

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
10:00am
Thursday 7:00pm
Friday 10:00am
Saturday 10:00am

Confessions

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

Adoration

Saturday 10.30am-11.00am.

Marylebone

Sunday Mass

6:00pm (Sat), 11:00am (Sung)

Weekday Mass

Monday
Wednesday & Friday 12:30pm

Confessions

Saturday 5:15pm-5:45pm

Adoration

Saturday 3pm-5.30pm

+ FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
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The Art of Finding the Right Words

Language is a curious thing. Take the Italian word *macchina*. It can mean a car, a machine, or even a camera. Its entirely possible to have multiple *macchine* in a single sentence: "Stavo guidando la macchina con un caffè, preso dalla macchina, e la mia macchina fotografica nel bagagliaio della macchina" In English, that's: "I was driving the car with a coffee, from the coffee machine, with my camera in the boot of the car".

Translations can be tricky! In terms of the Bible it's even harder. It was originally written in Greek and Hebrew and over many centuries, during which the meaning and inference of the text changed.

This Advent, parishes in England & Wales begins using the English Standard Version for the readings at Mass, replacing the Jerusalem Bible. The main difference is that JB is poetic and paraphrases the text, losing some of the literal accuracy. By contrast ESV offers greater clarity and faithfulness to the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures. In Isaiah 7:14, the JB says: "The maiden is with child." It certainly gives some of the meaning. The ESV, however, reads: "The virgin shall conceive and bear a son."

This translation more clearly portrays what the Hebrew is saying, and points to the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy in Matthew 1:23, in the Nativity of Jesus Christ.

It may be that you don't notice the change at all. At other times the readings may seem slightly different. It may be you prefer the Jerusalem texts. That's okay. Jerusalem will continue to be a treasure for personal prayer and study. As St. Paul wrote, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16)

St. Jerome, who faced these same challenges in translating the Bible into Latin, famously said: "When we translate the Scriptures, we must not think of words, but of their sense." The ESV's careful balance of faithfulness and clarity invites us to hear God's Word afresh, challenging and inspiring us as disciples of Christ.

Let's embrace this new translation as a reminder that the Word of God, though eternal, always calls us to deepen our understanding and renew our journey of faith. "Stay with us, Lord, on our journey."

Fr Alex

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Clergy:

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Director of Music:

(St John's Wood)
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

A Day With Mary

St George's Cathedral, Southwark
Saturday 14 December from
10:15am to 5:15pm.

Mass will be celebrated by the
Archbishop of Southwark Diocese,
John Wilson. Information at:

<https://www adaywithmary.org/>
or
<https://eventcatholic.com/>

Annual Christmas Celebration in Westminster Cathedral

takes place on 18 & 19 December
at 7:30pm. Tickets are now on sale
and can be purchased from the
Cathedral Gift Shop or from:
www.ticketmaster.co.uk
For full details please see the
poster in the porch

PARISH NOTICES

Advent Giving Calendar. Today is the beginning of Advent, a period of preparation for the coming or birth of Jesus Christ. With the cost of living crisis, many in the community face difficulties. The Advent Giving Calendar gives us an opportunity to do something practical and help those who may need extra support with food this Christmas. A calendar has been placed on the noticeboard in the porch. For each day of Advent the calendar suggests an item to bring. These should be placed in the collection box at the back of the church. The items will be given to our *SVP* who will distribute the items to our local food bank. Please check the calendar today for items to bring this week. Thank you.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation in 2025. Application forms for both Sacraments are available to collect from one of the clergy after Mass. Confirmation candidates must collect the forms themselves. Only if you can attend all sessions should you post completed forms through the rectory door at either parish by 12 noon on Tuesday 10 December.

If you are applying to Catholic nursery, infant and junior schools

please read the Guidance for Clergy <https://catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/admissions>. If you meet the criteria for a priest to complete a Certificate of Catholic Practice form, contact Kathleen in the parish office. If emailing please include your telephone number. Appointments will take place at the St John's Wood parish office.

Rest in Peace, Henry Alphons Van Buren. Requiem Mass is at Our Lady of the Rosary on Wednesday 4 December at 12:30pm, with committal at Westminster Mill Hill Cemetery at 2:00pm.

The Guild's Advent Lecture | The Church at Work. Fr Nicholas Crowe OP will explore the Church's mission as a personal responsibility for all baptised Christians. Event takes place on Friday 6 December at 7:00pm at St Patrick's Catholic Church, Soho Square. Tickets cost £12 at: www.guild-ransom.co.uk. Please see the poster in the porch.

UCM Afternoon Vintage Tea takes place in the Upper Hall in St John's Wood on Saturday 7 December at 2:00pm. Tickets for the event (£10 per head) plus raffle tickets (£1 per ticket) will be available to purchase after all Masses. If anyone can donate a prize for the raffle this will be greatly appreciated. Donations can be left at the parish office. Please see the poster in the porch. You can also follow our UCM via Instagram by clicking this link: https://www.instagram.com/union_of_catholic_mothers/profilecard/?igsh=aHgZyNiajYwYThx

2025 Jubilee Holy Year. Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee – an event that happens every 25 years. The theme for the upcoming Jubilee is “Pilgrims of Hope”. It is a particular year set aside to encourage the faithful to embark on pilgrimages, to repent of their sins and forgive the sins of others, and to renew a focus on the spiritual life. It will begin on Christmas Eve and will run until the Feast of the Epiphany in 2026. The diocese is organising several events (eg Jubilee walks—visiting sites of local saints). In accordance with the Holy Father's decree, several churches will take a special role in the Holy Year and we look forward to visiting them during the Jubilee. In addition to the Cathedral, the church for our area will be The Shrine of Our Lady of Willesden. Prayers cards, booklets etc... for the Jubilee will be available in due course.