

ST MARY MAGDALEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

July – Month of the Precious Blood of Jesus
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
26 JULY 2026

https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/willesdengreen/

This Parish is part of Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity No: 233699

Buried treasure has always captured the human imagination, especially that of children and young people. Many of us grew up with *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson, drawn into its unforgettable characters and the dream of discovering hidden riches. When I was a boy—and, truth be told, still now—I devoured the adventures of Tintin and his faithful dog Snowy. Two of those stories revolve around buried treasure, as Tintin and Captain Haddock endure danger and hardship in pursuit of a fortune hidden beneath the earth.

Yet buried treasure is not simply the stuff of fiction. I was recently speaking to someone whose ancestors were farmers. One day, while ploughing an orchard, one of them heard his spade strike something hard and metallic. Gathering the family together, they carefully unearthed an astonishing collection of ancient gold: jewellery, cups, plates and ornaments, all more than two thousand years old. Discoveries like this are remarkable, but not altogether surprising. Before the age of safes, locks and bank vaults, burying valuables in the ground was often the safest way to protect them. It is likely that countless treasures still lie hidden beneath fields and forests across the world, waiting to be discovered.

This helps us to understand the parables of the Kingdom which Jesus tells in today's Gospel. To us, burying treasure may seem rather odd, but in first-century Palestine it was perfectly ordinary. A man walking through a field notices perhaps the glint of gold beneath the soil. Realising what he has found, he carefully hides it again and, filled with joy, sells everything he owns in order to buy what appears to be an unremarkable field, knowing that within it lies an incomparable treasure.

Jesus then tells of a merchant whose livelihood is buying and selling pearls. One day he comes across a pearl of extraordinary beauty and value. Instantly recognising its worth, he too sells everything he possesses so that he can make it his own.

In both stories the overwhelming emotion is joy—the joy of discovering something so precious that every other possession pales into insignificance. Both men willingly sacrifice everything else because they know they are gaining infinitely more than they are giving up.

Jesus' point is beautifully simple. The Kingdom of Heaven is the greatest treasure any of us could ever discover. God offers us nothing less than his own life, his friendship and the promise of eternal life. Through the Church we encounter his presence in the Scriptures, the sacraments and the community of faith. In a world that constantly urges us to chase success, wealth, possessions or popularity, these parables invite us to ask a searching question: what do I value above everything else? The treasures that absorb so much of our time and energy are often temporary and fragile. The treasure Christ offers can never fade or be taken away. To discover him is to discover the one thing that gives lasting meaning and joy to every other part of life.

Monsignor Roger

Presbytery
Peter Avenue, Willesden Green,
London, NW10 2DD
Tel: 020 8451 4677

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 to 3pm

Parish Outreach Worker
Barry Phillips-Devaney
wgoutreach@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Rep
Claudia Tugbobo
willesdengreensg3@
safeguardrcdow.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

PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

Collection 19 July 2026 amounted to £1,637.23
Standing orders for June: £4,010
Contactless Income for June: £277.29
Thank you for your generosity in whatever way you give.

ST MARY MAGDALEN FEAST DAY CELEBRATION

Thank you to everyone who supported our St Mary Magdalen Feast Day celebration last Sunday. The Mass was a beautiful and prayerful occasion, and it was a joy to welcome new altar servers into the Guild of St Stephen.

Our Social Committee did a wonderful job organising the gathering in the school afterwards, where parishioners shared a delicious variety of dishes from around the world. The circus entertainer was a particular hit with the children, while some adults bravely joined in and others enjoyed dancing the afternoon away.

It was a wonderful community event with something for everyone. Thank you to all who helped make the day such a success.

St Mary Magdalen, pray for us!

SEA SUNDAY

STELLA MARIS

Thank you for giving to Sea Sunday.
Our parish raised **£531.22.**
To find out more about how your support helps those who live and work at sea, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday, 19th September 2026

We will be organising a coach to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham.
More details to follow

MASS INTENTIONS COMMENCING - SUNDAY 26 JULY

Saturday	6:30pm	John and Patrick Rice	**Anniv**
Sunday	9:00am	Betty Weir	**RIP**
	10:30am	People of the Parish	**Ints**
	12:00pm	Adoria and Nathan Pacheco	**Birthday Ints**
	6:30pm	Demetrio Goes	**RIP**
Monday	9:30am	Ellen Lord	**RIP**
Tuesday	9:30am	Joseph Pick	**RIP**
Wednesday	9:30am	Valisha Pereira	**Ints**
	6:00pm	Funeral T/L Michael Cronin	**RIP**
Thursday	9:30am	Maria Teixeira	**Ints**
Friday	9:30am	John and Margaret Hough	**Anniv**
Saturday	9:30am	Joaquim Charley Vaz and Dometiza Severina Vaz	**RIP**

We pray for:
Those who are sick: Tadhg Sullivan, Jasper Terroni
Those who have died recently: Michael Cronin
Those whose anniversaries occur at this time: John and Patrick Rice, John and Margaret Hough

Funeral Notice

The Reception and Requiem Mass for the late
Michael Cronin
will take place on Wednesday, 29th July at 6:00pm
followed by repatriation to Ireland.

May he rest in peace ✞

BEYOND THE CROSS

The Church of the Transfiguration, Kensal Rise
Last session on Wednesday, 29th July at 7:00pm

Combining art and reflection on the beginnings of Christianity.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR MP TO OPPOSE ASSISTED SUICIDE

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is back in the House of Commons and seeks to legalise assisted suicide. It will have its Second Reading and vote on Friday, 11 September 2026. Please write to your MP to make your voice heard and oppose the Bill.

"This bill is wrong in principle," says Archbishop Richard Moth, President of the Bishops' Conference, "It is also deeply flawed and, if passed, could lead to vulnerable people feeling pressured into ending their lives. The Bill has a serious lack of protection for health and social care staff and risks putting many wonderful hospices and care homes in the position of no longer being able to operate. I urge you to write to your Members of Parliament to petition them to vote against the Bill at Second Reading."

You can support the Archbishop's call and contact your MP now as a matter of urgency. Even if you have already done so in the past, please speak up and voice your opposition. The charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to do this. It takes little more than a few minutes to enter your postcode, make sure the suggested text suits your viewpoint and submit your message to ask your MP to stop this flawed Bill progressing through parliament.
For more information and resources, scan the code or visit: cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide
righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Beware of WhatsApp Scam Messages

We have been made aware of a new type of scam targeting parish communities through WhatsApp and other messaging platforms. Criminals are increasingly using artificial intelligence (AI) to create convincing messages, voice recordings and videos that appear to come from members of the clergy. These fraudulent messages may ask for money, donations, gift cards or personal financial information.

Please be vigilant and remember:

- Do not assume that a WhatsApp message, voice note or video is genuine simply because it appears to come from a priest or parish representative.
- Never send money, gift cards, bank details or other personal information in response to an unexpected request received through WhatsApp or social media.
- Always verify any request by contacting the parish directly using a known telephone number or official email address.
- Report suspicious messages and phone numbers to **Action Fraud** at: **www.reportfraud.police.uk**

If you receive any message claiming to be from a priest that you are unsure about, please contact the parish office before taking any action. Staying alert will help protect both you and our parish community.

YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/@stmarymagdalenrcchurchwill1878

OPPOSE ASSISTED SUICIDE

UNITE IN PRAYER AND COMPASSIONATE ACTION

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is back in the House of Commons and seeks to legalise assisted suicide. This would undermine the **sanctity** and **dignity** of human life.

We are against this Bill in principle and it remains deeply flawed and dangerous in practice.

There will be a vote on Friday, 11 September 2026 - please contact your MP asap.

Act Now!

Use your smartphone camera to scan the **QR code** to visit the Bishops' Conference website.

There you will find resources to help you **contact your MP**, read the reasons why we oppose assisted suicide, explore FAQs, and more.

SCAN ME

Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales
39 Eccleston Square, London. SW1V 1BX

WALSINGHAM



19.09.2026 **Join the 10th Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham**

For more information, please speak to your parish priest, contact Elizabeth at *elizabethuwalaka@rcdow.org.uk* or call 0207 798 9173