



Newsletter

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

11TH / 12TH MAY 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 Book Page No 277

Mass times

Saturday: 6.00pm,
Sunday: 9.00am,
11.00am,
1.30pm (in Polish),
4.00pm (in Polish)

Live streaming access online:-

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

& click on the play button.

Weekdays:

Mass Mon – Thurs
& Sat 9.30am
Fri 12.30pm



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.

Rosary: after weekday &
Sat 9.30am Masses

Adoration & Benediction

Saturday 4.45pm- 5.45pm

Confessions

Saturday 10.15 – 11.00am
4.45 – 5.40pm

This Sunday our Parish celebrates its first of two First Holy Communion Masses. It has been a great joy to see the young people learn so much from our team of tremendously dedicated catechists over many weeks and months. But of course, our beloved children do not only learn about the Faith from their First Holy Communion classes, but true teaching, true great love for the Lord Jesus starts in the home. It is the example which is given to the children from their parents and relations which has such a pivotal and irreplaceable role. In bringing their children

to receive their First Holy Communion, those who care for them have a sense that here is a treasure of limitless importance. Indeed, it is not only the children who learn about the Faith, but it is moving to see how parents' involvement in the classes reveals where they themselves are in their pilgrimage of faith. We all need to grow in faith and love for Jesus.

We are able to receive Holy Communion first and foremost because, "God has loved us so much", as Saint John tells us in the second reading (1 Jn 4:11). God has never ceased to reach out to His children. Indeed, Holy Communion is the perfection of God reaching out to all peoples. It is for every Catholic to rediscover daily the burning love God has for each of us and to live this more devotedly, faithfully, and charitably. Saint John in the same letter states, "God is love" (1 Jn 4:16). Love reaches out to the Beloved. Jesus frequently speaks of the bond between Himself and His Father, how They are one (Jn 10:30). Both Father and Son reach out to each other in the eternal bond of the Holy Spirit; yes, God is love. Jesus, Who is Love, for God is love, reaches out to all creation for He comes in the flesh as the perfect sin offering. Saint John tells us that Jesus is the Saviour of the world. He has come to defeat every sin, every moment in history, in creation, when intelligent creatures have sinned and have not reached out to the Lord, not reached out to truly love others.

On the Cross, despite the cruelty and spiritual blindness that was in front of Him, Jesus reached out to all the universe, saying to His Father, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Lk 23:43). At Holy Communion the Lord Jesus offers us His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, He reaches out to us. In these days after the Ascension, a Holy Day of Obligation here is heaven truly being placed upon your tongue, in the palm of your hand. As we are made in the image and likeness of God (Gen 1:26) and God is love, are we reaching out to receive the Lord of eternal love worthily? Are we then loving others as Jesus commands us to? Are we becoming more aware of the depth, the cost, the life transforming Christian truth that God would reach out to us, die for us, rise for us, ascend for us? This is Who and what Love is and does, and we are made in Their image and likeness. Holy Communion is food to change us into Love.

As we witness and encourage our children to make their First Holy Communion, are we living lives that will help them to see how utterly precious and incomparable Holy Communion is? Every Sunday God commands us to worship Him, to receive His heavenly gifts. In the Gospel, Jesus, whilst referring to the fulfilment of Scripture, describes how Judas chose to be lost. Love suffered, died, rose, ascended, Love reaches out to us – but He will never force us to choose Him, for that is not love. How are we choosing the Lord in our daily lives? Is the Truth of God's love consecrating (Jn 17:19) us to grow in ever deeper love? We are made to receive Fire from heaven, may we burn with heavenly joy at all times.

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

New Mandatory Lectionary

From Advent 2024, we will have a new mandatory lectionary, which has been approved by our Bishops' Conference. This means that the readings we hear proclaimed at Holy Mass will have a different translation from the one to which we have all become accustomed. In preparing for this change, we will need to purchase a large quantity of liturgical books: four volumes for the Ambo, four smaller study volumes for everyday use, a new processional book of the Gospel, and people's Holy Mass books. In time, when amounts become clearer, it would be a worthy cause for us to consider how we might each donate, according to our means, to this necessary and sacred work. Thank you for your consideration, God bless you. Fr Ben.

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 Please email 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 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.

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.

Act now to stop DIY abortion up to birth

MPs Diana Johnson and Stella Creasy have both tabled amendments to the Government's Criminal Justice Bill that would decriminalise abortion. In different ways, they would essentially legalise DIY abortion up to birth, for any reason. Please contact your MP urgently, asking them to oppose these extreme and barbaric proposals. You can do this using SPUC's easy to use webtool, at <https://www.spuc.org.uk/abortionamendments>. The Bill will be debated on 15 May, so please contact your MP NOW.

Please pray for the defeat of these amendments, for protection of unborn babies, and help and comfort for mothers in need.

Film – A Journey to Lourdes

Mary Immaculate & St Gregory the Great parish will be showing the film 'A Journey to Lourdes' with an introduction by His Eminence Cardinal George Basil Hume OSB on **Thursday 23rd May** after 10am Mass in the JP11 Room. All welcome, proceeds for the Youth SVP Pilgrimage Fund.