Our Lady's, St John's Wood & Our Lady of the Rosary, Marylebone

54 Lodge Road, NW8 8LA 020 7286 3214 parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood parish.rcdow.org.uk/marylebone https://www.facebook.com/ourladysjw



SERVICE TIMES

St John's Wood

Sunday Mass 6:00pm (Sat), 9:00am (Sung), 10:30am (Sung Latin), 12noon (Sung), 6:00pm

Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 10:00am; Thursday 7:00pm

> Stations of the Cross (During Lent) Thursday 6:15pm

Confessions Saturday 10:30am-11:00am; 5:15pm-5:45pm

Separate leaflet available for Holy Week and Easter Week

Marylebone

Sunday Mass 6:00pm (Sat), 11:00am (Sung Family Mass)

Weekday Mass Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12:30pm

> Stations of the Cross (During Lent) Friday 11:45am

Confessions Saturday 5:00pm-5:30pm

Separate leaflet available for Holy Week and Easter Week

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One of life's great ironies is that when I think my homily isn't much aood people seem to aet something from it. Last week was a case in point. So for those who thought they were spared my ruminations I quoted the title character from The Talented Mr Ripley: "the past you put in a room in the basement, lock the door and walk away. You want to give the key to someone but you believe the things in there are too bad and they make you unlovable."

All of us have things in a basement room in our lives, things we did or said that make us cringe when we remember them. They are things that we believe make us unlovable. And so we push them back down into the darkness only for them to pop up again at the most inappropriate moments.

But when Christ told Peter and His other apostles that they could free us from our sins (John 20:23), He not only gave them the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven but also the key to that basement room in our lives and the authority to empty it of all we consider shameful and bad in our lives.

Talking Rubbish

In addition, while we consider that those sins make us unlovable, the reality is that it is precisely because of them that Christ came and suffered and died on the cross. In other words, it is those very sins that make us lovable to Him unto death.

With that in mind you will find a leaflet with additional times of confessions over the next two weeks in both our parishes at the back of the churches, on the websites, and on the St John's Wood Facebook page.

A wise woman once said, "There is no pit so deep that God is not deeper still" and that is true of His mercy and love too. So don't, like Ripley, be "destined forever to be trapped in the basement". Hand the key over to the minister of Christ's love and free yourself.

Take this opportunity to get rid of all the baggage each of us carries around with us; to talk out the rubbish and be at one again with ourselves and God; to flood that darkest place with the light of Christ; to know that we are infinitely loveable. In fact, I'm off to do that right now.

Contact Information

Parish Clergy: Canon Kevin Jordan kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk Fr Alex Balzanella alexanderbalzanella@rcdow.org.uk

> Parish Sister: Sr Brigid Collins, RSM brigid@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Kathleen Reddington stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk/ marylebone@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Reps: Frances Uchea (St John's Wood) stjohnswoodsg@ safeguardrcdow.org.uk Valeria Naipan (Marylebone) marylebonesg@ safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Director of Music (St John's Wood) Martin Toyer martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk

Forthcoming Events

Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Matrimony 25 May 2024 at 2:30pm at Westminster Cathedral. Please register your details via the parish office before 31 March.

A Day With Mary 2024 Pilgrimages Fatima (7-14 June) and Italy (4-12 September) information available at: <u>www.adaywithmary.org</u> or email <u>adwmary.uk@gmail.com</u>

PARISH NOTICES

A Holy Week and Easter Week leaflet with the times of all Masses and Confessions for the remainder of Lent and Easter week is available to take home with you today. Please give them out to people who might be thinking of coming to our parishes over Easter.

Easter Offering. This week you can take home an Easter offertory envelope. This is your Easter gift to the parish which can be given in at any time during Holy week and the Easter season. Thank you for your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity throughout the year and especially in these difficult times.

UCM (Union of Catholic Mothers) will be having an Easter Egg Hunt and Easter quiz for the children and an adult Easter Raffle with some great prizes after the Sunday morning Mass today from 9:45am -11:30am in the St John's Wood upper parish hall. £1 per child. All are welcome.

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers. If you have not already done so, please sign up for the Holy Week and Easter liturgies outside the sacristy at St Johns Wood and the porch at Marylebone.

Funeral of Brenda O'Callaghan will take place at Our Lady's , St Johns Wood at 11:00am on Friday 22 March followed by committal at West London Crematorium. May she rest in peace.

Peter's Way of the Cross performance will be hosted at the Church the of Immaculate Conception, Farm Street on Friday 22 March at 7:00pm. Event is free. No booking required. A collection will be taken to support the work of the Westminster Diocese Lourdes Pilgrimage. Please see the poster in the porch.

Big Church Clean at 6:30pm on Wednesday 27 March in St Johns Wood. Easter treats provided, all are welcome. If you can also help with the regular church cleaning throughout the year, please contact Kathleen in the office.

Good Friday Walk of Witness starts at St Johns Wood Church, Prince Albert Road, at 9:00am and ends at St Pauls Church, Rossmore Road. All parishioners are welcome to attend. All children who would like to be part of the Passion Procession are asked to contact Sr Brigid at: srbrigid@gmail.com.

The Bi-Annual Concelebrated Requiem Mass at St. Mary's Cemetery, Kensal Green NW10 5NU, will be on Monday 17 June at 11:30am.

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 19 -26 July 2024. Registration for the pilgrimage led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols is now open at: https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lo urdes/ 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 30 April.

Ways to Donate to your Parish and to Gift Aid your Donation. Details are at the following links: http://tinyurl.com/OLSJW (St John's Wood and http://tinyurl.com/OlMarl (Marylebone).

Contactless Giving Devices are also available in the church for parishioners who would like to donate to the parish in a swift and simple way using a contactless debit/credit card or smart phone/ device to make a donation.

Thank you for your donations whatever way you give.