



Newsletter

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

9th / 10th MARCH 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



Live streaming access online:-

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

& click on the play button.

Mass Book Page No 166



Response: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I re-mem-ber you not!

Station of the Cross

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

Confessions

Saturday 10.15 - 11.00am
4.45 - 5.40pm

Our first reading from 2 Chronicles is the last book of the whole Bible in the Jewish tradition. In this short extract we are given a succinct summation of salvation history: how the Lord gives, offering a mutual loving bond, how His people then turn from the Lord, breaking their freely made promises, and how the Lord will, after chastisements after correction, offer yet another covenant, another way forward. In our reading we learn how the Lord sent messenger after

messenger, and that Israel's response was to ridicule, despise, and laugh at His prophets, until their infidelity warranted the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem.

Now for the Jewish man or woman the Temple of Jerusalem can be summed up in those words from Psalm 48, "Mount Zion, true pole of the earth, the Great King's city!" (Ps 48:3). Other translations render it as: "His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great king" (Ps 48:1-2). Zion is another name for Jerusalem, referring to one of the hills which comprises Jerusalem, rather like Mount Moriah, where Abraham would be tested in the virtue of faith by the Lord, by the suggestion that he sacrifices his son, his only son, Isaac. Jerusalem, at the heart of which is the Temple, is thus the religious, the cultural, the political centre of the universe. For the Lord of all creation, Who is Himself outside of all time and space, to dwell amongst His people was a treasure for which no word, no price can ever be adequate.

The behaviour of the Lord's chosen people, so unfaithful, so ungrateful, so arrogant, necessitated the Lord departing from His Temple (Ezekiel 10:18) and permitting it to be burned, demolished, and destroyed (2 Chr 36:19). His people were led into exile. A time of soul searching, a time of honest reflection on how they betrayed the Lord. And as the Jewish Bible ends, we read how the Lord God led and inspired a pagan king, Cyrus of Persia, to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem, to invite the exiled Jews to return to offer worship to God.

The Lord of Hosts always opens a path. It is His gift, His Way, His light which saves. Holy Scripture in the Bible, the Old Testament which we share with the Jewish people, promises the Son, a child born for you, Who will be the eternal Father, Who will suffer and die for the sins of many. God Who gives has given Himself; the definitive Prophet, Priest, and King. The Light, which was spoken into creation (Gen 1:3), before the creation of the sun, moon, and stars (Gen 1:14-19), has been born. Light which cannot but purify and save when we freely turn back to Him. This Light dwells in His Tabernacles in the Catholic Church. The true pole of the earth is amongst us. Let us not be disorderly attached to whatever holds us back, whatever gives us what we want, when and how we want it. Jesus is leading us to eternal pastures, that is the purpose and journey of life. Live the eternal vision. We only truly are in Christ.

Fr Ben

Frugal Lunches are after the 12.30pm Mass each Friday during Lent. All welcome. Financial contributions will go to Mary's Meals.

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.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2024

If you can, please show your support for the Cardinal's Lenten Appeal. All funds raised go towards projects across our Diocese. Each year, the Diocese uses donations made to support the work of our services, such as Marriage & Family Life; Youth Ministry, and Education. Funds are also used to support the work of Caritas Westminster, who work for and with some of the most vulnerable people in our Diocese. His Eminence, Cardinal Nichols, has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. So, please take a donation envelope today, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity.

A **silver bracelet** was been taken from the font. It was left there after accidentally falling into the Holy Water pottery jar. Please return to the Presbytery as soon as possible, as it is very sentimental. 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.

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.

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, Bridget Gavigan & 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

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.

As part of our Lenten devotions, **Westminster Cathedral Choir** will perform Johann Sebastian Bach's retelling of St John Passion. The event will take place on **Thursday 14th March** at 7.30pm at Westminster Cathedral. Please see notice board for more details.

Discounted tickets are available at the following link, using the offer code below:

https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/event/1F00602BD7A81B4F?di_d=sjp30 Offer Code: **SJP30**

Young Adults LENT RETREAT DAY with the Assumption Sisters & Fathers on **Saturday 16th March 11am – 7pm**. Venue: the Assumption Priory, Victoria Park Square, London E2 9PB (closest tube station: Bethnal Green). Programme: including talks • prayer, adoration and confessions • Stations of the Cross • faith sharing • mass and social time. Donations only. Register by emailing to: tramy@assumptionreligious.org

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).