



**CATHOLIC CHURCH OF
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
MARYLEBONE**



+ 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B - 11 February 2024

Westminster Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity Number 233699

Lent Yet Again!

There's an apocryphal story of a bishop who used to record his pastoral letters on tape to be played in the parishes. Every pastoral letter he began with the phrase "brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ". However, this year the recording tape had started to late, so his pastoral letter began, not with his usual greeting, but the phrase "Christ, it's Lent again".

The story is funny because there can be a temptation to think "oh no, we're at Lent again". We've got to think of something to give up, to remember to fast on certain days. To come to Mass and services at different times. Lent can quickly become something we need to "do" on that list with everything else.

But we should approach Lent in a very different way to our day-to-day tasks and errands. This year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day, which is fortuitous since Lent is a chance to renew our relationship with God. A chance for us to fall in love with God once again.

Lent is a time when we strip things away. We stop indulging so much in chocolate, drink or other pleasures we enjoy. We do so, not because they are bad, but because the desire for them and saying no reminds us to pray to God. It reminds us to think of the one who loves us so much, even though we rejected him, died for our sins.

Some people find giving things up not to be difficult. Others, like myself, find Lent to be a season of repeated failures and compromises. If you're the same as me, don't worry, because the purpose of Lent is not that we make it through without slipping up on our abstinence. It's meant to show us our weaknesses, how easily we are tempted and how suddenly we can fall. When this happens, we shouldn't flee God, but like the leper today run closer to him. It should motivate us to pray, to ask for more help from God in our daily lives to be the Christians he wants us to be.

Alongside fasting and prayer, we are called to remember the poor in a particular way in this season. Whether that be local or international, on pro-life or social action, we are reminded that what we do to the least of our brothers and sisters, we do also to Christ our Lord.

Fr Alex

211 Old Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5QT

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

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

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

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

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

Mass Times

Sunday

11:00 am (Sung Family Mass)

Monday,

Wednesday (Ash Wednesday) &

Friday

12:30pm

Saturday

6:00pm (Vigil Mass of Sunday)

Stations of the Cross

(During Lent)

Friday 11:45am

Confessions (Saturday)

5:00pm—5:30pm

Church opening times

Monday—Friday

9:30am—1:00pm

Music for Sunday

Sunday Readings

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

Psalms 31:1-2,5,11 R v7

1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Mark 1:40-45

The Parish Office will be closed to personal callers for the time being. Any enquiries should be emailed to either Canon Kevin or Fr Alex who will be running this side of operations as well as the usual Sacramental schedules. Please be patient and thank you for your understanding.

Ash Wednesday—14 February. The first day of Lent, a day of fasting and abstinence. Mass at 12:30pm with the distribution of ashes.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2024. All funds raised go towards projects across our Diocese. Each year, the Diocese uses donations made to support the work of our services, such as Marriage & Family Life; Youth Ministry, and Education. Funds are also used to support the work of *Caritas* Westminster, who work for and with some of the most vulnerable people in our Diocese. Please take a donation envelope today for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. Thank you for your generosity

CAFOD's 'The Big Lent Walk'. Challenge yourself to walk 200km over 40 days. Walk when and where you choose, alone or with friends. Sign up at: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>, get sponsored and raise money to help people overcome poverty.

Stations of the Cross during Lent will take place every Friday at 11:45am from 16 February.

Vocations Weekend for Women (20s & 30s) on the theme of 'Discerning God's Call in your life' from 16—18 February in Liverpool. Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See'. This weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life. Please email Sr Lynne fcJ at: fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit the website at: www.fcjsisters.org.

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Lenten Retreat on Saturday 24 February from 1:30pm - 4:30pm at St. Lawrence Church, 1 Hamilton Road, Sidcup Kent DA15 7HB. The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. Contact Millie on 07957 594 646 for more information.

First Holy Communion Programme continues after half term on Sunday 3 March at 9:45am in the parish hall.

The Annual Mass for Matrimony will be celebrated in the Cathedral by the Cardinal on Saturday 25 May at 2:30pm for couples celebrating significant wedding anniversaries. Full information to follow when available.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2024 will take place from 19 - 26 July 2024. Join the pilgrimage as a pilgrim. Serve the sick as a St Frai Helper (18+). Support the sick by sponsoring a St Frai helper to care for them on the pilgrimage and praying for our care team. Please see the poster in the porch.

Catholic Listeners is a confidential helpline. The service, part of the Diocese of Westminster, is for those who are returning to the Faith as well as to support those who need someone to talk to. Although not a counselling service, there is a professional team trained in signposting callers to other services/agencies. For information email catholiclisteners@gmail.com or call 0800 448 0704.

Offerings. Standing orders are the easiest and best way to give regularly and can be set up via <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/marylebone/donate/other-ways-to-give/>. If you are a tax-payer, please Gift Aid your donation using the link on that page or by clicking here <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/marylebone/wp-content/uploads/sites/188/2022/07/MARYL20.pdf>. This form will allow the parish to claim 25 pence back from HMRC for every £1 you give in any way at all at no cost to you for an almost indefinite period. If you currently have envelopes and would like a new set for the coming tax year, please write your name, address and current envelope number on a piece of paper and drop it through the letterbox of the presbytery. However, standing orders really are the best way to give. To Gift Aid using the *Dona* machine, follow the prompts to register each card or 'phone—this machine does not recognise a person but the medium through which you give.. God bless you for however you give to your parish and to those in need.

Job Vacancies. For details regarding diocesan job vacancies, please visit <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk>.