

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

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

Confessions

Saturday 10:30am - 11:00am
5:15pm - 5:45pm
& 30 minutes before weekday Mass

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
& 30 minutes before weekday Mass

Adoration

Saturday 3pm-5.30pm

+ THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
PAGE 87 - YEAR C - 15 DECEMBER 2024

Are We Nearly There Yet?

Most parents will have heard that phrase on a car journey. If you've flown internationally, you might have experienced the adult version: watching the little plane on the screen in front of you inching a few pixels closer to your destination every hour, longing for your escape from confinement in a cramped aeroplane.

The reality is that waiting, whether we're young or ... less young, can be a challenge. To cope, we often distract ourselves. We play a game, watch a film, or "doom scroll" on Instagram. But when we do this constantly, we miss the opportunity to grow in the virtue of patience—of being expectant for something good, of using the time to prepare ourselves well or to see opportunities for goodness. In Advent, we prepare for the coming of Jesus: both the celebration of His birth at Christmas and His return in glory at the end of time, which can come at any moment. This season invites us to take stock and put our lives in good order ahead of the Christmas celebration. If we spend December endlessly distracted by drinks, mince pies, and socialising, we miss a

wonderful opportunity to prepare ourselves for the Lord.

So we should prepare—through prayer, good works, and striving to grow in virtue. But we mustn't think of the coming of the Lord as though it were an exam looming on the horizon. Instead, Christ's return should be something we eagerly anticipate.

This week, to help us prepare well, the focus shifts slightly—not so much on how we prepare for the Lord's coming, but on recognising how near the Lord's coming is. As St Paul says in our second reading, "the Lord is at hand." It's a little foretaste of what Christmas and Christ's return are about. This is why we hear the word "rejoice" repeated in our liturgy: to remind us that Advent is not a slog but a time of preparation for a wonderful destination.

So let's remember to rejoice, remain eager for the coming of the Lord, and prepare well—without losing ourselves in the distractions that surround us.

Fr Alex

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Clergy:

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Director of Music:

(St John's Wood)
Martin Toyer
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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Big Church Clean

at Our Lady's
on 16 December at 6:00pm.
Refreshments in the hall afterwards.

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

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme.

At the moment both of our churches benefit from this scheme, which allows us to recoup 20% of the cost of maintenance, redecoration and alterations to listed churches. We are asking parishioners to write to their MPs, asking them to look at this omission in more detail. A simple form has been created by the Bishops' Conference and takes less than two minutes to fill in: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/listed-places-of-worship-grant-scheme/>

An Advent/Christmas Leaflet with the times of all Masses and Confessions for those seasons are available to take home with you today. Please give them out to people who might be thinking of coming to our parishes.

Advent Giving Calendar items

should be placed in the collection box at the back of the church. The SVP will bring them to our local foodbank. Please check the calendar on the noticeboard in the porch today for items to bring next week. Thank you so much for your support to those in need this Advent.

Christmas Offering. This week you can take home a Christmas offertory envelope. This is your Christmas gift to the parish and is not taxed by the Diocese, so if you are going away please do use it. Thank you for your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity throughout the year.

Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

Volunteer lists for Christmas are available outside the sacristy at St John's Wood and inside the sacristy at Marylebone. Please sign up to read and help with Communion. Servers should sign up too, but check with their parents first.

The Christmas Big Clean needs you to help give an added sparkle to our well-kept church and sanctuary at St John's Wood. Please come along to the church on Monday 16 December at 6:00pm followed by putting out the crib and festive refreshments. Ana will be coordinating the clean so our church is pristine for Christmas. All are needed and welcome. Remember 'many hands make light work.'

SVP Vinnie Packs cold weather essentials for the homeless. To sponsor a pack at £4.20 each please send your donation to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ, cheques payable to SVP or via BACS to NatWest S/C 60-60-04, A/c Nr 46088237.

Nativity Play Rehearsal

for Christmas Eve will take place on Saturday 21 December at 4:30pm. If you would like your child to be involved as a shepherd or an angel, please contact Sister Brigid.

Crib Offerings will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society to support their work with local children and families, many of whom are facing severe hardship due to the cost-of-living crisis. Thank you for your support.

The Religious of the Assumption

are inviting single women (18-30s) to take part in a discernment weekend in Rome from Friday 31 January to Sunday 2 February, enabling participants to celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. Board and lodging are provided, with participants only paying for their travel. Places are limited, and are open to participants speaking English, Italian, French or Lithuanian. For more information or to register, contact us at vocations@assumpta-eu.org before 20 January 2025