



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF OUR LADY, OF THE ROSARY

+ 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B - 14 January 2024

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699



Your New Year's Resolution or Bust

I don't make new year resolutions but a priest suggested I resolve to take my day off each week. He has a point—I've been home twice since October. Fr Alex has fared no better. And we are not alone.

Part of the reason for this is that many priests, like us, are running multiple parishes because there is no-one available to fill all the vacancies. For three months our Mass schedule doubled and even with a few cuts it is still up 50% with two priests, not three. Plus, 44 more parish priests will retire in the next five years; three young and active in their parishes died in the past few months; and there will be 14 ordinations to replace them all in the next five years. 47 out, 14 in. Sit with that sum for a moment. Absolutely frightening, isn't it?

Hence, the clustering of parishes will increase. And I have already been warned not to expect Fr Alex to be here for much more than a year. Something will have to give here again and across our Deanery.

So, first we must shed a congregationalist mentality and accept that a favoured Mass time may change or resolve to attend Mass at that time in one of the other six churches within a mile and a half of us.

Second, people might help more with the day-to-day running of things. For example, in Marylebone people often say, "Fr Michael did that", as with putting up the crib. Actually he didn't but God bless those who responded to our call for help to erect it in time. And in St John's Wood, much of the work of our sacristans who went away for Christmas was done by Sr Brigid with a few helpers on an *ad hoc* basis but that left a lot of the little stuff to us. In both places we really need welcomers, cleaners, sacristy helpers, counters, etc., plus good H&S advice and people who could do small maintenance jobs. Please, consider doing anything you can as every little helps.

Lastly, do show people the hard copy newsletter or the websites. For example, we've advertised times to see people about school forms since October. But the 'phone has been red hot today because they "didn't know". How is that possible? The deadline is Monday and we could see them but who will say Mass, visit the sick, bury the dead?

Due mainly to administration, priestly morale is flagging. But priests don't need sympathy: they need *you* to make a resolution to *do* a little something to avoid all of us losing so much more.

Canon Kevin

Mass Times

Sunday

11:00 am (Sung Family Mass)

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

12:30pm

Saturday

6:00pm (Vigil Mass of Sunday)

Confessions (Saturday)

5:00pm—5:30pm

Church opening times

Monday—Friday

9:30am—1:00pm

Music for Sunday

- 285 I The Lord of Sea And Sky
369 Like A Shepherd He Feeds His Flock
732 This My Will
812 Will You Come and Follow Me

Sunday Readings,

- 1 Samuel 3:3-10,19
Psalm 39:2 ,4, 7-10 R vv 8,9
1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20
John 1:35-42

Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Rosary, 211 Old Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5QT

020 7723 5101 (office) 0207 286 3214 (Priests)

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/marylebone>

Parish Clergy: Canon Kevin Jordan (kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk)

Fr Alex Balzanella (alexanderbalzanella@rcdow.org.uk)

Parish Administrator: Lorraine Etienne (marylebone@rcdow.org.uk)

Parish Office Hours:: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10.30am –3:30pm

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Valeria Naipan (marylebone@safeguardingrcdow.org.uk)

Welcomer for today is Peter White

First Holy Communion Class is today at 9:45am.
The next class will be on the 28 January

Day of Recollection for Readers. On February 3 2024 we are having an afternoon of prayer, reflection, development and support for those undertaking ministries in both St John's Wood and Marylebone Parishes. New volunteers welcome. Refreshments provided

Today is Peace Sunday and the theme chosen by Pope Francis is 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'. Pope Francis' overriding concern is that artificial intelligence should be used in the service of humanity and the protection of our common home and not to further injustice and inequality or to fuel division and violent conflict. Please read the Pope's full message for the 2024 World Day of Peace here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/artificial-intelligence-and-peace/>. Pax Christi have also produced a series of resources to mark the day so visit: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday/>

This weekend is the White Flower Appeal 2024 by the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC). SPUC's vision is for a world where abortion is unthinkable. This year's appeal calls for the Government to end the pills-by-post DIY abortion policy. As well as ending the lives of precious babies, the policy lacks safeguards against illegal late-term abortions, and puts mothers at physical and psychological risk. 86% of GPs are concerned that this scheme leaves women vulnerable to coerced abortion. Please fill in a postcard, which will be available at the back of the church, and post it to SPUC. Please be as generous as you can to help defend unborn babies and their mothers by highlighting this urgent crisis. Thank you.

March for Life UK are launching their new initiative 'Connect' in 2024 to help bring together like minded pro-lifers in their own communities and turn the tide on abortion at a local level. If you are interested in being part of this, please send an email to: info@marchforlife.co.uk. More information can be found at: <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/connect/>

A Day with Mary on Saturday 20 January at Our Lady Of Lourdes & St Vincent de Paul, Harrow Road, London W9. This is a day of instruction, devotion & intercession, based on the message, given at Fatima in 1917

Worried about the climate crisis? The Westminster Cathedral Group are meeting on Wednesday Jan 17 at 1.30 p.m. in the Hinsley room. They will be studying chapters 1 and 2 of (*Laudate Deum*), Pope Francis' exhortation to COP28. Copies can be bought at St Paul's bookshop or found at https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html
All are welcome and there is no charge. See the poster in the porch.

Weekend for Women (20'-30's) 16-18 February. If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more, why not go along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, a chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them. **For more information contact Sr Lynne fcl at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit our web site www.fcjsisters.org**

Legion of Mary Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Praesidium of the Legion of Mary warmly invites you to their weekly meetings, held on Thursdays at 6pm in the Lower Hall.

Collections for weekends 7 January 2024

Envelopes	£152.50
Loose plate	<u>£374.94</u>
	<u>£527.44</u>

Many thanks.
Have a blessed week