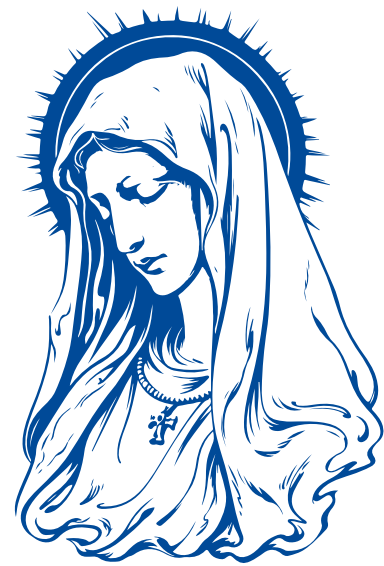


OUR LADY'S,  
ST JOHN'S WOOD &  
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY,  
MARYLEBONE

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

**Confessions**

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

**Adoration**

Saturday 10.30am - 11.00am.

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**Marylebone**

**Sunday Mass**

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

**Weekday Mass**

Monday, Wednesday & Friday  
12:30pm

**Confessions**

Saturday 5:15pm - 5:45pm

**Adoration**

Saturday 3:00pm - 5.30pm

+ SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
AND SUMMER 2025  
PAGE 111 - 20 JULY 2025

**It's Only Me, Literally**

In my unillustrious former career, I never treated an ostrich. But I know they do not bury their heads in the sand. Rather, the ostrich effect describes how people try to avoid information they perceive as potentially unpleasant – they block out reality even in the face of an inescapable truth. Of course, we have not buried our heads in the sand over the shortage of priests because, like 20 other parish pairings in our diocese, we happily share our clergy fully aware that in just over 10 years, the number of priests has dropped by almost 20%. But the Vicar General (VG) shifts this stark reality into an opportunity by writing how such pairings are essential, “because of changing demographics and new realities concerning the numbers and the composition of local communities... the need to rationalise resources, the availability of priests, and more lay men and women becoming more actively involved in the life and work of the Church in parishes and more widely, working with clergy and fellow parishioners...[This is] advantageous because of the beneficial sharing of resources, human and material, and because the sustainability and viability of parishes are more secure going forward.” I am sure that many of you

will respond to this call for greater involvement which I also made. Consider too that we currently have five Masses on a Sunday and two on Saturday evening but soon will have only one priest. Canon Law states a priest may, “celebrate Mass twice a day...or if pastoral necessity requires it, even three times on Sundays and holy days of obligation.” Thus, the VG continues, “From the beginning of September...there will need to be some adjustments to the present schedule of Masses and confessions in both Marylebone and St John's Wood.” On a purely practical note, I can't be in two places at once and “the key consideration is having a schedule that is possible for the parish priest to manage” alone for continuity of pastoral care. The VG concludes, “Please do give to Canon Kevin the support he will need in this new reality. He will rely on the prayers and goodwill of the communities of St John's Wood and Marylebone.” Recalling your kindness over the past two years, I know these things will be forthcoming in abundance. We will face this new chapter in our parishes' lives with characteristic cheerfulness; with a shared love for Christ and His holy Church; with a deep desire to meet each other's needs as best we can. *Canon Kevin*

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### Parish Clergy

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

### Parish Sister

Sr Brigid Collins, RSM  
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### Parish Administrator

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### Bookkeeper (both parishes)

Asha Stephen  
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### Parish Safeguarding Reps

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

### Musical Director (St John's Wood)

Martin Toyer  
martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk

## PARISH DIARY

### Children's Liturgy of the Word

**SJW** - 9:00am, term time,  
**MB** - 11:00am  
recommences in September

### Tea and Coffee

**SJW**- after 9:00am Mass,  
term time  
**MB** - 14 September

### Parent/Toddler Group (SJW)

9:30am - 11:30am Tuesday,  
Wednesday & Thursday,  
term time, upper hall

### Creative Writing Group (Scribes in the Wood) (SJW)

10:30am - 12 noon Thursdays

## PARISH NOTICES

### The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

is next Sunday 27 July. This year's theme, chosen by Pope Francis, 'Blessed are those who have not lost hope' (cf. Sir 14:2), fits into the context of the Jubilee of Hope, and invites us to recognize in the elderly not only recipients of pastoral attention, but witnesses of hope and active protagonists of ecclesial life. Their life and faith experience is a valuable heritage. Please see the poster in the porch for a list of websites offering resources for grandparents and the elderly.

**Mary's Meals** invite you to collect all your foreign currency (and UK coins/notes that are no longer legal tender) no matter how old or obscure. After the summer break, especially if some of you have travelled abroad, we would like you to put any of your foreign coins/notes aside and we will collect them in September in special Mary's Meals envelopes which will be available at the back of church shortly. Currently the charity feeds over 2.6 million young children one good meal every day in their place of education in over 17 countries.. By giving Mary's Meals your foreign currency you can help feed the next hungry child. Because of their low costs they can do this for as little as £19.15 per child per year!

### Rest in Peace. Elizabeth (Betty)

**Laffy.** Requiem Mass is at Our Lady's on Monday 4 August at 11:30am, with committal at West London Crematorium at 1:00pm.

### Assumption of Mary Mini Retreat

for young adults with the Assumption Sisters on Saturday 9 August, 2:30pm - 5:30pm at Milleret House, 20 Kensington Square, London, W8 5HH (closest tube station is High Street Kensington). Programme includes prayer, reflection, adoration, social. Donations only. Register by emailing : [rebecca@assumpta-eu.org](mailto:rebecca@assumpta-eu.org). Please also see the poster in the porch.

### Holy Day of Obligation—The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin

**Mary** is on Friday 15 August with Masses at 10:00am and 7:30pm in St John's Wood and 12:30pm in Marylebone.

### CAFOD Summer Campaign

calls for debt justice for the world's poorest countries affected by climate disasters. Please sign the petition at: <https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/161357/petition/1>

**Summer Holidays.** Have a good rest, enjoy yourselves, and we wish all travellers safe journeys.

**Next newsletter** on 6/7 September.

### St John's Wood Parish Patronal Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed

**Virgin Mary,** on Monday 8 September, will begin with Mass at 7:30pm celebrated by HE Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, the Apostolic Nuncio to the Court of St James, and be followed by a bring-and-share social in the parish centre. Please, put it in your diaries.

### Continuing the Journey: Events for New Adult Catholics.

The Agency for Evangelisation has created an initiative to support new adult Catholics in their first year since being baptised or received into the Church to help them stay in contact with their parish, deepen their relationship with Jesus and the Church, grow in faith, discover useful resources and get to know other new Catholics. The next event is on Saturday 13 September from 10:00am - 1:00pm in Vaughan House, Westminster. It will be on: 'Our story: God's story. How the Mass roots us in the Scriptures.' email: [catadmin@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:catadmin@rcdow.org.uk) if you plan to attend. More information at: <https://rcdow.org.uk/evangelisation/continuing-the-journey/>