



# Newsletter

THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

10<sup>TH</sup> / 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024

Catholic Church of St Mary Magdalen

Athenaeum Road N20 9AE Tel: 020 8445 0838

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

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Parish Priest: Fr Ben Woodley

Email: [benwoodley@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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

## Station of the Cross

Saturday 5.00pm- 5.40pm

## Confessions

Saturday 10.15 – 11.00am  
4.45 – 5.40pm



Live streaming access online:-

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

& click on the play button.



Mass Book Page No 137

As we prepare for Lent, Ash Wednesday is the 14<sup>th</sup> February, the Gospel for this Sunday is so very helpful. At the heart of the Gospel is the Greek word, σπλαγχνισθεις, which can be pronounced as 'splanchnistheis'. In our translation it says, "feeling sorry", this really does not do justice to the depth of Jesus' compassion towards the leper. Lent is truly a time of approaching the Lord with our wounds laid bare, with a humble admitting of our sin; let us not be downcast with our weakness, do not give any despair the slightest moment, for the Lord

will never turn us away, in fact, the Lord Jesus, Son of Mercy and Righteousness, hungers to cure us, as He said to the leper, "of course I want to!" he said. 'Be cured!'"

The first reading from Leviticus shows how those who had *Mycobacterium leprae*, leprosy, were to be treated. They were to wear ripped clothing – remember how the priests would rip their clothing when Jesus would declare His divinity as a sign of outrage, of disgust – this was sign of their uncleanness, their not having a place within the community. Too, they were to have their heads uncovered, another sign which was contrary to the state of one who was ready to pray within the community. Whenever the leper was on the move he or she would need to cry, "unclean, unclean", to warn others of their proximity. As priests were not as knowledgeable in the field of dermatology as many are today, you can appreciate just how many men and women would have been ejected from the community for fear of infecting others within their contagion. To be cut off from all human society would have been deeply wounding.

Let us return to this leper from the Gospel. First, the most extraordinary reality is that he actually approaches Jesus. The leper would have known that to approach anyone was strictly forbidden, for you would render the other person impure and possibly infect them, too. But our leper has faith in Jesus: he is on his knees, he is pleading. How well this chime with the Entrance Antiphon from last Sunday's Mass, "bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God". Now we come to the Greek word which describes the compassion of the eternal Son of God, Jesus, born of Mary, σπλαγχνισθεις. This word has its roots in the inward parts, the nobler entrails: the heart, lungs, liver, and kidneys. Jesus was moved in these deep parts, he was moved in the very depths of His being: body and soul. Jesus knows are suffering, He is the eternal physician of both body and soul. Approaching Him in faith is the way to new life.

We might not have the visible showing of leprosy, but what are the areas of our characters that are leprous? Are there parts of us that can infect others truly for ill? Are we unwilling to be changed by the compassion from heaven, Jesus? What is holding us back from giving all we are to Him, Who is the power to bring us to heaven, sins, leprosy, washed away? Do we need greater courage, the courage of the leper in the Gospel, to admit our sins, our weaknesses, without fear, before the Lord? Lent is a time of such possibilities. With the leper, let us kneel before Jesus.

Fr Ben

**Carnival 2024** - after 6pm Mass we will hold our Pre-Lent Carnival Party. 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.

We plan to repeat **Frugal Lunches** after the 12.30pm Mass each Friday in Lent. They were popular when started last Lent. The first will take place on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February**.

## 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.

## The Journey Towards the Synod of Bishops in October 2024

In preparation for the meeting of Bishops in Rome, this October, our Bishops have asked us to have two meetings during the month of February to reflect upon mission within the parish. Our thoughts will be given to the Dean, who, in turn, will bring the whole Deanery's reflections to our Bishops. The meetings will be in the parish hall this **Monday 12<sup>th</sup>** and on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February** from 7 – 8pm. Thank you.

**CAFOD Family Fast Day** falls on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** with a collection after the Masses 17/18 or 24/25 February. This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give today using the envelope or online at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk) and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families.

### **CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal**

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [cafod.org.uk/ipc](http://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.

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

**Lent Day-by-Day Booklets** - for Children and Adults will be available this weekend, from Children's Liturgy catechists or from a basket at the church porch. Please give a donation for Adult booklets.

### **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.

### **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, 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 & Lydia Thielamay.

**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 Catenians** would love to welcome you to London Northern Heights. We form part of an international network of Catholic men and their families who aim to support those in need or less fortunate, whilst creating a space to socialize with like-minded people.

Please see notice board and parish website for more details and email Mick Cunningham on: [michaelcunningham@live.co.uk](mailto:michaelcunningham@live.co.uk)

### **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](mailto: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 **St Michael's Lourdes 2023 Team** thank the parish for your support for their pilgrimage to Lourdes

What is the mission of a Red Cap?

"12 students of St Michael's join the young volunteers from all around the Diocese of Westminster to serve as "Red Caps" in Lourdes- to assist, help and care for the sick, elderly and disabled pilgrims. It is the Red Caps role to help their pilgrim in whatever capacity they are required to – mainly taking them to the main services while in Lourdes: taking part in the liturgical processions, and celebrations; on a visit to the grotto or taking them to the shops or even to a café for a coffee. The Red Caps help the sick and elderly pilgrims with their needs throughout the pilgrimage, ensuring all pilgrims get the most out of their time in Lourdes." (Students' sharing)

**"Walk in their shoes"** – is a sponsored walk for Together in Barnet on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> of March**. Please see 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 13<sup>th</sup> March**. Families contact Lucy Auger for a link. Email [lauger@choirsschool.com](mailto:lauger@choirsschool.com)

Please see noticeboard for more details.

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