



Newsletter

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

3RD / 4TH 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

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



Praise the Lord who heals the broken - heart - ed.



Live streaming access online:-

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

& click on the play button.

Adoration & Benediction

Saturday 4.45pm- 5.45pm

Confessions

Saturday 10.15 – 11.00am
4.45 – 5.40pm

In the readings for this Sunday, we are presented with the power of the Lord to transform the way we relate to the Lord, to ourselves, and to each other. This is such an important truth. The fundamental axiom of every human life is our relationship with the Lord. Psalm 139 captures this truth perfectly, "O Lord, thou hast searched me and known me! Thou knowest when I sit

down and when I rise up; thou discernest my thoughts from afar. Thou searchest out my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether".

In the first reading from Job, Job has become so twisted and embittered by what the Lord has permitted to unfold in his life. The Lord listens to Job as he deeply moans about his predicament. But the salvation which comes to Job does not answer the calamities which befell him, no, it is rather the very presence of the Lord Himself which causes Job's heart and mind to expand beyond his deepest and imaginings, "Then Job answered the Lord: "I know that thou canst do all things, and that no purpose of thine can be thwarted. [] Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. [] I had heard of thee by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees thee; therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes".

Job becomes a new person, one who is utterly transformed from the inside out by the Lord. It is from this change that all those who would now meet with Job would have been astounded by his love and faith in the Lord. When we consider Saint Paul, we remember a man who spent so much energy trying to thwart and destroy the way of Jesus Christ, but the Lord's love transformed him into a one of the greatest Apostles, the greatest of missionaries. To bring Jesus to 'all men' is his purpose of life, for being a follower of Jesus brings peace and reconciliation with heaven. Saint Peter's mother-in-law immediately rises from her fever and waits on those present. Jesus, again, has the greatest effect on humans: spiritual, intellectual, and physical.

As we live the gift of our lives, may we actively choose to follow Jesus, may we actively choose to open our hearts, minds, and souls to His risen glory, which is able to enter every human person and bring a new and holy purpose. If we have true humility to approach the Lord Who is already calling out to us, He will grant us healing which leads to the joy of eternal life, even now, for He is the Way.

Fr Ben

Carnival 2024

Next **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.

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** last weekend which raised £1,504.85.

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 on **Monday 12th & Monday 26th February** from 7 – 8pm. Thank you.

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'.

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, 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 & 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.

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 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 13th March**. Families contact Lucy Auger for a link. Email lauger@choirsschool.com

Please see noticeboard for more details.