



Newsletter

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

27th / 28th 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

Live streaming access online:-

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

& click on the play button.

When we consider Moses, we approach a man to whom the Lord revealed that He is Being itself. At the Burning Bush, (Ex 3:14), when Moses asks for a name to take with him to the oppressed Israelites, the Lord declares, "I AM WHO I AM". As we see this is not a name but rather the most fundamental statement about existence; in the Lord's Being all creation participates to a greater or lesser degree. We also recall how Jesus in Saint John's Gospel, (Jn 8:57-58), says, "The Jews then said to him, 'you are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?' Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am'". Jesus refers to Himself as the very same, "I AM".

Moses is referred to as one who would speak to the Lord face to face, as a man speaks to his friend, (Ex 33:11); indeed, the Lord makes a special

concession to Moses as no man can see the face of God and live, (Ex 33:20). Traditionally, too, it is not only the Ten Commandments which were bequeathed to the human race through Moses, but the entire Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament; indeed, the whole first five books of the Holy Bible is referred to as the Law.

So, in our first reading for this Sunday from Deuteronomy, Moses is speaking about another who will come after him. For another prophet to exceed Moses is going to be quite someone. This one will actually speak with such authority that his words will have the same final authority as the eternal Lord.

Jesus, in Saint Mark's Gospel, has just defeated the temptations of Satan in the wilderness for forty days. By His authority He has bound Satan. And here in Capernaum, in the synagogue, an unclean spirit – one of Satan's army – is fully aware Who Jesus is, that His authority is absolute. The people in the synagogue are also stunned by Jesus' authority. We see that this is not only good teaching, not only a holy presence, such as Moses possessed, but something decidedly more. The Greek word used for Jesus' authority in the Gospel is, 'exousian'. This can be translated as 'coming out of being'. Jesus' very teaching and presence flows from Being itself, the I AM. Jesus is the I AM in human flesh, Whose authority flows from One Who is one with the I AM WHO I AM. Let us listen to and obey Him.

Fr Ben

Carnival 2024

*On **Saturday 10th February** – after 6pm Mass we will hold our Pre-Lent Carnival Party. Ideas welcome, to go with the usual activities: Pancake Races, Pinata, Palm Cross burnings and Fireworks. As always, offers of help welcome. There is now a basket in the porch for you to return last year's Palms before Ash Wednesday – 14th February.*

There are now lists at the door inviting offers of help to set up and clear up, and also donations of food such as sandwiches, sausage rolls and quiches.

Food can be brought to the hall from 4pm on the day.

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 this 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.

Baptism

Parents wishing to have their child/children baptised are asked, in the first instance, to contact Fr Ben, or to speak to Winnie Brady, for details of the forthcoming Baptism preparation course, which is due to begin in the next few weeks. Regular attendance at Sunday Mass is a pre-requisite prior to preparation for and celebration of the Sacrament.

Stations of the Cross

During Lent, the Stations of the Cross will be celebrated on Saturday evenings at 5.00pm prior to 6.00pm Mass, instead of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Also, on Thursdays at 6.30pm. Everyone is encouraged to take part in this most holy remembrance of Our Lord's Passion.

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

PRAY for those who are sick especially Deborah Longford-Ross, 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 Peter Jackman.

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

Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes

On **Saturday 10th February** at 2.30pm, Cardinal Vincent will celebrate the Annual Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes at the Cathedral, during which anointing of the sick will be offered.

Please contact the office as soon as possible, to book free tickets indicating the following:-

1. Wheelchair users who require anointing
2. Walking sick who require anointing
3. Those assisting the sick, who **do not** require anointing.

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.