



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
4<sup>TH</sup> / 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024

Catholic Church of St Mary Magdalen

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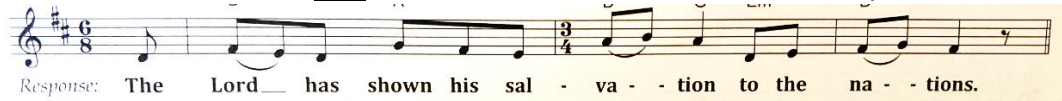
Secretary: Ursula Campbell ~ 9-12am, Mon, Tues, Wed & Fri

# Newsletter

PLEASE REMEMBER TO TURN OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONE DURING MASS, THANK YOU

## Mass times

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



Mass Book Page No 270

## Weekdays:

Mass Mon – Thurs  
& Sat 9.30am  
Fri 12.30pm



Live streaming access online:-

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

& click on the play button.

Rosary: after weekday &  
Sat 9.30am Masses

## Adoration & Benediction

Saturday 4.45pm- 5.45pm

## 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.

*The readings for this Sunday astound us by the sheer nature of God. In the readings we encounter the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus speaks of sharing with us the love He has received from His Father; Jesus says that He has*

*shared with us everything He has learned from His Father. When Jesus says that, "a man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends", Jesus is sharing with us the essence of the eternal relationship He has with the Father in the Spirit. Love is, God is, the eternal the laying down of Oneself for the Other. Jesus speaks of the joy He knows, for eternal love, eternal self-giving for the Other is eternal joy. Father and Son, in the bond of the Holy Spirit, delight in giving all for the Other. This is the eternal life of God, without beginning or end.*

*At the dawn of time, of creation, God, in Their eternal wisdom, conceived of creatures who would be able to think about, respond to, freely choose to follow God, to be friends with God in God's love, all this is only possible through our rational souls. As the eternal love of God is without any darkness, any sin, any corruption, the first human sin from our human parents wounded human nature, wounded the relationship between God and man. But as Love essentially reaches out to the other in service and generosity, God never abandons His creatures. The Lord longs for all His rational creatures to re-enter into His eternal love.*

*And so the sacrifice of His eternal Son, Jesus, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, fulfils and exceeds all the Old Testament sacrifices for sin with His limitless power and goodness. Jesus, Who is Love incarnate, offers to all Who will accept Him, Who will accept His personal sacrifice for our sins, His love. This love is the life of God and the life of heaven. This is why Saint John writes, "God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son, so that we could have life through him". It is God's love that is our Life-Blood, our Food, and we must be healed, transformed, made anew, divinised by it. Jesus is the Vine, we need the holy sap from His Vine to grow as part of the one true Vine. Think how Saint John the Baptist says, "He (Jesus) must increase I must decrease" (Jn 3:30). Saint John the Baptist is realising that only in the grace, only in the love of Jesus can we receive the Way that saves, be grafted onto the Vine.*

*The Psalm sings, "the Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and his love for the house of Israel". This reflects how the love of God, made possible for us only through Jesus' sacrifice upon the Cross, is offered to all nations, all peoples. The first reading from Acts shows how stunned the Jews are when they realise that the love of God, lavished upon us through Jesus, by the Holy Spirit, is being offered to the Gentiles, too. Saint Peter is flabbergasted that the Spirit has given them gifts to the same extent that they received at the first Pentecost. This gratuitousness of God, reaches out to all peoples and reflects the eternal communion, the eternal friendship of the three divine persons – God – and so we, thus filled to overflowing with this living love, are to love others with this same love. And so we are, "to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last" (Jn 15:16). May all peoples discover their eternal need for the love of Jesus Christ and share this with others.*

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

This Thursday is the **Ascension of the Lord** and a **Holy Day of Obligation**. Mass will be at 9.30am and 7.30pm.



The Outreach team from Caritas Saint Joseph, the diocesan agency for Intellectual disabilities, will speak at all the Masses this weekend. 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.

**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](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.

**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](mailto: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

**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).