



Newsletter

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

16th / 17th 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

Station of the Cross

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

Confessions

Saturday 10.15 – 11.00am
4.45 – 5.40pm



Mass Book Page No 173

Live streaming access online:-

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

& click on the play button.



Here is, absolutely and wonderfully, the glory of the Christian faith peering through the Hebrew scrolls of the Old Testament in this Sunday's reading: the Prophet Jeremiah prophesies, "See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel (and the House of Jacob), but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. [] No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people".

The Lord is clear that the covenants which He has continually established through the centuries need to give way, need to be brought to full fruition, to blossom with a deeper covenant. We need to receive the Spirit of God into our very hearts in such a way that our thoughts and motives, our actions and deeds, will be a living beacon to the Lord. Jeremiah (Jer 4:4), and Moses, too, in Deuteronomy (Deut 30:6), speak of the need for our hearts to be circumcised. This is not, in this instance, referring to a physical procedure; no, the Lord, speaking through His Prophets, is preparing His people for the "days" when the Lord will send His Spirit in such a way that we will become – body and soul – the Lord's people.

The Gospel reading and the Letter to the Hebrews teach that for this to happen a sacrifice of such purity, of such infinite goodness will need to be offered. The covenants which have been ratified throughout the centuries have invariably been sealed in blood. This act has many meanings. It reflects on the seriousness of sin, that to turn from the Lord is to choose death, and for that to be atoned, to come back into the Light, a sacrifice, an act of reparation is necessary. We must also see that what happens on earth, how we choose to live bears fruit which points beyond this life. Heaven and earth are in the closest bonds. In these covenantal sacrifices the blood binds God to man, and vice versa, and when the Israelites accept these covenants they are saying, in effect, that if we betray the covenant then our blood will be spilled, too. Powerful.

All this is because the Lord truly desires our complete wholeness, our becoming holy. As the Lord knows fully, and as Jeremiah teaches with his customary fearsome clarity, "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately corrupt; who can understand it? 'I the Lord search the mind and try the heart, to give to every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings'". Jesus, by means of His suffering and death, by means of the spilling of His Precious Blood, has truly paid the total price for all sin, all sin. Pentecost was the revelation of the Holy Spirit being sent by Father and Son to write the Law of the eternal God into and onto the human heart. In Jesus internal re-creation is possible. Circumcision of the heart is offered; the prophecy of Ezekiel is coming in these "days", "A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you []. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances". Jesus, the eternal wheat grain, has fallen, has died, and has now risen to everlasting glory – receive Him in your heart.

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.

Swanky tea & coffee after the Easter Vigil

You are most welcome to join Fr Ben in the hall after the Easter Vigil for a very apt to celebrate the Resurrection. There will be chocs, prosecco, panettone, teas and coffee.

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'.

Good Friday morning Stations of The Cross at 10.00 o'clock - **All** children are invited to take part in the celebration of Jesus' journey to the Cross - please let Winnie Brady know if you are able to take part in the rehearsal on Saturday, 23 March at 11.00am in the church (07702 094650)

There will be celebratory refreshments in the Hall **after the Easter Vigil Mass** - if you are able to help please speak to Fr Ben or to Winnie Brady

Lunch Party for Senior Citizens - on Sunday, 7th April - at 1.30pm in the Hall - offers of help with refreshments; donations of food; and general assistance are needed. Please sign the list at the back of church if you can help, or contact Winnie Brady on 07702 094650

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 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.

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

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).

Lourdes Pilgrimage 19th- 26th July 2024 - Registration for the Westminster diocesan pilgrimage led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols is now open via the application form on <https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or by contacting the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173. Options to travel by plane, train or coach are available and there are many volunteering opportunities for those wishing to serve.

All applications to join this year's pilgrimage need to be submitted by Tuesday 30th April.