



Newsletter

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

20th / 21st 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



Adoration & Benediction

Saturday 4.45pm- 5.45pm

Confessions

Saturday 10.15 – 11.00am
 4.45 – 5.40pm

24(25):4-5. 6-7. 8-9. R.v.4

Lord, make me know your ways. JMcC



Live streaming access online:-

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

& click on the play button.

As rational creatures, we, humans, have been created with a capacity and yearning to understand, to learn, and to live lives which flow from what is true, what is wise. A friend, last week, was sharing with me how she was amazed by a large monkey which had learnt to touch the screen of a mobile phone to change the image; this creature has learnt to do

this by copying humans. It made me think less of the ability of the monkey and more on our capacities. The distance, the un-crossable bridge, between a monkey and a human being is immense. In fact, it is not a difference in degree at all, but a difference of essence: the monkey does not have a rational soul; the monkey is not made in the image and likeness of God. The monkey cannot choose to seek truth, cannot choose to serve, cannot choose to live a life which is inspired by eternal beauty, cannot worship. Do we really see how profoundly different we are to all creation? Do we grasp a little of, for Whom we are made?

This Sunday is Sunday of the Word of God. Pope Francis instituted this special focus on the Word of God, the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, in 2019, on the 1600th anniversary of the death of the most eminent of all Biblical scholars, Saint Jerome (c.342-420), who wrote, "ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ". As God created humankind to be intelligent and to learn, God has given us the Holy Bible, the Word of God, which contains such writings, such historical references, such teachings as to fill our minds and hearts with the actual necessary human words which can lead the humble person to salvation, the goal of every word in the Holy Bible being Jesus Christ.

The Holy Father, referring to *Dei Verbum* from the Second Vatican Council, and to Pope Benedict XVI's *Verbum Domini*, reminds us that all Scripture is inspired, that the Holy Spirit, Who inspired the sacred authors, is at work in the humble human soul as he or she reads the words of salvation. Pope Francis refers us to the Road to Emmaus, from Saint Luke's Gospel (24:13-35), where we see Jesus explaining to the disciples, whose hope in Jesus the Messiah had deeply waned, that the Scriptures point to Him. This is truly brought to glorious perfection when they realise at supper, at the breaking of bread, that Jesus was with them. Yes, the Word of God, the Scriptures, the Holy Bible, is the living Word which (Who) leads us to the Person of Jesus, in His holy Flesh and Blood.

The question then poses itself to us: as rational creatures, creatures made to know, love, and follow Truth, do we choose to read, do we choose to be moulded by, do we choose to be inflamed by the sacred words of salvation? In an age, where we are literally surrounded by human words and human opinions, as if they are the ultimate word, let us remember the words of the Apostle Paul, to whom Pope Francis refers, "all scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness". As creatures, deemed worthy of the sublime and beautiful Saviour, Jesus Christ, let us rediscover our profound need and longing for the sacred Scriptures, for the Word of God. May the Word be God be ever more deeply revered in our families.

Fr Ben

Thank you for your donations to the **Cardinal's Holy Land appeal** which raised £539.42.

The Cardinal has asked each parish to hold a second collection next weekend and writes "The Parish Priest of the Church of the Holy Family in Gaza City and the CEO of the Latin Patriarchate say the situation they face is grave and most demanding. We were told that there are still 600 people sheltering and being cared for in the parish compound, together with over 50 seriously disabled and vulnerable children. Water and food can be bought in the local markets at much inflated prices. With the damage inflicted on this site some time ago now, cooking hot meals is only possible three times a week. The parish is also providing for 200 people in the Orthodox property as well as for local Muslim neighbours.

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.

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.

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 goes 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. However, if the fine has been paid, we are unable to recuperate.

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.

March for Life UK

Would you like to connect locally, in-person, with other people who support the pro-life cause? March for Life UK are inviting people to be part of a new initiative called 'Connect' which will help establish local pro-life groups to pray, fundraise, socialise, educate and get involved in outreach. To find out more and be part of an initial online meeting please email Isabel at info@marchforlife.co.uk

*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

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Afternoon of Reflection on **Saturday 10 February** from 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm at St Georges R.C. Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Road London SE1 7HY

The Reflection will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Holy Mass, Way of the Cross, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information

A Day with Mary are holding a pilgrimage to Fatima from **Friday 7th – Friday 14th June**. Please notice board for more details.

The Westminster Cathedral Choir School has chorister opportunities for boys with musical potential in Years 2, 3 or 4.

Every September, WCCS welcomes up to 6 choristers into Year 4 or 5. Becoming a chorister at Westminster Cathedral offers boys the opportunity to sing both here in central London, and on tour internationally, in one of the world's great choirs. Boys also receive an outstanding education at one of London's leading schools, up until the end of Year 8.

Understandably, families (even those with musical children) may find the whole idea of a choir school mystifying. That's why this year we are offering families the chance simply to explore the idea by joining us and other families on a brief Zoom call. We take a behind-the-scenes look at the life of a chorister, focusing on what it means to board, and why being in a top choir is such a joyous experience.

*Our next Zoom sessions, each lasting 30 minutes, are at 6.30pm on **Wednesday 31st January** and **Wednesday 13th March**. Families contact Lucy Auger for a link. Email lauger@choirschool.com*

Please see noticeboard for more details.