



NEWSLETTER

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
13th / 14th FEBRUARY 2021

Catholic Church of St Mary Magdalen
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Email: whetstone@rcdow.org.uk
Parish Priest: Fr Gladstone Liddle
Secretary: Ursula Campbell

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

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 Saturday and Sunday Masses would be much appreciated. Please email the parish office.

Masses at 6pm Saturday and 11am Sunday will be conducted 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>

We have worked hard to ensure that our church is a safe environment and thank all those involved in fulfilling that. The new directives do allow public worship to continue. The Bishops however advise that in the interests of people's safety, including your priest who is in the 'over 70' category, it has been necessary to reduce the number of public Masses.

In the light of this, the church will be closed and daily Mass at 9.30am will be live streamed.

Communal public worship at Mass will continue at **6PM SATURDAY** and **11AM SUNDAY**.

The Bishops reiterate that the removal of the Sunday obligation means that nobody should feel guilty if they do not attend Mass, and urge all to pray at home for the end of the spread of the virus.

Confession to be arranged by appointment.

LENT 2021

Begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17th. If, before then, you can bring to the church last year's Palms/Crosses, there will be a basket in the porch.

Ash Wednesday

There will be public Mass and Imposition of Ashes at 9.30am. The Congregation of Rites has adapted the Rite of Distribution of Ashes in view of the Pandemic. Ash will not be marked as a cross on each forehead but sprinkled over the head of each person. This will happen after the reception of Holy Communion as each person leaves the church.

Ash Wednesday at Home

The Archbishop has recommended that this year it may be best to celebrate the beginning of Lent with a Liturgy at home, especially for families with children. He reminds us that receiving ash on our heads is an outward sign of the more important inner movement of the heart to change "repent" and move closer to Jesus.

He suggests to gather at home for a time of prayer in the following way:

1. Gather and make the Sign of the Cross – "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit".
2. Read the Gospel for today - St Matthew's Gospel, 6 v 1-6 and 16-18.
3. Say the following prayer:-

Lord, God, with all our hearts we ask you, have mercy on your people and strengthen them at this time.

Without you we are so weak and need your strength. Save your people, O Lord.

Comfort those who are sick and those who mourn. Give eternal life in Your Kingdom to those who have died.

In these days of Lent may we keep closer to You, who died and rose to life, and live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

4. Make the Sign of the Cross on each other's forehead, saying either:-

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" or

"Repent and believe in the Gospel".

5. Pray together the Our Father; the Hail Mary, add prayers for others.
6. Conclude with the 'Glory be to the Father...' and the Sign of the Cross.

Confessions

By appointment.

Mass times (Public)

Saturday: 6.00pm,
Sunday: 11.00am,
4.00pm (in Polish)



Weekdays:

Mass 9.30am

Opening times for Private Prayer:

Saturday and Sunday

10am – 12 Noon

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.



Lent

Hopefully as we journey through Lent and restrictions or Tiers change, please God for the better, we may be able to open the church for private prayer and public Masses during the week. Much of that will depend on the directives about the need for stewards to be present during opening times.

Meanwhile, from the first Sunday of Lent for those who attend the public Masses the booklet which was produced two years ago based on our Stations of the Cross will be available (free or donation) for anyone to take home to pray the devotion.

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.

Parents 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.

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

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

This ongoing situation 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.

Boxing Club	}	Suspended until
Mother's Prayers		further notice

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.

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.

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.

Pay Car Park

Free Parking for Mass goers 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** Connie Coakley, Esther Quail, John Maloney, Angelina Giasullo.

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:

Vivienne Lockyear



If you would like to have a loved one's anniversary 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 should be placed in the Sanctuary. Please bring the lamp and label to the Sacristy.