



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
20TH / 21ST APRIL 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

Newsletter

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

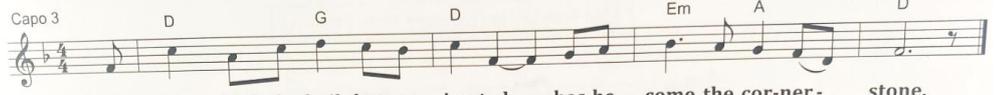
Rosary: after weekday &
Sat 9.30am Masses

Adoration & Benediction

Saturday 4.45pm- 5.45pm

Confessions

Saturday 10.15 – 11.00am
4.45 – 5.40pm



Response: The stone which the builders re- jec- ted has be- come the cor- ner- stone.

Mass Book Page No 265

Live streaming access online: -

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

& click on the play button.



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.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter, regardless of the yearly cycle of readings: A, B, or C, has as a focus Jesus the Good Shepherd.

When we contemplate the meaning of God as the Shepherd, we must start with the Trinity. We must start with the eternal, immanent Trinity, Who are Being, Who are Existence, without beginning or end, without Whom no thing could exist at all. Jesus in the Gospel says, "the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again". So are we seeing here conditional love? Will the Father only love His Son **if** He lays down His life? Is the Father saying that He will only love His son **if** He, Jesus, does what His Father wants? This would point to a servile relationship. Is the bond between the Father and the Son, in the bond of the Holy Spirit, one of, "do what I say to receive my love?" **Absolutely not.** I hear you all cheering!

We do need to start with the Trinity, well everything starts with Them, to approach the term Shepherd and its fundamental significance for us. God the Father eternally gives all He is to His Son. Everything the Son is, all He has heard, all His powers, majesty, and humility He has learnt from His Father; Jesus tells the disciples how He shares with them everything He has heard from His Father (Jn 15:15). Eternally the Father teaches, shepherds His Son after His own Heart. And the divine Shepherd gives all for the Other. The Father gives all for His Son, teaches His Son to be a True Shepherd, and the Son in return gives all to His Father, the Son is eternally begotten as the Son Shepherd. The trust between Father and Son is so perfect, so glorious, that They permit One to shepherd the Other, in the bond of the Spirit.

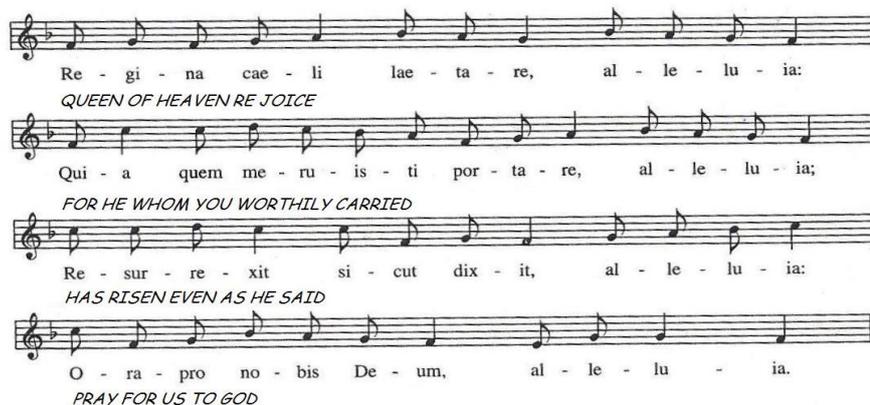
So the eternal Son is born in time, in history, incarnate of the Blessed Ever-Virgin Mary. And as He is the eternal Son in the flesh, He is also the eternal Shepherd, in Whom all authority in heaven and on earth has been given (Mt 28:18), now come to His universe where He is given a flock for whom He will give all. At Easter we essentially celebrate Jesus, the Good Shepherd, giving His all, sacrificing Himself for us, the Lamb of God, that in His Resurrection we may receive His risen power, cascading into us by the Spirit, for the eternal Good Shepherd has taken away the division of sin, death, and gone before us.

Saint Peter in the Gospel, now no more denying Jesus, has become a shepherd, filled with the Spirit. Saint Peter will lay his life down, like the Good Shepherd, Jesus, to teach others the Faith. We see that to become a shepherd is of the essence of being a human person, for the Father and the Son are Shepherds, and through the risen Son, we receive the Spirit of the Shepherd. The Church, families, and societies deeply require true shepherds. And this call to shepherd is for both sexes: Mary, our Mother, is the greatest shepherdess, for her prayers, above all humans, are the most effective in shepherding us to her Son. The Bible also names specifically Rachel, Jacob's wife, as a shepherdess. Jesus has gone ahead to heaven, He sends His Spirit to teach us, to transform us into shepherds after His own heart. How are each of us responding to our call to shepherd others to the Lord?

Fr Ben

Regina Caeli

- INSTEAD OF THE "HAIL MARY" DURING BIDDING PRAYERS THROUGH EASTER TIME



Priest Training Fund This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday and our second collection will support the Priest Training Fund. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently 49 men studying at Allen Hall seminary, 13 of whom are from our own Diocese. We also have one seminarian in Valladolid and one at the Beda, presently on pastoral placement in Ruislip. There are also two on a propaedeutic year at Redemptoris Mater. Last year 3 deacons were ordained for Westminster Diocese. The Priest Training Fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your gift ensures we can provide training for these men responding to Christ's call to dedicate their lives to serve God's people. Please be as generous as you can. Please also pray for vocations and for all our priests. If you do not have a donation envelope, plenty are still available at the back of the church. You can use the QR code to make your donation online or visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations. Thank you for your generosity.

Easter Offering Envelopes are available at the back of the church. This is your Easter gift to the parish and is not taxed by the Diocese, so if you are going away please do use it. Thank you for your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity throughout the year.

Planned Giving Envelopes 2024/2025 for existing users are available for collection in the Repository, and parish office when it is open. If you would like to have a set of planned giving envelopes for the new tax year, please let the parish office know. However, standing orders are the easiest way to contribute to the parish. Both planned giving envelopes and standing orders can allow your contributions to be Gift Aided. This means that the parish can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give. Details can be found at:

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/whetstone/wp-content/uploads/sites/80/2022/08/WHETS20.pdf> or

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/whetstone/donate/other-ways-to-give/>

Thank you for your incredible generosity whatever way you give.

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.

Easter-time Booklets for Children and Adults are available for collection in the Church porch and adjacent to the Font. Please leave a donation for the Adult booklets.

Pre-Sacramental Classes for Children who attend non-Catholic Schools will begin on Saturday, 20th April at midday in the Parish Hall. Names to Winnie Brady at winniebrady@rcdow.org.uk to register for your child.

(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.)

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. 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.

PRAY for those who are sick especially Deborah Longford-Ross, Luciana Maestranzi, Patricia Rutt, Nora Prior, 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 Sebastian Carney, 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!

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 **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.