



Newsletter

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

13TH / 14TH JANUARY 2024

Catholic Church of St Mary Magdalen

Athenaeum Road N20 9AE Tel: 020 8445 0838

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

Email: whetstone@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Ben Woodley

Email: benwoodley@rcdow.org.uk

Secretary: Ursula Campbell ~ 9-12am, Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri

Mass times

Saturday: 6.00pm,
Sunday: 9.00am,
11.00am,
1.30pm (in Polish),
4.00pm (in Polish)

Weekdays:

Mass Mon – Thurs

& Sat 9.30am

Fri 12.30pm

Rosary: after weekday &
Sat 9.30am Masses



Live streaming access online:-

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

& click on the play button.

Adoration & Benediction

Saturday 4.45pm- 5.45pm

Confessions

Saturday 10.15 – 11.00am

4.45 – 5.40pm



I am sending these words to you from Normandy, France, where I am staying with my dear parents, in what is a very rural setting currently covered in five inches of snow - beautiful. I look forward to seeing you all when I return. Please be assured of my daily prayers and Mass intentions. On this Peace Sunday, here are some paragraphs from the Holy Father's recent Message for the World Day of Peace, 2024.

The message can be found here:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/artificial-intelligence-and-peace/>. Pope Francis is deeply concerned with the dignity of the human person being cherished particularly in light of the development of what is being called, 'artificial intelligence'.

The inherent dignity of each human being and the fraternity that binds us together as members of the one human family must undergird the development of new technologies and serve as indisputable criteria for evaluating them before they are employed, so that digital progress can occur with due respect for justice and contribute to the cause of peace. Technological developments that do not lead to an improvement in the quality of life of all humanity, but on the contrary aggravate inequalities and conflicts, can never count as true progress. [8]

Reliance on automatic processes that categorize individuals, for instance, by the pervasive use of surveillance or the adoption of social credit systems, could likewise have profound repercussions on the social fabric by establishing a ranking among citizens. These artificial processes of categorization could lead also to power conflicts, since they concern not only virtual users but real people. Fundamental respect for human dignity demands that we refuse to allow the uniqueness of the person to be identified with a set of data. Algorithms must not be allowed to determine how we understand human rights, to set aside the essential human values of compassion, mercy and forgiveness, or to eliminate the possibility of an individual changing and leaving his or her past behind.

The development of a technology that respects and serves human dignity has clear ramifications for our educational institutions and the world of culture. By multiplying the possibilities of communication, digital technologies have allowed us to encounter one another in new ways. Yet there remains a need for sustained reflection on the kinds of relationships to which they are steering us. Our young people are growing up in cultural environments pervaded by technology, and this cannot but challenge our methods of teaching, education and training.

Fr Ben

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

Refreshments after 9.00am Mass

Please pop into the Parish Hall for tea, coffee and biscuits after 9.00 am Mass every Sunday, starting this Sunday. If you would like to help out and be put on the rota, please contact Anna Franchi on 07713 631389.

Events Organiser, which would include fund raising and gaining sponsorship, if you enjoy organising or would like to help the parish's social calendar, on a voluntary basis, please speak with Fr Ben.

Christmas Offering Envelopes are also available at the back of the church. This is your Christmas gift to the parish and is not taxed by the Diocese ie they do not take 30%, so if you are going away please do use it. Thank you for your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity throughout the year.

Volunteers for the Repository after Sunday 9am Mass. Please contact Claudia Centanni, on 07956 589 454, if you are available to help.

Sacramental Preparation courses are underway - please keep these children and young people in your prayers'.

Parish Hall

Our Parish Hall is available for hire.

Book it for exercise or tutoring classes, children's parties, celebrations or meetings. Services can include hourly or all-day bookings with kitchen facilities. Please contact the Parish Secretary on 020 8445 0838 for details.

Food Bank

Donations are vital to support local families in need so please continue to place any donations, however large or small, in the yellow buckets in the porch. Please check the Trussell Trusts' Chipping Barnet website to see what items they are most in need of each week:

<https://chippingbarnet.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/> or our own page on Facebook.

11am Mass Choir

We are always open to new members joining us. We rehearse at 10.15am. each Sunday to learn the music for the Mass. Come along and try it out, we are keen to find younger voices (10 and over) and male voices to get a good balance of sound. Instrumentalists also welcome, Grade 3 and over.

For more information call Vicky on 07934 651491 or come and see me after the 11am Mass at the back of the Church.

Pay Car Park

Free Parking for Mass goers is:- **Saturday 5.30pm-7.30pm and on Sunday 8.30am-5.30pm**, we must adhere to them, even by a few minutes!

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

If you have received a PCN for any of the Christmas Masses, please pass it into the office as soon as possible.

PRAY for those who are sick especially Margot Williams, Luciana Maestranzi, Patricia Rutt, Nora Prior, Vlasticha Marek and Peter Carney. We also pray for the housebound, and those in residential care and in local hospices and hospitals and the Faithful Departed especially Frances Ogbolu, Liz Hughes, William De Souza, Mary Richardson & Sean Carey.

Hospital Admissions The religious status of patients admitted to hospital can be overlooked or not registered.

Please make sure that this information is registered with the Ward Staff.

The **SVP** are distributing **over 10,000 Vinnie Packs** containing cold weather essentials to the homeless this winter. Please could you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.20 per pack? Donations can be sent to **Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ** with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West **sort code 60-60-04, account no. 4608 8237** . Thank you so much for your support

The Governors of Loreto College (St Albans) have recently agreed to propose some changes to their admissions criteria for 2025/2026. The full detail is available on the website.

<https://www.loreto.herts.sch.uk/Admissions/Admissions-Consultation-2025/>

Written comments are welcomed by the closing date of the formal consultation, 9am on 31st January 2024 – these should be emailed to swilliams@loreto.herts.sch.uk

An **experienced HR professional** with over two decades of experience is presently looking for a new position. Please contact 07852 861681 for further information. Thank you.