



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

27TH / 28TH APRIL 2024

Catholic Church of St Mary Magdalen

Athenaeum Road N20 9AE Tel: 020 8445 0838

Website: <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/whetstone/>

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Parish Priest: Fr Ben Woodley

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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: You, Lord, are my praise in the great - as - sem - - bly.

Mass Book Page No 268

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.

As I look out of the windows of the presbytery, front, back, and side, I cannot but fail to be taken aback by the relentless fecundity of nature, by the sheer variety of

plants, flowers, and 'weeds', all growing in size, strength, and colour. The ivy, that tenacious and life-sucking vine, growing on the front garden trees was particularly well established, but after having thoroughly cut the vines at the base of the trees, it was so heartening to see how quickly the trees responded and blossomed with elegant beauty. All sorts grow in a garden – pruning is necessary.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks of His Father as the vinedresser. We read of pruning, bearing fruit, and of some branches being collected and thrown on the fire; the vinedresser certainly has His work to do. Jesus is the vine and His Father is the vinedresser. Therefore, for us to be made holy, for us to be fashioned anew for heaven we have to make our homes in Jesus, and He in us; we have to remain in Him, and He in us, in order that the Father, the vinedresser, can recreate us. Let's look at that again, it is the Father Who is so deeply involved with our necessary sanctification and the eternal Father can only do that in and through His Jesus. Why is that? For Jesus is forgiveness incarnate, He is reconciliation, Jesus is salvation in our flesh, Jesus is heaven on earth. At the end of the Gospel reading Jesus says, "it is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples" (Jn 8).

Jesus is the Way to the Father, the way to eternal life for He is both totally divine and fully human – heaven and creation meet in Him. When He says "I am", and Jesus says these with regards to seven objects in Saint John's Gospel, He is, each time, calling us to remember the utterly holy and eternal 'name' of the LORD given to Moses in Exodus (3:14), "I AM WHO I AM". Jesus is not a way, He is the Way. All humanity has been brought into existence through the Word – Jesus is the Word incarnate. Regarding other religions and other ways to God the Church solemnly teaches, "The Catholic Church rejects nothing that is true and holy in these religions. She regards with sincere reverence those ways of conduct and of life, those precepts and teachings which, though differing in many aspects from the ones she holds and sets forth, nonetheless often reflect a ray of that Truth which enlightens all men. Indeed, she proclaims, and ever must proclaim Christ "the way, the truth, and the life" (Jn 14:6), in whom men may find the fullness of religious life, in whom God has reconciled all things to Himself" (Nostra Aetate 2). Jesus is the Way, Jesus is God.

When we answer the invitation of the Holy Spirit, we necessarily approach Jesus in humility and in the unchanging truth that apart from Him, cut off from Him, we can do nothing true. It is only in the Son, that the Father can hold each of us – his precious sons or daughters, bought by the precious Blood of His Son. It is only when we are a part of the vine that the vinedresser can prune us, can love us, teach us, strengthen us to give Him glory after the manner of His only Son, Who has commanded us to love one another as He has loved us. As gardens need pruning, let us not shy away from how the Father needs to prune His sons and daughters in Christ.

Fr Ben

Regina Caeli

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



Re - gi - na cae - li lae - ta - re, al - le - lu - ia:

QUEEN OF HEAVEN RE JOICE



Qui - a quem me - ru - is - ti por - ta - re, al - le - lu - ia;

FOR HE WHOM YOU WORTHILY CARRIED



Re - sur - re - xit si - cut dix - it, al - le - lu - ia:

HAS RISEN EVEN AS HE SAID



O - ra - pro no - bis De - um, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAY FOR US TO GOD

The Outreach team from Caritas Saint Joseph, the diocesan agency for Intellectual disabilities, will speak at Saturday evening Mass on 4th May & Sunday 5th May Masses. They are looking to recruit parish volunteers to relaunch the special needs Saturday club, which was running one Saturday per month up until Covid happened. Please consider signing up to restart this much needed Saturday club.

Priest Training Fund Thank you for your generosity to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend which amounted to £1,327.90. It is not too late to make a donation if you wish. Envelopes are available in the back of the church, or by contacting the parish office. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood. For more information, or to make a donation, visit www.rcdow.org.uk/donations

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.

A Year of Encounter

With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. *A Year of Encounter* is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see cafod.org.uk/encounter for more information, including online sessions on Thursday 25th April and Saturday 4th May to learn more.

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/jpc 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.