

OUR LADY'S,
ST JOHN'S WOOD &
OUR LADY OF THE
ROSARY, MARYLEBONE

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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

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

+ 3RD SUNDAY IN LENT PAGE 154 -YEAR B - 3 MARCH 2024

Upping the Ante

Looking at the three pillars of Lent in no particular order, I imagine we're all going to look fit and healthy after fasting from our little treats for six long weeks. Well I hope so or there'll be one parish priest even less jokey than normal.

And while I am sure you are all quietly giving alms to a wide range of charities, the olivewood carvings you bought from the Good Shepherd Company raised a magnificent £2500 across both parishes to aid the dwindling number of Christians left in Bethlehem. That's just wonderful.

Indeed, I have no doubt those beautiful holy images will aid all our prayer lives, prayer being the other great foundation of a good Lent. But there is another particular type of prayer I should like to address. In fact it is the most perfect form of prayer because, in the words of St John Vianney, it is not "the work of man" but "the work of God".

I refer to the Mass when earth is united to Heaven; when we join our prayers with those of the saints in the very presence of God; when we

ask that God's holy angel takes our sacrifice and all we offer it for up to His holy altar and gives us in return every "grace and blessing".

Seeing the Mass in this way helps us to understand how it truly is the most sublime form of prayer and that there can be nothing better.

And yet, all too often, while everyone at the Mass has their own things and people to pray for for, there isn't anyone who has asked the entire congregation to unite their prayers around a specific intention. When the priest announces this intention it prompts everyone to pray for graces and blessings on a certain deceased relative or a sick friend, a fraught situation, a worrying development in a loved one's life, and so on. This involves giving a stipend which is an offering made for the Mass to "keep" the priest for a day, a nominal sum of £10.

So if you would like to create a real storm of prayer this Lent for any special reason, please see Fr Alex or me in Marylebone or contact Kathleen in St John's Wood. Let's up the ante on our prayer to the highest it could be. Canon Kevin

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Clergy:

Canon Kevin Jordan
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Fr Alex Balzanella
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Parish Sister:

Sr Brigid Collins, RSM
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Parish Administrator:

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Parish Safeguarding Reps:

Frances Uchea (St John's Wood)
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Director of Music (St John's Wood)

Martin Toyer
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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:
www adaywithmary.org or email
adwmary.uk@gmail.com

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

19 - 26 July 2024

Please see poster in the porch.

PARISH NOTICES

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2024. To donate, please take an envelope from the back of the church or use the QR code on the poster in the porch or visit:
www.rcdow.org.uk/cardinals-appeal/

CELEBRATE is an online Family Activity Pack for Lent full of ideas to help families engage with prayer, fasting and almsgiving this Lent, and it is free. Visit:
<https://www.celebratetrust.org/onlinfamilyactivitypacks>.

SVP Foodbank Collection at St Johns Wood will take place next weekend on 9/10 March.

Funeral of Mary Conneely will take place at Our Lady's at 12:00 noon on Friday 8 February followed by committal at West London Crematorium. May she rest in peace.

Inclusive Mass. *Caritas* St Joseph's regularly supports Masses which celebrate the gifts of all people and are especially for those who have learning disabilities, their friends and families. The next such Mass takes place at the Parish of Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St George, Enfield on 9 March at 3:00pm. For more information please visit:
<https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/events/>

Bach's St John's Passion. As part of its Lenten devotions, Westminster Cathedral Choir will perform J.S. Bach's St John Passion on Thursday 14 March at 7:30pm. 30% Discounted tickets are now available at the following link, using the password below.
<https://www.ticketmaster.co.uk/event/1F00602BD7A81B4F?id=sjp30>
Password: SJP30.

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Lenten Retreat on Saturday 16 March from 1:30pm - 4:30pm at St Scholastica, 17 Kenninghall Road Clapton, London E5 8BS. All welcome. Please call Millie on 07957 594 646 for information.

Young Adults Lent Retreat Day with the Assumption Sisters & Fathers on Saturday 16 March from 11:00am - 7:00pm at the Assumption Priory, Victoria Park Square, London E2 9PB (closest tube station: Bethnal Green). The programme includes talks, prayer, adoration and confessions, Stations of the Cross, faith sharing, Mass and social time. Donations only. To register email:
tramy@assumptionreligious.org.

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 on Sunday 17 March, from 9:45am - 11:30am in the St John's Wood upper parish hall. £1 per child. All are welcome.

Retrouvaille is a programme for couples struggling in their marriages. Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue, or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? *Retrouvaille* support couples who have these difficulties. For confidential information or to register for the next programme commencing with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City 14-16 June, telephone or text 07887296983 or 07973380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit: www.retrouvaille.org.uk.