



Newsletter

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

24TH / 25TH FEBRUARY 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

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONE DURING MASS, THANK YOU

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



Response



Live streaming access online:-

Mass Book Page No 155

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

& click on the play button.

Station of the Cross

Saturday 5.00pm - 5.40pm
Thursday 6.30pm - 7.10pm

Confessions

Saturday 10.15 – 11.00am
4.45 – 5.40pm

Last week the readings led us to consider the historical fact of the Original Sin. Before this Sin, our sinless first parents, Adam and Eve, lived in sublime harmony with the Lord, between each other, and with all creation. Adam and Eve enjoyed specially given graces by the Lord, which were above nature, they were supernatural, these gifts gave them immortality and a fundamental integrity within their entire person. From the moment Eve listened and gave credence to the serpent, and was not helped by her husband, Adam, to ward off the attack, for he was by her side (Gen 3:6), the subsequent history of our one human family has known suffering and death, the effects of sin.

The Original Sin caused all who share in human nature to lose the original supernatural gift of immortality, we can call this a privation of grace; the wound of the Sin made it harder for human nature to pursue virtue consistently; and it also affected the reason's pursuit of what is true. Human nature is still essentially good but it is wounded and this wound cannot be healed by us. It is a very deep reality. Depending on our self-awareness, it is possible to recognise within ourselves an inclination to do what is not good. Saint Paul speaks so eloquently of this in Romans, (Rm 7:13-20), and Saint Augustine in his Confessions, Bk 1, ch 6 & 7, speaks of the natural inclination of 'innocent' children, who, nevertheless, exhibit signs of this wound of nature. Naturally, we can follow many paths of self-help, we can treat symptoms, but still the spiritual wound perjures. This deep sin requires, demands a deep saving act.

Enter the Son of the Most High. Enter His Cross, upon which He took away the guilt and punishment due to sin, all sin. When Jesus defeats the snively serpent Satan in the wilderness, by not succumbing to temptation, the Original Sin is being atoned for; ultimately Jesus' suffering and sacrifice upon the Cross is the perfect and eternal sin offering, with power such as we can only stand with mouths agape. Every Sacrament receives its power from the Light of the risen Saviour, every Sacrament. This Light, this grace, has the power to heal so deeply within our souls that we begin to be made fit for heaven. To even write these words is beyond joy.

Men and women, through the centuries, have devoted their lives to be remade in the glorious Light of Jesus, through lives of prayer, service, and moral beauty. They have seen, they have heard, they have understood that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. This Sunday the readings teach us how we need to have our faith tested and purified – we read of Abraham and Isaac, who are prepared, in deep faith, to obey the Lord, regardless of cost; and also how the Lord will give us deep spiritual consolation to follow Him at all times –

we hear of the ravishing beauty of the Transfiguration. Christianity teaches that each of us is called to be remade in grace, won and freed for us by Jesus upon the Cross. Our faith needs to be tested and purified so that we can gradually learn how precious Jesus is, and live lives focused on true priorities and humble gratitude. Lent is the time to enter this path.

Fr Ben

Altar Servers' Enrolment will take place this Sunday at the 11am Mass.

The following altar servers will be enrolled into the Guild of Stephen at that Mass when they will receive the Bronze medal: Isabella Cutler, Angela Fernando, Michelle Fernando, Anton Fernando, Aaron Levy, Hailee Levy, Susan Nammi, Shona Silva, Analisa Thomas.

Frugal Lunches are after the 12.30pm Mass each Friday during Lent. All welcome.

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 next meeting will be in the parish hall on **Monday 26th February** from 7 – 8pm. Thank you.

CAFOD Family Fast Day was on **Friday 23rd February** with a collection after the Mass this weekend 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 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 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.

Sacramental Preparation for children and young people who attend non-Catholic Schools

If your child is attending a non-Catholic school, and you wish them to be prepared to receive the Sacraments in Summer 2025 - please make note that a new course will commence after Easter, in April. Dates and times of the sessions are to be advised, but in the first instance, please contact Winnie Brady on 07702 094650 or winniebrady@rcdow.org.uk to register an interest.

(It is important to note that the Diocese of Westminster now asks for an extended period of preparation for the Sacraments for all who attend a non-Catholic school.)

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.

PRAY for those who are sick especially Deborah Longford-Ross, Luciana Maestranzi, Patricia Rutt, Nora Prior, Vlasticha Marek Elsie & Paddy Lyons 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

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

"Walk in their shoes" – is a sponsored walk for Together in Barnet on **Saturday 2nd 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 13th March**. Families contact Lucy Auger for a link. Email lauger@choirschool.com

Please see noticeboard for more details.

A Day with Mary are holding a **pilgrimage to Fatima from Friday 7th – Friday 14th June and Italy 4th – 12th September** further details available at www adaywithmary.org or email adwmary.uk@gmail.com Please also see notice board.

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony - Westminster Cathedral, **Saturday 25th May** at 2:30pm.

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their **5th, 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60)** wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give your parish clergy the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email).