly listening to, and what kind of shepherds we ourselves become in our relationships and responsibilities.

The shepherd in ancient Palestine was not a romantic figure but a gritty, vigilant presence—living among the sheep, guarding them from danger, guiding them to pasture, often at personal risk. Jesus leans into this reality, describing a leadership rooted not in power or prestige but in sacrifice. "The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." This is not metaphorical flourish; it is a declaration that love, in its truest form, is costly.

In contrast, Jesus warns of the hired hand, the one who works only for wages and abandons the flock at the first sign of danger. This figure represents leadership without commitment, authority without responsibility. It is a warning that resonates far beyond religious contexts—into politics, business, and even personal relationships. Where there is no genuine care, there can be no true guidance.

But the Gospel is not merely about identifying good and bad leaders; it is also about belonging. "I know my sheep and my sheep know me." This mutual knowing suggests a relationship built on trust, familiarity, and presence. It reminds us that faith is not simply adherence to rules or doctrines but a lived relationship—one that requires attentiveness to the voice of Christ amid the many voices vying for our attention.

The challenge, then, is discernment. In an age of constant information and persuasion, recognizing the voice of the Good Shepherd demands stillness and intentionality. It asks us to cultivate spaces—through prayer, reflection, and community—where that voice can be heard and trusted. It also calls us to embody that same shepherding presence for others: to care for others not out of obligation but out of love, to lead not by control but by example, and to listen not only with our ears but with our lives. This is therefore the Sunday in which we pray for Holy vocations that the Lord may give us shepherds according to His heart.

The Peace of Christ
Fr Matteo

We pray for:

Those who are sick: Susie

Those who have died recently: Noel Gill

Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Patrick Killian, T.A.Peiris, Patrick Cleary, Ben and Margaret McDade, Patrick and Gladys McGowan, Hannah Creedon, Nicholas and Katerina Georgaki

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 19 April 2026 amounted to £1,698.39
Standing orders for March: £4,051
Contactless Income for March: £243.89
Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

PARISH DIARY

Monday 27th April **CONFIRMATION** **6:00pm**	Penitential Service in **St Mary Magdalen Church**
Friday 1st May **HOLY COMMUNION** **4:30pm**	Rehearsal in **St Mary Magdalen Church**—for the First Holy Communion celebration taking place on Saturday.
Saturday, 2nd May **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**	**CELEBRATION MASS** **11:00am** **St Mary Magdalen Church**
Saturday, 2nd May **CONFIRMATION**	**Sponsored WALKATHON at 2:30pm in Roundwood Park.**



EXAM TIME
Please pray for all our young parishioners sitting exams at this time.
St Joseph of Cupertino—Pray for us.

St Mary Magdalen Youth Group

The next meeting will be in June
after all the exams have finished!

REMINDER: FOODBANK COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

Mass Intentions commencing—Sunday 26 April

Saturday	6:30pm	T.A. Peiris	**Anniv**
Sunday	9:00am	People of the Parish	**Ints**
	10:30am	Patsy Smyth	**RIP**
	12:00pm	Hannah Creedon	**Anniv**
	6:30pm	Catherine and Tony Murray	**Ints**
Monday	9:30am	Patrick Killian	**Anniv**
Tuesday	9:30am	Ben and Margaret McDade	**Anniv**
Wednesday	9:30am	Mary McAshea	**Ints**
Thursday	9:30am	Nicholas and Katerina Georgaki	**Anniv**
	12:00pm	Funeral—TL Jeanette McConkey	**RIP**
Friday	9:30am	Ruben Nunes	**RIP**
Saturday	9:30am	Patrick Cleary	**Anniv**

FUNERAL NOTICE

The Requiem Mass for the late
Jeanette McConkey
will take place on Thursday, 30th April at 12:00pm
followed by cremation at West London Crematorium at 2:00pm

May she rest in peace ✞

PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL OUR CHILDREN WHO WILL BE CELEBRATING THEIR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION NEXT WEEKEND



Gabriella		**Ana Luisa**
Sara		**Ethan**
Theo		**Beyonce**
Maya		**Amelita**
Jovial		**Oliver**
Joshua	**Astrid**	**Eniola**
Tommy	**Layla-Lilly**	**Lucas**
Christian	**Athena**	**Sebastian**
Naia	**Joaquín**	**Kiesha**
Lourenco	**Olivia**	**Leonardo**
Melissa	**Cleave**	**Alicja**

PRIEST TRAINING FUND – SUPPORTING FUTURE PRIESTS

Today, on Good Shepherd Sunday, there is a second collection for the Priest Training Fund.

This fund supports the formation of men who are responding to God's call to serve as priests in our diocese. Their journey involves years of preparation — human, spiritual, and pastoral — equipping them to serve parish communities in the years ahead.

Your support helps make this formation possible. It is a direct way of strengthening the life of the Church and ensuring that future generations will continue to receive the sacraments and pastoral care.

If you are able, please give generously in today's collection. You may also donate via **rcdow.org.uk/PriestTrainingFund**

Please also continue to pray for vocations and for those currently in formation.

Diocese of Westminster
PRIEST TRAINING FUND
Registered charity no. 233699

On Good Shepherd Sunday, we pray for vocations to the priesthood and give thanks for our priests and those in formation. Priestly ministry is one of service, rooted in Christ and centred on the Eucharist, the "source and summit" of the Church's life.

Parishes are encouraged to support vocations through prayer, especially by Eucharistic Adoration and the Rosary in the coming weeks. Let us also create space for prayer in our lives, and encourage those who may feel called to listen to the Holy Spirit.

To read Archbishop Richard's Pastoral Letter in full, copies are available at the back of the church or online, in the newsletter section of our website.

Next **Thursday 30 April at 6.30 pm** in Westminster Cathedral Hall The Friends of Westminster Cathedral welcome Orion Symphony Orchestra who will play
Mozart Clarinet Quintet & Schubert Quartettsatz.
Tickets are £12 including refreshments afterwards book online https://tinyurl.com/FriendsConcert30042026 or email friends@rcdow.org.uk Please book and bring your friends.