



TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9th / 10th OCTOBER 2021

NEWSLETTER

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

Live streaming access online:-

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

& click on the play button.

It is advised that at all Masses masks 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>

Please also, if you are able to log in using the NHS app – available on the notice board in the church porch.

To those still uncomfortable with the idea of attending Mass with a larger number of people, please consider a 9.30am weekday Mass when there is plenty of space between people. It is so important we get back into the practice of gathering together to celebrate the Holy Mass and receive the grace of Holy Communion.

We have worked hard to ensure that our church is a safe environment and thank all those involved in fulfilling that.

CAFOD Harvest Fast

The CAFOD Harvest fast collection took place last weekend and the total of contributions was £823.14.

By donating to CAFOD this Family Fast Day, you can help communities affected by the worst impacts of the climate crisis.

You can donate online at cafod.org.uk/climatecrisis or call 0303 303 3030

You can also Text CAFOD10 to 70580 to donate £10.

New to the Parish

For several years now we have held twice a year an informal reception to meet with recent arrivals in the parish.

Due to the Pandemic this has not happened since January 2020. However, now that things are beginning to get back to normal, we are holding such an event at 12 noon on Sunday 31st October.

If over the last year or two you have moved into or joined the parish, we invite you to come along on Sunday 31st October at 12 noon in the hall. You will also find in the porch a green form to register with the parish. Once completed, return it to the Presbytery or Sacristy.

Pastoral Letter – Reaction

On Sunday 3rd October in a Pastoral Letter to the Diocese the Cardinal referred to the experience of the past 2 years as having seriously and profoundly disrupted parish life, calling for a refreshing and reshaping of life in the Church. He mentioned the call of Pope Francis for Christians to listen, communicate and strengthen the mission of the Church and parish.

Let me try to kick start the process with sharing some reflections.

Mass times

Saturday: 6.00pm,
7.30pm (in Polish)

Sunday: 9.00am,
11.00am,
1.30pm (in Polish),
4.00pm (in Polish)

Weekdays:
Mass 9.30am



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 4.45 – 5.45pm

Confessions

Saturday 10 – 10.30am
4.45 – 5.45pm

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.



Over the last two years I have listened to the concerns and fears of scores of people due to the pandemic. It has been a traumatic time for so many. For believers the closure of churches and the absence of gathering for the Sacraments was a real trial. Often people remarked that when the churches reopened etc people would flock back even in greater numbers. You wait until the schools get back, they will come. Although the gradual opening up of things gave a glimmer of hope for the future, that flocking back is very slow to materialise, even after the reopening of schools etc, and for some may never happen.

Having listened to the anxieties of so many these last months may I, in the spirit of the Cardinal and Pope's call for communication and listening, share my present state of mind. This is uncomfortable for me to write, as I sense it may hurt or anger some, but also a parishioner commented recently that a "wake up call needs to go out". That is the spirit in which this is written.

So many regular stalwarts have vanished from the parish's life. This is not just at the level of attending Sunday Mass, but people in parish organisations and activities. This has had and will have an impact. Personally there are a host of things I do almost daily that two years ago were done by so many others. I write this in a week when I have just done three funerals and am feeling the strain and my age!

There are activities that used to happen in the parish that I wonder will ever happen again. And yet there have been those who have been always there. I recall the Lord's words to his Apostles -" you are the ones who have stood by me faithfully in my trials ", and I am truly grateful to them.

Of course there have always been in the life of a parish those who only come when they need something – sacraments, school forms etc. That has always been a sadness. Have they lapsed, gone to other parishes?

Is livestreaming a blessing, a mixed blessing or is it being an obstacle? Can it replace live Liturgy, Sacrament and experience of being in Christ's family?

The impact on the parish's finances has been noticeable. Can things run now as in the past with fewer people, resources?

Will we be able to sustain paid employees at the present level?

I must confess to feeling more apprehensive than I did during the heart of the lockdown. I pray that the Good Shepherd will help us gather again those who have scattered. That is my present state of mind and spurred on by last week's Pastoral Letter

As in the Parable of the Sower there so much seed that seems to have fallen by the wayside, some perhaps choked off by the weeds and thorns of the last year or so, some seed seems to have had little root. The Lord's parables are timeless with a message for every age, but for the here and now this parable hits home. And yet there is that seed that fell into good soil those "people with a noble and generous heart yielded a harvest through their perseverance. Listen, anyone who has ears to hear."

Friday Weekday Mass

At the recent Parish Council meeting it was proposed and accepted that from January the Mass on Friday will be at 12.30pm, beginning on Friday 7th January. If a Holy Day of Obligation falls on a Friday the Mass times will remain as 9.30am and 7pm.

Day with Mary - Saturday 23rd October

will be held at St Mary Magdalen's this year. I have our spiritual devotions to Our Lady all day through to the 6pm Vigil Mass. Do try to pop in for some of this. The programme will be posted on the church notice board nearer the time.

Altar Servers

Due to the recent strange times, we have had to put on hold the recruiting and training of new altar servers.

If you are interested in joining the team of servers and have made your First Holy Communion, you will find a form in the porch to fill in and return to Fr Gladstone, or the Sacristy or Presbytery.

We hope to begin training sessions quite soon.

Finance Committee

Next meeting will be on **Monday 11th October** at 7.30pm in the Presbytery.

Pray for Catchuman Ho Jee Man in his final weeks of preparation for baptism.

Parish Council

Thank you to all the members who attended the meeting last Monday. It was good to welcome representatives of the Polish community to the council. It was a very constructive meeting, assessing how we move forward after the difficult months behind us.

Sacramental preparation for summer 2022 for all children

First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation Enrolment Forms for 2021-22 are available from Winnie Brady at winniebrady@rcdow.org.uk or text 07702 094650 with your email address.

Courses started on **Friday 17th / Sat 18th September.**

Boxing Club

Mother's Prayers

} Suspended until

} further notice

Small Community Faith-sharing resource "With a Father's Love" specially produced for the Year of Saint Joseph, taking us on a journey of discovery through the Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis, Patris Corde.

For personal or group use, giving a prayer-filled resource, useful for the end of the Year of Saint Joseph'. Cost £3. These are on order and will be available soon.

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 the housebound, and those in residential care and in local hospices and hospitals and **the Faithful Departed** Tony Lafferty, Barbara Oldham & Maureen Hayes.

Donate to Afghan Refugee Appeal

The Barnet Refugee Welcome Board (BRWB) who helped settle 50 Syrian refugees in Barnet over the past 5 years are now actively helping Afghani refugees who have arrived in UK and are waiting in 'Bridging Hotels' for local Councils to secure suitable housing. (If you have a 2-3 bed property in Barnet available for Afghani family to rent at LHA rates, secured by Barnet Council, we would LOVE to hear from you by email to reservepower@hotmail.com).

Most Afghanis arrived with only the summer clothes they stood up in. We are now urgently appealing for decent quality donations of following items (sizes: men / women / youths / children). If you are able to donate please phone the collection point to 'book in' your delivery to avoid finding the building unattended.

COATS & JACKETS deliver to FPS, 54 Hutton Grove, Finchley N12 8DR (0208 446 4063 – Pauline)

SHOES & TRAINERS deliver to FRS, Room 410, 184 Ballards Lane N3 2NB (07523 529219 – Anni)

TOILETRIES deliver to Quakers Meeting House, 56-58 Alexandra Grove, N12 8HG
soap shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, flannel etc. (07538 499 340 - Sarah)

Don't just feel helpless remembering the horrific scenes at Kabul airport, do something practical and helpful by donating surplus items needed by refugees living in our midst. Please do NOT bring assorted donations, we do not have capacity to sort and store, bring only what we specifically ask for above. We will ask for donations of other needed items later or cash donation to: https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/brwb_afghan Charity # 1132666

Elsie Lyons - 020 8368 5238

St Vincent de Paul Society

The parish SVP group is appealing to all parishioners for help. Please see notice board in porch for details.

Bishop Douglass is holding a Showcase Evening on **Tuesday 12th October** from 5 – 6pm. The evening will give parents and children a taster of the lessons Bishop Douglass offers.