



NEWSLETTER

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
20th DECEMBER 2020**

Catholic Church of St Mary Magdalen
Athenaeum Road N20 9AE Tel: 020 8445 0838
Website: www.stmarymagdalens.com
Email: whetstone@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Priest: Fr Gladstone Liddle
Secretary: Ursula Campbell ~ 9-12am, Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri

The Parish Office is closed to the public, please contact by telephone or email as above.

Tier 3 still allows public worship in our churches. We have the ability to live stream the Masses.

Since we have now the live streaming option to access this go online to:-

<https://www.churchservices.tv/whetstone>

& click on the play button.

Offers to be in church as a steward for half an hour, would be much appreciated. Please email the parish office.

Services will be conducted at the usual times and under the restrictions and procedure in place before this second lockdown. Masks must be worn, social distancing observed and if possible places booked for the weekend Masses by logging on to:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/whetstone/events>

or ring the Presbytery, before noon on Friday, to reserve a place.

Weekly schedule from 3rd to 23rd December will be 9.30am daily weekday Mass, with church open until 12 noon if possible.

Saturday 9.30am Mass
10am Confessions
11am -4.30pm Church Closed
4.45pm Adoration and Confessions
6pm Mass

Sunday Mass at 9am, 11am and 4pm (Polish)

Church will be closed from 12 noon until 4pm.

Download the NHS COVID-19 app today

The free NHS COVID-19 app is a vital part of the NHS Test and Trace service in England, and the NHS Wales Test, Trace, Protect service.



Christmas Services

Having received directives from both the Government and the Diocese regarding the public celebration of the Lord's Nativity in Church, we have made the following plans.

We must abide by the restricted capacity of the building regarding social distancing. Masks must be worn by adults. Contact details must be supplied by registering attendance online or at the church porch on arrival. When the capacity has been reached, the stewards must prevent further admittance. Due to restrictions, the 5pm, 6.30pm, 10pm Christmas Eve and 11am Christmas Day Mass are now full. Please go online to: <https://www.churchservices.tv/whetstone>

The Bishops re-affirm that there is no obligation to attend Mass at Christmas. We propose the following schedule of Masses:-

Christmas Eve

Mass at 5pm and 6.30pm (now full)
10pm Mass in the Night (now full)

12 Midnight Mass in Polish

Christmas Day

Mass at 9am and 11am (now full), 12.30pm and 4pm in Polish.

Please note: Neither Fridays of 25th December nor 1st January are days of Fasting and Abstinence.

Boxing Day

11am and the church will be open for visits to the Crib until 1pm. 4pm Mass in Polish.

Sunday

Mass at 9am and 11am, 4pm in Polish.
Church open until 1pm for visits to the Crib.

The Bishops remind us that the celebration of Christmas continues through the Octave – the 8 days following Christmas Day, with the Lord's Epiphany and Baptism and through to Candlemas on February 2nd. The Crib will be there for this whole period and an opportunity especially to come with your children to pray at the Crib. We do hope to have the church open as often as possible for this to take place. The generous time and presence of stewards make this possible. If you are able to help on that front for half an hour, please contact the Presbytery tel 020 8445 0838 or email whetstone@rcdow.org.uk

Vaccine Statement from Vatican and Bishops' Conference

In September 2020 the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales issued a statement COVID-19 and Vaccination (24th September 2020). In the light of the recent breakthrough in vaccine development we now wish to issue a follow up statement.

Catholics may in good conscience receive any of these vaccines for the good of others and themselves. In good conscience, one may refuse a particular vaccine but continue to have a duty to protect others from infection.

The statement can be found via: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-issue-updated-statement-on-covid-19-and-vaccination/>

Church Website is at present inaccessible. It is hoped to get this up and running very soon to keep people informed of future developments, regularity of services etc. In the meantime information can be found via the Diocesan website:-

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/whetstone>

Parish Finances

Again, as in the Spring, we are faced with a period when there will be no Sunday collections. This is having a considerable impact on the parish finances. Work has recently finished on the Hall kitchen etc, which was planned and began before the first lockdown. The bills for that have had to be honoured and paid (£50,000). We have been grateful to all those who have contributed during this period by Bankers Orders, and also those who have handed in contributions for the Sunday's missed.

In these unsettling times, the method of giving to the parish is invaluable and reassuring. You will find attached to this newsletter a form to set up such Standing Order if you are able and bless you if you can.

Mass Intentions

Please note that the new diary is now open for requests for Masses in 2021, but we reserve the right for pastoral reasons to move any Mass booked. Please leave requests and stipends in the Presbytery letter box.

St Mary Magdalen's Church Whetstone on Facebook

To keep parishioners more connected during these odd times, we have created a new Facebook page - 'St Mary Magdalen's Church Whetstone' - where we can share important updates about parish life and our faith in general.

Children's Liturgy - a note for parents of young children

Due to the current situation, it has not been possible to celebrate Children's Liturgy at Sunday Masses for a long time and whilst we have the option to watch the live streaming, young children may be missing out on the participation. We are pleased to say that Children's Liturgy will be posted on our YouTube channel and on the new parish Facebook page in the form of a pre-recorded video every weekend. It is a pilot scheme, but please do publicise it and give feedback if needs be.

Parent can also find lots of children's liturgy materials on the internet. Take a look at the CAFOD website <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy> where you will find prayers and resources for families who aren't able to attend church in person at the moment.

Sunday Liturgy worksheets may be found at <http://www.sdc.me.uk/sundayliturgy/>

In addition, a full Children's Liturgy at <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/catechesis/childrens-liturgy> which is used as the basis for our parish Children's liturgies.

Boxing Club	Suspended until
Mother's Prayers	} further notice

These are but a few of the many resources to be found online - mostly pitched at toddler - junior school ages. Do take a look and explore what is on offer for your child's Faith formation.

Preparation for the Sacraments in 2021

Names are being taken for those who wish their child/children to be prepared for First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation in 2021. Although the courses have begun, it is not too late to enrol your child. Please contact Winnie Brady at winniebrady@rcdow.org.uk or send a message to 07702 094650 requesting an Enrolment Form. For anyone who has already registered and not heard back from me, please phone me as soon as possible. Thank you.

For Adults - there is a small booklet 'According to thy Word' written by Mgr Keith Barltrop, inviting us to know and love Our Lady more -

*Star of the new evangelisation
help us to bear radiant witness to communion,
service, ardent and generous Faith,
justice and love of the poor,
that the joy of the Gospel
may reach to the ends of the earth,
illuminating even the fringes of our world. Amen
(From Evangelii Gaudium, Pope Francis 2013)*

Pay Car Park

Free Parking for Mass goes is:- Saturday 5.30pm-7.30pm and on Sunday 8.30am-5.30pm.

Please be aware that outside of these times, a penalty will be issued - and no appeal through the parish under the terms of the contract.

Holy Days of Obligation during the week are not included except Christmas Eve and Day and Good Friday.

Hospital Admissions often the religious status of a person admitted to hospital is overlooked on admission. Please make sure that Chase Farm & Barnet hospital is told that the patient is a Catholic.

As there is at present no Chaplain. Please inform the staff nurse on the ward a patient is Catholic. Soon we hope a new Chaplain will be appointed.

PRAY for those who are sick. We also pray for our long-term sick, the housebound, and those in residential care and in local hospices and hospitals and **the Faithful Departed** Carlo Esposito.

Act now and ask your MP to oppose introducing assisted suicide

The assisted suicide lobby have launched a large campaign to put pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide.

Right To Life UK have set up an easy to use tool which will enable you to email your MP asking them to make it clear to the Government that it should not give into demands from the assisted suicide lobby to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It only takes 30 seconds to email your MP by visiting the link below:

<https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>

SANCTUARY LAMPS

The Sanctuary Lamps are lit this week for:

Gerry Stanislaus

If you would like to have a loved one's or thanksgiving commemorated in this way the 7 day lights are on sale in the Repository (£5) along with the label for the name of the person remembered and the date when the lamp should be placed in the Sanctuary. Please bring the lamp and label to the Sacristy.

