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

Weekday Mass
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Saturday 10:00am

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

Confessions & Adoration
Friday 5:30pm - 6:15pm

DONATE

Please scan the QR code below to donate to our parishes

St John's Wood **Marylebone**

+Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Page 134 - 27 September 2026

A Taste of Heaven

I met one of our potential converts saying his prayers in our St John's Wood church. "Where is the Eucharist?" he asked. This is not unreasonable as the tabernacle is camouflaged in that ghastly wooden thing beneath the image of the risen Christ. "Can I sit closer to the Lord?" he asked. How lovely.

Our recent party for those in our two parishes who make our lives of prayer, catechesis and outreach possible was wonderful. It was particularly nice to see people exercising the same ministries in different churches come together and share experiences, most likely those encounters with your grumpy, inefficient and past-it parish priest.

It was also a natural progression because I have noticed more regulars in one place popping up in the other. We remain two separate parishes, with no plans that I know of to make them one, but perhaps the idea that we are in this together is really taking hold.

Most of our Masses are sung in different musical styles while only one Sunday liturgy is said. At many, to the chagrin of at least one parishioner, incense is used. But in them all, and at Masses in our schools and nursing homes, what is at the heart of our liturgy, "the source and summit of the Christian life" (*Lumen Gentium* 11), remains the same – Christ becomes truly present in His body, blood, soul and divinity, just as that young man knew at the beginning of his journey of faith.

Over the next couple of weeks, parents will see me about moving their children to secondary schools and expect me to sign a Certificate of Catholic Practice. Some will be shocked and angry when I cannot sign it because they have not fulfilled the first precept of the Catholic Church – "You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation" (CCC 2042). Whether this reflects a failure in our catechesis is not the issue. But it reminds us that, as the instruction states, "The test for Catholic practice…does not impose a higher requirement than the Church itself imposes."

I once read that, when asked why he risked his life to attend Mass, a Catholic in China replied, "Because we want to be with the Lord." Christ is here, in the Eucharist, absolutely free to all, and we must make every effort to be with Him. And in Central London, there is hardly an hour between 5:00pm on Saturday and 8:00pm on Sunday when we cannot get to Mass and be with the Lord.

As Fulton Sheen puts it, "If you don't want to go to Mass, why would you want to go to heaven?" *Canon Kevin*

Contact Information

Parish Clergy
Canon Kevin Jordan
kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Sister
Sr Brigid Collins, RSM
brigid@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator
Kathleen Reddington
stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk
marylebone@rcdow.org.uk

Bookkeeper (both parishes)
Asha Stephen
stjohnswoodbookkeeper
@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Rep
Frances Uchea (both parishes)
stjohnswoodsg@
safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Musical Director (SJW)
Martin Toyer
martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Diary

Children's Liturgy of the Word
SJW - 9:00am, term time

Tea and Coffee
SJW- after 9:00am Mass, term time
MB - 11 October

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 5 October

Parish Notices

For those in both parishes applying to Catholic secondary schools and sixth forms, follow this link for admissions and please read the Guidance for Clergy document: https://catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/admissions. If you can meet the criteria for a priest to complete a Certificate of Catholic Practice form, contact Kathleen in the parish office to arrange an appointment. Appointments are available on Monday 28 September and Tuesday 20 October and will take place in the St John's Wood parish office. Appointments for Catholic nursery, infant and junior schools will be announced after the October half-term break.

The EMBER Programme: Fanning the Flames of Faith and Justice. Faith isn't just something you believe - it's something you do. EMBER is a call to action for young adults (18-25) ready to go beyond talking about justice and start living it - together. The six-month course is designed to fit round your university course or work and led by the Columbans and the FCJ Centre for Spirituality and EcoJustice. For more information and to register visit: tinyurl.com/Ember26. Registration deadline is 30 September.

***CAFOD* Harvest Fast Day Appeal** is on Friday 2 October. Catholics are asked to fast on this day and donate the money saved to *CAFOD*. Please pick up an envelope at the church entrance and return it when you next come to church, or donate online at: https://cafod.org.uk/ or call 303 303 3030. Our readers will speak about *CAFOD* after all Sunday Masses this weekend. Please also see the poster in the porches, which includes a QR code taking parishioners straight to CAFOD's virtual envelope, where they can make their donation. Thank you for your generosity and support.

Marylebone Parish Patronal Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is on Wednesday 7 October. It will begin with pontifical sung Mass at 7:00pm celebrated by Bishop Michael Campbell and be followed by a bring-and-share social in the parish centre. We'll provide drinks.

Baptismal Preparation Class will be held at Our Lady's, St John's Wood, at 11:30am, on Saturday 24 October. Please contact the parish office to book a place.

Praying with the Scriptures Workshop led by Archbishop Richard Moth is on Saturday 24 October, from 2:00pm - 5:00pm, at Westminster Cathedral Hall, London The Agency for Evangelisation will be hosting a workshop on the prayerful reading of Scripture and Archbishop Moth will lead us deeper into the practice of *Lectio Divina*. All are welcome. For more information and to book please see the poster in the porches

Volunteers - We Need You! Following the appeal last week we are still looking for some more new faces who would be willing to offer their time and help with any of the following ministries:

- Reading at Masses
- Cleaning the church
- Helping in the church repository/shop
- Church opening and closing and setting up for Mass
- Cash counting;
- Tea and coffee
- SVP (Society of St Vincent De Paul) volunteers particularly for transporting food to our local foodbank

If you would like to find out more, please contact Kathleen in the parish office. Every contribution, however big or small, is greatly appreciated. Thank you.