

St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

May —Month of the Blessed Virgin

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

31 May 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
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Parish office open:
Tuesday-Friday 10:00am - 3:00pm

Parish Outreach Worker

Barry Phillips-Devaney
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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

If you know anything about me, it might surprise you to know that I used technology the other day. I asked the Vatican's own AI machine – Magisterium AI – to summarise the Pope's latest Encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas* for me. This is perhaps very suitable, because this encyclical focusses on the use of AI. There is truly magisterial teaching by Pope Leo on AI in this document, which goes beyond a mere analysis of how AI works. The opening Latin words of the Encyclical give us the clue: *Magnifica Humanitas* - in English The Grandeur of Humanity – that humanity is at the centre of the papal teaching, not just on the use of AI, but how it affects, for example, the use of labour and the notion of the just war. To look at these themes in detail, I had to abandon AI and read it myself!

Why has the Holy Father focussed on AI for his first encyclical? (an encyclical is the most important way in which the Pope teaches). Because we are all talking about it and using it. Just listen to what teachers think about the challenges of AI. AI is already influencing who gets jobs or loans, what news we see, what children encounter online, and even decisions made in warfare. These are not merely technical issues; they are deeply human and moral questions.

At the heart of *Magnifica Humanitas* are two biblical images. The first is the Tower of Babel: humanity using power and technology without wisdom, leading to confusion and division. The second is the prophet Nehemiah rebuilding Jerusalem's walls following their destruction, through prayer, cooperation, and care for the community. Pope Leo XIV says we face the same choice today. AI can be used to exploit, control, and divide, or it can serve human dignity, solidarity, and the common good.

The encyclical, therefore, is not anti-technology. Rather, it insists that technology is never neutral; it reflects the values of those who create and use it. The real question is not whether we will use AI, but what kind of people we will become while using it. The Holy Father has a major concern that AI will dehumanise us – make us less than people created in God's image. He shows us that AI could lead to a new form of slavery. While being open about the Church's complicity with slavery in the past, he explains that this new technology can breed new slavery – it still needs human beings, often poorly paid, to do data labelling, model training and moderation. It reduces men and women to data – often those who extract the rare minerals used to make the hardware. AI means that we have to reset the Just War theory, as humanity must use diplomacy and forgiveness rather than resorting to AI controlled weapons.

This document matters to everyone. If you use a smartphone, social media, or simply want to live faithfully in an increasingly digital world, this encyclical speaks to you. Pope Leo XIV calls us not to fear technology, but to remain deeply human: he says: 'For this reason… I invite everyone to contemplate, in the face of the Son of God, the grandeur of humanity (Magnifica humanitatis) that shines as a light also on the era of AI. Even when machines excel in efficiency, a human face that asks to be gazed upon remains at the centre of our history.'

Monsignor Roger

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 24 May 2026 amounted to £1,541.32
Standing orders for April: £3,875.00
Contactless Income for April: £186.84
Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

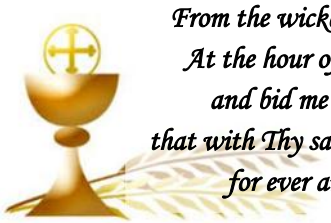


BLESSED SACRAMENT PROCESSION

On **Sunday, 7th June**, the Feast of Corpus Christi, we warmly invite all our **First Holy Communion children** and their families to join us for the **12 noon** Mass here in our church. There will be a special procession led by the children and we ask that they wear their Holy Communion outfits.

The **Anima Christi** ("Soul of Christ") is a beautiful prayer dating from around the 14th century. The prayer is particularly fitting for next week's feast of Corpus Christi.

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me.
Within Thy wounds hide me.
Permit me not to be separated from Thee.
From the wicked enemy defend me.
At the hour of my death call me,
and bid me come unto Thee,
that with Thy saints I may praise Thee
for ever and ever. Amen.



Mass Intentions commencing—Sunday 31 May

Saturday	6:30pm	Gerry and Josie Rice	**Anniv**
Sunday	9:00am	Eddie Ginnelly	**Anniv**
	10:30am	People of the Parish	**Ints**
	12:00pm	Kamala Brereton	**Anniv**
	6:30pm	Anne and Harry Manning	**RIP**
Monday	9:30am	Eoin McCarney	**RIP**
	11:00am	Funeral T/L Maria Lourdes Teixeira	**RIP**
Tuesday	9:30am	Sebastiao M. Dsouza and Lourenca P. Fernandes	**RIP**
	11:00am	Funeral T/L Hannah (Anne) Phelan	**RIP**
Wednesday	9:30am	Brigid Boland	**Anniv**
Thursday	9:30am	Kathleen White	**RIP**
Friday	9:30am	Dymphna Glynn	**RIP**
Saturday	9:30am	Francisco Dias	**Birthday Ints**

We pray for: **Those who are sick:** Remy D'Sa, Mary Hall, Rose McDermott, Maura Brown, Siobhan McCarthy
Those who have died recently: Maria Lourdes Teixeira, Anne Phelan, Ellen Ryan
Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Brigid Boland, Gerry and Josie Rice, Eddie Ginnelly, Kamala Brereton, Nadia and family, Brian Felix

FUNERAL NOTICES

The Reception and Requiem Mass for the late
Maria Lourdes Teixeira
will take place on Monday, 1st June at 11:00 am
followed by a private committal in Putney.

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The Reception and Requiem Mass for the late
Hannah (Anne) Phelan
will take place on Tuesday, 2nd June at 11:00 am
followed by cremation at West London Crematorium at 12:00pm

May they rest in peace ✞

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MATRIMONY



Over 480 couples from across the diocese gathered last Saturday in the Cathedral to renew their wedding vows and celebrate the journey of married life. The reflection described marriage as a lifelong pilgrimage, filled with moments of joy, challenge, growth and new beginnings, where God continues to walk alongside each couple. Anniversary celebrations offer a special opportunity to look back with gratitude, recognise the grace present in everyday moments, and look ahead with renewed hope and commitment.

Four couples attended from St Mary Magdalen Church, totalling an amazing 192 years of marriage! May their example continue to inspire younger generations to cherish the vocation of marriage.



BAPTISM PREPARATION The next course preparing parents for the baptism of their child, will be held on **Saturday, 6 June 2026** at 11:00am. Please contact the office to book a place.