



NEWSLETTER

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
27TH / 28TH FEBRUARY 2021

Catholic Church of St Mary Magdalene

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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.

Masses at 6pm Saturday and 11am Sunday will be conducted under restrictions. 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.

RE-OPENING

In reaction to the latest Government directives a gradual re-opening of services to the public is to happen.

From Monday March 1st, the 9.30am daily Mass will be public.

The Sunday 9am Mass will resume on 14th March.

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.



As for the church being open for private prayer, this can only happen if a steward is on duty in the porch. That can only happen if a good number of people are able to be part of a rota to be in church for a time. Offers would be appreciated - email the parish office.

It would be good to keep the church open for an hour after daily Mass - ie until 11am, to start with.

As for other services and Sacraments.

Public Stations of the Cross 6pm each Friday, but not 5th March.

Baptism

Up to April 12th, only 6 people to attend. From April 12th – May 17th only 15 people to attend. From May 18th – June 21st only 30 people to attend. From June 21st – the church's capacity applies ie 80 – 100.

Marriages

The same numbers as for Baptism apply.

Funerals Up to June 21st limited to 30.

These restrictions conform to Government directives and could change if the Government decides.

Confessions Up to March 7th by appointment. From 13th March usual Confession times resume.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The booklet which was produced two years ago based on our Stations of the Cross is available (free or donation) for anyone to take home to pray the devotion. The devotion will be live streamed at 6pm Fridays from 26th February (not 5th March because of Polish 1st Friday Devotions), 12th March, 19th and 26th. The church will be open at those times for public attendance.

Lent Booklets for children - there is a limited number of Day-By-Day booklets for Junior and Infant children. Please collect one at the Church Porch on Saturday evening or Sunday morning.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2021

Cardinal Nichols thanks you for your generous support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal, especially throughout the unprecedented events of 2020. Your donations help fund initiatives in parishes, schools and charities in three mission areas which are more critical than ever.

Marriage and Family Life: enriching and supporting marriages, the essential building block of society and the Church. **Youth and Evangelisation:** helping young people, the future of the Church, as they grow in their relationship with God and deepen their Catholic faith.

Caritas Westminster: putting our faith into action by serving those in need. **Education Service:** supporting our schools. This year, the Cardinal is asking us to think about families who are struggling to put food on the table. Poverty is deepening across our Diocese and the need for foodbanks and supermarket vouchers has accelerated. Through your generosity we're continuing to provide food for those people most in need. Please take a donation envelope. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

Children's Liturgy – a note for parents of young children - 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 the parish Facebook page in the form of a pre-recorded PowerPoint presentation every weekend. Please do publicise it and give feedback.

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/>

Mission Together (Red Box) has children and family resources at [Liturgical Resources - Mission Together](#)

Collect a children's Lent Day-by-Day booklet as you arrive for Mass.

These are but a few of the many resources to be found online which are intended for all ages. Do take a look and explore what is on offer for your child's Faith formation.

Confirmation

Over the past week, both the First sacraments group and the Confirmation group have begun on-line learning and meeting together; this, after faithfully carrying out home-based lessons since Enrolment Sunday, last November. Later on, if all goes well with the planned school opening, live sessions will be held in the parish hall. **Please keep all these young people as well as their families, and the catechists who devote a considerable part of their lives to preparing lessons and activities for the candidates, in your prayers over the coming weeks, with the very important hope of being able to celebrate the Sacraments in our parish during the mid-summer months.**

Boxing Club

Suspended until

Mother's Prayers

} further notice

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.

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 Magdalén's Church Whetstone on Facebook

To keep parishioners more connected during these odd times, we have created a new Facebook page - 'St Mary Magdalén'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** Beryl Miranda, Frances Brooks, Martha McGowan, Angelina Giasullo.

Frances Byrne, who died recently in a care home in our parish, has been prayed for at Mass and through the newsletter. Although not from this parish, her friend Avril is grateful for these prayers and thanks the parish. May Frances rest in peace.