

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

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parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood
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<https://www.facebook.com/ourladysjw>



SERVICE TIMES

St John's Wood

Sunday Mass

6:00pm (Sat, Vigil),
9:00am, 12:15pm, 6:00pm

Weekday Mass

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday &
Saturday 10:00am

Stations of the Cross

Saturday 9:30am

Adoration

Saturday 10.30am - 11.00am

Confessions

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

Marylebone

Sunday Mass

10:45am (Sung)

Weekday Mass

Monday & Wednesday 12:30pm
Friday 6:30pm

Stations of the Cross

Friday 5:00pm

Confessions & Adoration

Friday 5:30pm - 6:20pm

DONATE

Please scan the QR code below to
donate to our parishes



St John's Wood

Marylebone

+ THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT PAGE 158 - 8 MARCH 2026

Don't Be Just a Weekend Warrior

One of my priest friends is thinking about offering himself to be a military chaplain. With the reduced number of full-time armed forces, reservists (once called "weekend warriors") are now trained to the same level as regulars and deployed much more than in the past, particularly medics and IT specialists etc. Therefore, it has been suggested that he start as a reservist chaplain before taking a regular commission. But a difficulty may arise when his reservist unit is deployed. With fewer clergy today to keep the decades-old number of churches, Masses and other ministries going, bishops are reluctant to release priests from their current responsibilities in order to accompany Catholic service personnel on a six-month tour of duty. They are happy to have a priest available "on paper" but when the reality of our volatile world situation hits home, those priests hear, as one bishop said to me, "Can't you just be in but not deploy so that we are seen to be keeping up our commitment?" In today's Gospel, the woman at the well has a long conversation with Christ about her personal situation. The Lord knows her real status but she only reveals gradually how complicated it really is. She is sparing with the truth at the beginning but since Christ knows all people for, "He

Himself knew what was in a man" (Jn 2:24-25), eventually she has to admit that what He has said is true.

During Lent we are called to pray, fast and give alms. The second and third pillars of this holy season can become somewhat remote from our spiritual lives – abstinence and a degree of fasting are healthy options, while giving to those in need is often taken from our excess and not related to what we have saved by giving up something we enjoy. But prayer is more of a personal challenge. Truly deepening this aspect of our being must involve a back-and-forth, a conversation with Christ, about the reality of our place in the Church. Face-to-face with the One who gives us the perfect model of how to live a Christian life, we may be confronted with the harsh truth that we are "in" on paper but certain aspects of our behaviour and our reluctance to confront what is morally wrong in the world fall short of what it means to be a Catholic. Honesty in prayer with Christ, especially in preparation for confession, may bring home to us all that we "ever did." (Jn 4:29) and didn't do. But like the woman at the well, it will free us to be deployed as full-time faithful soldiers of Christ and so bear as much fruit as her among those we love. *Canon Kevin*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Clergy

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PARISH DIARY

Children's Liturgy of the Word

SJW - 9:00am, term time

Tea and Coffee

SJW- after 9:00am Mass,
term time
MB - 15 March

Parent/Toddler Group - SJW Upper hall

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

Legion of Mary - MB

after 12:30pm Mass,
Wednesdays

English Conversation Group - SJW Upper hall

10:00am - 12:00pm
Monday 16 March

PARISH NOTICES

CAFOD thanks you for your generous support last Family Fast Day – your kindness is helping families like Shorai's in Zimbabwe and Rejoice's in South Sudan grow food, even in the face of drought and floods. You have shown what it means to love your neighbour this Lent – fasting, praying and giving so families can put food on the table. Your donations are helping to build a better world. It's not too late to donate – pick up a **CAFOD** envelope in church or visit cafod.org.uk/envelope.

Lenten Appeal: "Because we are formed in faith, we are sent in love."

Our annual Lenten appeal across the diocese supports one shared mission: helping people encounter Christ and live that faith in love and service. Through education, youth and evangelisation, and marriage and family life, the diocese forms hearts, nurtures faith, and strengthens people within our parishes. Through social action, that formed faith reaches outward, ensuring that no one in our communities faces life's hardest moments alone. Your generous support this Lent will enable the Church to continue walking with people at every stage of life and be a visible sign of Christ's love, both within our parishes and among our neighbours. Donate at: www.rcdow.org.uk/LentenAppeal.

Alternatively, envelopes are available at the back of the church. Thank you.

Mary's Meals will be speaking briefly after each Mass in our parishes this weekend. *Mary's Meals* feeds children one good meal every school day in their place of education. They currently do this in 16 countries such as Malawi, Liberia, Haiti, Ethiopia and most recently in Mozambique. The charity raises money in many different ways to support this vital work and will talk about some of them so that you can be involved, even in the smallest way.

The SVP Foodbank Collection takes place this weekend. Please leave non-perishable items on the table in the porches. Thank you.

Rest in Peace, John Patrick Michael McHugh. Requiem Mass on Tuesday 10 March at 1:30pm with cremation at West London Crematorium at 3:00pm.

Rest in Peace, Derek Joseph Disson. Requiem Mass on Monday 16 March at 12:45pm with cremation at Golders Green Crematorium (East chapel) at 2:30pm.

Easter Egg Hunt hosted by the UCM (Union of Catholic Mothers) for the children in the church garden after the 9:00am Mass until 11:30am on Sunday 22 March. Tickets are £5 per child. Entry includes the egg hunt and a chocolate Easter egg. A raffle will also be held and will include prizes for both adults and children. To secure your place and manage numbers on the day please email: ucmstjohnswood@gmail.com or call 07828 148 513.

Conscience Petition. Moves in Parliament to legalise assisted suicide and future plans to decriminalise abortion up to birth for doctors threaten the conscience rights of UK healthcare workers. Doctors, nurses, and other staff who refuse any involvement in assisted suicide or abortion on religious or ethical grounds may face penalties for doing so. The Bios Centre medical ethics charity is running a petition to protect their employment rights. To sign the petition, scan the QR code on the poster at the back of the Church.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Registration for this year's pilgrimage (17 – 24 July) is now open. Secure your spot by visiting: <https://pilgrimages.rcdow.org.uk/>