



Newsletter

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

23rd / 24th 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



Ps 21(22): 8-9. 17-18. 19-20. 23-24. R.v.I



Mass Book Page No 180

Live streaming access online:-

<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

Communion

Please lead from the **front** when coming to receive the Eucharist.

It may take a little time for us all to remember this change. So, please stay seated if there is a queue forming and you find it difficult to stand for periods.

Near to the seminary, where I received seven years of formation, there is a church called Santi Biagio e Carlo ai Catinari. In English it means Saints Blaise and Charles, the ai Catinari refers to the many carpenters who, specialising in wooden bowls, lived in that area during its construction in the sixteenth century. Above the green door of the main entrance there is a well-weathered blueish oval painting on stone of Saint Charles Borromeo, San Carlo, with his hands clasped together, his head slightly tilted back, and his eyes gazing into the purifying mercy and love of God. Above this painting - which consoled, challenged, and taught me over many years - one reads the single word, painted in black paint, as fresh as the Day is young, humilitas (humility). This word is surmounted by a sculptured stone crown which protrudes from the façade of the church. In all the bustle, heat, and distractions of Rome, San Carlo had chosen the better part and it was not to be taken away from him (cf. Lk 10:42). That one word, humility, was Saint Charles' motto as a Bishop, it is, also, a towering theme through Holy Week, which we have now entered.

Fulfilling the prophecy from Zechariah, "Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on an ass, on a colt the foal of an ass", Jesus enters Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Yes a colt is a humble animal, for this was no military manoeuvre exhibiting majestic horses, generals, and princes. The Prophet also says that the king is triumphant and victorious; these two accolades are not to be grasped in merely worldly terms. The humility of Jesus is our key to peace.

On Palm Sunday, Saint Paul to the Philippians - this reading has also, unsurprisingly, been set to utterly sublime chant: *Christus factus est*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBpcA5g6YVs> this performance is sung by monks from Brazil - explains that the God the Son, equal to the Father, did not spare Himself the condition of assuming our human nature - with all its limitations - and then accepting death, death on a cross for us. This is where the complete triumph and victory lie, as mentioned by Zechariah. On Maundy Thursday, Jesus will wash His disciples' feet. Again, this is a humble act, normally assigned to a household slave, but the Greek text reveals that when Jesus lays down His outer garments, and then when He picks them up afterwards, the verbs in question are the same verbs used to describe His laying down His life on the Cross, and then His picking it up again at the Resurrection. That the eternal Son of God, in eternal communion with the eternal Father and Spirit, would delight to die for us, sings of the humility of God to offer us salvation. Are we ready yet to live this with gratitude?

Saint Mary Magdalen appears frequently in the readings this week. On Palm Sunday, a long and venerable tradition teaches that it was she who anointed the Sacred Head of our Lord at Bethany; on Good Friday, she is standing with Our Blessed Lady, Mary, at the Cross; on Holy Saturday, she takes spices, with other women to anoint, what she thinks will be, a dead body; and on Easter Sunday she sees the empty tomb and runs to tell Saint Peter. Saint Mary Magdalen was a woman whose former ways and life were shattered by the humility of Jesus. That God would come to suffer, die, and rise to offer eternal love for each of us, became, and rightly so, the complete focus and goal of her earthly sojourn. O, the humility of God, the humility of Jesus Christ. We all need to have our ways, our thoughts, our hearts, our minds, shattered by the humility of the Lord, Who will show us His way this week, this Holy Week. His love is the only way to life.

Fr Ben

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.

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)

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.

PRAY for those who iare 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.

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!

Over Easter, the car park will be free only during the following times: -

- Thursday 28th March from 6.30pm to 9.30pm
- Friday 29th March - All day
- Saturday 30th March from 7.30pm to Midnight
- Sunday 31st March from 8.30am to 5.30pm

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.

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.