



NEWSLETTER

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
31ST JULY / 1ST AUGUST 2021

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

Please note that the **parish office** is closed for August.

Live streaming access online:-

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

& click on the play button.

At all Masses 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.

St Mary Magdalen's Feast

Thank you to all who supported the celebration last weekend. It was such a success. Perhaps, because of the long absence of such an event these last few months it seemed to be the best St Mary Magdalen's Feast we have ever had.

To see at the 11am Mass the church full, and with all ages, a sanctuary packed with servers. The choir and music back with us, as were the Sacred Heart sisters – and a bishop as well. "All is not lost!" "Hope springs eternal." With the readings of the feast of St Mary Magdalen echoing those of Easter Day, it was a mini Resurrection and new life.

And the party afterwards, for weeks we have not known how to plan and pitch it. Will it happen? How many will turn up? All this was confounded. The Bouncy Slide was heavy with screaming sweaty kids – and more sedate teenagers.

Freddy – our Shetland pony friend – the star of past Palm Sundays and Christmas Nativities – made a visit with a new horse friend – to give rides to children.

At last we were able to show off our redesigned bar area and splendid new kitchen – and use them.

Patricia, Vincent & Dorothy said they were giving guided tours all afternoon, with everyone most impressed.

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.



And the imponderable weather – forecast for 80% rain – it was perfect, dry, not too hot. The BBQ was not swamped, and even ran out of burgers – until more were bought. And then at 3pm a clap of thunder, just as the slide was being deflated, a blessing from above as people headed home. An hour later the heavens opened with hours of solid rain.

What a lovely day, a joyful day.

The Feast's liturgy tells of St Mary Magdalen saying to the apostles "I saw the glory of the Risen Lord, I saw the empty tomb." We have seen so many empty tombs this last year, on Sunday we saw the glory of the Risen Lord, bouncing back in His Body in Whetstone. Deo Gratias.

The Parish Lion

Congratulations to Maro Itoje on being included in the British and Irish Lions Rugby team touring South Africa at present. The team beat the Springboks in the first Test 17/22 and Maro was named "Man of the Match". Well done.

2021 A Year of St Joseph

Pope Francis asks the Church to dedicate this year to meditate on the place of St Joseph in our faith and life. It forms part of the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church.



Bishop's Statement

It is hoped that it will be possible for all Catholics in England and Wales to fulfil this most important Church precept, that of the Sunday Obligation, by the First Sunday in Advent 2021. In the meantime, all Catholics are asked to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass and to reflect deeply on the centrality of Sunday worship in the life of the Church.

In April, following our Plenary Assembly, we offered a reflection on the experience of the extraordinary long months of the pandemic. It was titled The Day of the Lord. We also began to look at the way forward. We spoke about the important invitation to restore the Sunday Mass to its rightful centrality in our lives. We asked for a rekindling in our hearts of a yearning for the Real Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist, as our response to the total, sacrificial love that Jesus has for us. We said: "The Eucharist should be the cause of our deepest joy, our highest manner of offering thanks to God and for seeking his mercy and love. We need to make it the foundation stone of our lives."

Children's Liturgy is posted each weekend on the parish Facebook page in the form of a PowerPoint presentation – do take time to watch it with your young children. There are lots of Children's Liturgy materials on the internet, eg the CAFOD website at <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy> – also take a look at catholicising.com for Faith activities for young families.

Sacramental preparation for summer 2022 for all children

Contact Winnie Brady on **07702 094650** with your e-mail address for details of how to enroll your child for next year's courses for First Confession, First Holy Communion (Year 3 and above) and Confirmation (Year 9 and above).

Sessions for all groups will start in September. There is a two-year course for children attending non-Catholic schools.

Youth Leader Course – Rise Up – for any practicing Catholic aged 15 (Year 11) to 21 who lives, works or studies in the Diocese of Westminster. Taking place from **September to December 2021**, You will be coached to give a 15-minute talk to an audience of your choice at the end of the project having chosen a subject matter you are passionate about. There is an opportunity to achieve a nationally recognized qualification, a Level1 Certificate in Exploring Youth work, through Need2Succeed (our training partner for Rise Up). contact dowym.com/voices/rise-up-youth-project-launching-december

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.

Parish Council

Next meeting will be on **Monday 4th October** at 7.30pm in the Sacristy.

Dear Parishioners of St Mary Magdalen

Last Sunday's Mass was such a memorable day for us. It was wonderful to be invited back to Mass in St Mary Magdalen's and to celebrate with you the presence and ministry of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the parish. We were touched to see so many people there and of course the presence of Bishop John Sherrington was very special. We would like to thank everybody who

contributed to this beautiful occasion- Canon Robert Plourde, the altar servers, the choir, the ladies who arranged the flowers and of course a very special thank you to Fr Liddle who did so much behind the scenes to ensure that the celebration was so beautiful and meaningful. We appreciated very much the presentation of a plaque marking the foundation of the Sacred Heart School by our Sisters in 1936.

We really enjoyed the party in the hall after the Mass. It was so lovely to be able to meet and chat to all our old friends. Once again, thank you to all the organisers of this wonderful event, but our sincere thanks to Fr Liddle who went out of his way to make this occasion unforgettable.

We have settled in very well to our new life in Nazareth House, but we do miss you all. When all the restrictions finally lift and life returns to normal, you will be most welcome to come and visit us. Be sure we remember you all in our prayers and we ask God to bless you and protect you.

The Sisters of the Sacred Heart

Mary's Meals would like to thank everyone in the parish for their wonderful generosity. We spoke at the end of each Mass a couple of weeks ago and were delighted by the total given – a terrific £451.87. As a result of your wonderful gift 28 young children will be fed one good meal every day in their place of education for a whole school year. God bless you all.

The Trussell Trust Chipping Barnet Foodbank

Since starting the foodbank donations in late September 2020, the parish of St Mary Magdalen's have donated 1320.3kg of food to the Trussell Trust's Chipping Barnet Foodbank. This is equivalent to 150 pre-packed food parcels which would feed about 120 people. Our foodbank provide individuals and families who are referred to us in crisis with at least three days' worth of emergency food and support. We ensure that the food parcels contain healthy and balanced meals.

Every day people in the UK go hungry for reasons ranging from redundancy to receiving an unexpected bill on a low income. A simple box of food makes a big difference, with foodbanks helping prevent crime, housing loss, family breakdown and mental health problems.

As a parish, you have made a big difference. Many thanks to you for organising this, to Fr Liddle for enabling it and your parishioners for their generosity.

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 the housebound, and those in residential care and in local hospices and hospitals and **the Faithful Departed** Anna Silva.

Boxing Club	}	Suspended until
Mother's Prayers		further notice