



Newsletter

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

6th / 7th 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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

RESPONSE:



Live streaming access online:-

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

& click on the play button.

In the Psalm for the Epiphany we read, "the kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him". These place names signified far off and exotic places, places which did not profess the Jewish faith, but it is, still, to the Lord, to the King of Israel, that all nations and all kings shall pay homage. In Isaiah, too, we read of distant nations, nations who were not of Israel, coming to pay homage, coming to give to the Lord the very best they have.

As we hear loud and clear during this Christmas Season, the Word was made flesh (Jn 1:14). This Word, Jesus Christ, is the Word through Whom all creation comes into existence from nothing, and, furthermore, is sustained in existence (Heb 1:3). In short, every cell, every atom, every created thing, everything that can change, is held in life by the Word, by Jesus. That is the Christian claim and there is a vast armoury to support this claim, to encourage us in freely choosing the Light, Who is calling each of us.

Any man or woman who sincerely yearns for what is actually always true; any person who is radically open to the mystery and majesty of life, which transcends and heals any tragedy and also escorts every human success into its true perspective; any man or woman who is so, is responding to the Way, the Truth and the Life, Who is Jesus. There is no other. In the Gospel we learn of the wise men, who though not Jewish, were looking for the Truth, were studying the constellations, were reading in the Word's creation signs which were pointing to the Crib, pointing to the Baby Jesus. All creation, for those who will listen, points to, sings of Jesus, the Lord. How will we then respond? The gift is given.

The wise men are not the same after their encounter with the Baby Jesus. Before meeting Him they are prepared to offer their very best, this sings movingly of their hearts' dispositions. Following their adoration of the Baby Jesus, their lives take a new route. They will not be led off course by a wicked wolf in sheep's clothing, Herod. This Epiphany, may we, whatever age, come to know Who Jesus is. May we follow the Way, which is His Way. May we see in the beauty of creation the Word's majesty and sublime attention to detail. May we resolve to offer our very best, which is a life, after Mary's example, which seeks to magnify the Lord in all things. Poor as we are, let us offer Him our hearts, our minds, our bodies, our souls; for He can, and does, and will, glorify us.

Thank you to all who helped with the preparation, donations and serving at the Afternoon Tea on Friday 29th December. It was a relaxing afternoon, blessed with a good turn out, and particularly heartening to see so many of the Confirmation Candidates, whose presence made this Christmas gathering a time of fellowship for all generations. We were also gladdened to see Fr Gladstone at the Mass before the Tea.

There will be a **Second Collection** this weekend for those suffering the in the Holy Land.

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 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.

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.