

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

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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

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

Confessions

New Time

Saturday 5:15pm-5:45pm

+ FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
PAGE 264 -YEAR B - 28 APRIL 2024

Vines, Marriage and Christian Life

Today's Gospel is one I often encourage couples to pick for weddings. Usually, they're keen too, with both bride and groom looking forward to enjoying a glass once all the church and legal matters on the day are finished!

Vines, though, are also a beautiful symbol of marriage and Christian life. When a couple talks about why they're marrying, they hopefully begin by saying they love and complement each other.

In that sense, couples can be understood as two plants in a garden that help each other to grow. One provides shade and protection, whilst the other has a large root network that provides good drainage. Both plants win from this relationship.

This is a view held by many, however the Catholic vision of marriage is somewhat different. Instead of two plants, it uses the image of a single vine. One of the fascinating facts about vines is that you can graft a young vine sapling onto an old vine. The new plant that's created from the two is filled with vigour and energy from one whilst benefitting from the root network from the other.

Central, though, is that one can't talk about the two vines once they've been grafted. They are now a new vine, a new creation, if the vine yields bad fruit or is susceptible to disease, they can't be separated. Their destiny is now one.

The same is true for marriage, it isn't just about liking someone we complement. It's about loving someone so utterly we want to surrender ourselves so that we can become a new creation with them. To many outside the Church, it can appear we are selling ourselves short. But rather it is embracing a radical image of love and a far more beautiful, powerful and impressive life than we could ever achieve on our own. We're taking a leap of trust on someone we love, and God to support us in that adventure.

It is such love that Jesus showed when he took on human nature and became one with us, accepting human limits. We need to be willing to be branches on the vine with him, to be grafted onto him, to live in accord with him. For giving of ourselves, he shares the gift of divine life with us too.

Fr Alex

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Clergy:

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Director of Music (St John's Wood)

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 19 - 26 July 2024.

Registration for the pilgrimage is now open at:

<https://rcdow.org.uk/pilgrimages/lourdes/> or contact the Pilgrimage Office on 020 7798 9173.

Applications to be submitted by Tuesday 30 April.

Ascension Thursday

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

10am, St John's Wood; 12.30pm Marylebone; 7.30pm St John's Wood

Confirmation at St John's Wood

Bishop Nicholas Hudson presiding.
Thursday 9 May, 7:30pm

PARISH NOTICES

Priest Training Fund – Thank you. Thank you for your generosity to the Priest Training Fund collection last weekend. It is not too late to make a donation if you wish. Envelopes are available in the back of the church. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood. For more information, or to make a donation please visit: <https://rcdow.org.uk/donations/>

Columban Missionaries Mission Appeal 2024 – Father's Tom Ryan and Kevin McDonagh will be visiting our Parishes this weekend to hold their annual Mission Appeal. The Columban Missionaries were originally founded in 1918 as the Irish (Maynooth) Mission to China. Following their expulsion from China in 1952 they began working in other countries around the rim of the Pacific ocean, such as the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, Chile and Peru. Father's Kevin and Tom worked for many years in Peru and have a wealth of missionary experience to share. Your support is very much appreciated. Thank you.

Tea & Coffee.

St John's Wood - After the 9:00am Sunday Mass.

Marylebone - After the 11:00am Sunday Mass 28 April, 2 June, 30 June and 14 July.

This is a lovely way for parishioners to broaden their friendships. It would be wonderful if we had some more volunteers at both parishes. Please contact Kathleen in the parish office if you can help.

Our Lady of Willesden annual May Procession in honour of Our Lady takes place at the Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden NW10 9AX Sunday 12 May at 3:00pm. Please see the poster in the porch.

Annual Eucharistic Octave and Central London Corpus Christi Procession. The Diocesan Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament, Corpus Christi, Maiden Lane will again be hosting a Eucharistic Octave from 25 May to 2 June. This has been organised by several London parishes to celebrate our Eucharistic Lord in the lead up to the Solemnity of Corpus Christi and includes the celebration of Masses in the various Rites of the Church and the Quarant'Ore devotions. Full details at: <https://catholicengland.org/programme/> and on poster in the porch.

Vocations Day: 'Come and See'

Men who are interested in exploring vocations to the priesthood or the permanent diaconate are invited to 'Come and See' on Saturday 1 June, 10:00am-2:00pm in Our Lady's Hall, at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Harpenden AL5 2BD. Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided. To find out more and to register attendance please contact: Canon Roger Taylor at: rogertaylor@rcdow.org.uk or Deacon Adrian Cullen at: adriancullen@rcdow.org.uk or call 07961 594725.

Legacy Gifts. You might like to consider how you could make a lasting impact by supporting the the Diocese of Westminster, your parish or an aspect of our outreach in your Will. We all benefit in some way from the kindness of Legacy gifts. For more information please visit: <https://rcdow.org.uk/donations/legacy/>. Leaflets are also available at the back of the church.

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