



# Newsletter

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

3<sup>RD</sup> / 4<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:whetstone@rcdow.org.uk)

Parish Priest: Fr Ben Woodley

Email: [benwoodley@rcdow.org.uk](mailto: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 158

## Station of the Cross

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

## Confessions

Saturday 10.15 - 11.00am  
 4.45 - 5.40pm

On two past Mondays, during February, different people from our family have met to listen, pray, reflect, and share their thoughts on how they personally can contribute to our mission at Saint Mary Magdalen's. And this is at the heart of synodality: how each of us can contribute to our shared mission. The roots, the etymology, of the word synod are: 'syn' which means with and together; and 'hodos' which means a way, or journey. We can understand a synod as a meeting of those who are present journeying, pilgrimaging, together, with each other.

Our two synodal conversations, as encouraged by our Bishops, took place as part of the Church Universal but also as a living encounter between members of the Body of Christ in Whetstone. One of the particular aspects of a synodal conversation is that it is an actual gathering of people at a particular time in response to specific questions; gatherings at which a humble prayer to the Holy Spirit is said. At the heart of the prayer we find: "teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right". We see that a synodal conversation is not asking for responses to questions placed in a newsletter, neither is it an opportunity for someone to merely say 'their own thing', heaven forbid.

The two central strands of thought mentioned by the Bishops were co-responsibility and formation. Co-responsibility awakens each of us to the unique chrism, gift of the Holy Spirit, that we have received by the Sacrament of Baptism and how we must live that out in and for the Church. **All the Baptised** are co-responsible for the Body of Christ, the Church. **All the baptised** are co-responsible for the saving mission of the Son of God, Who came to suffer and die, for our sins, and then rise to justify our eternal salvation. And regarding formation, the formation of each and every Christian is fundamentally our own responsibility. As each one of us has been gifted with a rational soul, we are truly creatures who need to understand our Faith; also, the amount of formation which has been and is offered, taking into account future plans, too, in our parish is a testament to the joy and purpose that we attach to formation here. We can never stand still. Please do be proactive in your formation. Some of our parishioners recently mentioned to me how they are reading through Genesis and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. How excellent!

Last Sunday, at the Transfiguration, Jesus was talking with Moses and Elijah, who represent the Law and the Prophets. This Sunday our first reading is the Ten Commandments, moral teaching which is applicable in all ages to every human and the foundation of the Law. It is only in the risen Body of Jesus Christ, in Whom we are members through the costly gift of His Holy Spirit, that we are able to truly rejoice and follow the Ten Commandments both internally and externally. The mission of Jesus to be lived out in Whetstone demands members of His Body, the Church, to be truly co-responsible and hungry for formation.

Fr Ben

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** will be on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March, from 11.45am until Mass. This is for the Holy land as requested by the Cardinal.

**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.

Thank you for giving to **CAFOD's Family Fast Day** appeal this Lent. Your generous donations raised £1,006.00, given in love, will support families around the world and help them with the resources to feed their families for good. You can still give online at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk)

The **Funeral of the late Bridget Gavigan** will take place on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March** at 9.30am.

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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 13<sup>th</sup> March**. Families contact Lucy Auger for a link. Email [lauger@choirschool.com](mailto: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 14<sup>th</sup> 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](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](mailto:tramy@assumptionreligious.org)

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

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their **5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> (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).