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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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

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St John's Wood **Marylebone**

+Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
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The Most Noble Profession

In a school project to explain their parents' work, the Yorkshire shepherdess's son began by describing his mother as, "a practitioner of the world's oldest profession." As Amanda Owen tried to hide beneath her chair, the other parents observed a brief moment of sympathetic silence before dissolving into laughter.

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Yet the readings present us with a King very different from the rulers of this world: Christ's authority is expressed not through wealth or power, but through love, mercy and care for His people. Hence, Ezekiel gives us the beautiful image of God as a shepherd who searches for the lost, brings back the strays, binds up the injured and strengthens the weak. This is the kind of King we have in Christ: one who does not abandon us or anyone, when we or they wander, but patiently seeks to bring all humanity home with Him.

But in the Gospel, Jesus challenges us. At the Last Judgement, the question will be not how important we have been, how much we have achieved in our careers - whatever our job might have been - or even how religious we have appeared. Rather, it is whether we have fed the hungry, welcomed the stranger, visited the sick and cared for those in need. He will ask if we have shepherded the flock entrusted to us on earth, however small or insignificant that group might seem to the world. And what is particularly striking is that Jesus identifies himself with those very people – He is at once the Lamb of God among us as well as the Chief Shepherd.

Thus, when we show kindness to someone who is lonely, struggling or forgotten, we are showing kindness to Christ Himself as well as imitating His care for His flock. Yes, we are loved by a King who searches for us when we are lost, but we are also called to recognise that same King in those whom the world overlooks.

At the end of the calendar year we make resolutions for the one to come. Today's solemnity marks the end of the Church's year. So, let us all make a spiritual resolution to commit to being better shepherds by recognising Christ, and honouring Him, in the least of His sheep who need our patience, generosity and love. Let us also ask for the grace to see Him more clearly in in the Eucharist and worship Him there.

Doing these things will best serve our King, and honour the oldest profession of all - to be shepherds leading their souls and ours to the rich pastures of Heaven. *Canon Kevin*

Contact Information

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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 - 13 December

Parent/Toddler Group - SJW Upper hall
9:30am - 11:30am Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, term time

Legion of Mary - MB
after 12:30pm Mass, Wednesdays

Parish Notices

World Youth Sunday. This Sunday marks the 41st World Youth Sunday, celebrating young people in the Church and remembering St Francis of Assisi on the 800th anniversary of his death. This year's theme is "Take courage! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). As a Catholic Community we have responsibility to accompany young people on their journey of faith while having great opportunity to learn from them how to approach our faith with the innocence of a child. Westminster Youth Ministry plays a vital role in supporting young people across our schools and parishes. Please watch Archbishop Richard Moth's video message here : https://youth.rcdow.org.uk/outreach/world-youth-sunday-2026/

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Sick & Retired Priests' Fund collection last weekend. Your generosity means our sick and retired priests will receive the care and support they need. If you have not had the chance to make your donation, there is still time. You will find envelopes at the back of the church or you can donate online at rcdow.org.uk/SRP. Look out for the 'QR Code' on the envelopes and poster. Please do also consider giving on a regular basis. This fund is a priority of the Church, and a chance to come together and say 'Thank you' to the priests who have served us.

November is the month of the Holy Souls, when we pray in particular for the dead. Please take an envelope and sheet as you leave church to list your deceased loved ones. Return it to the presbytery with any offering. Names will be entered in the Book of Remembrance in each church and four Masses each week will be offered for those who ask for our prayers.

UCM Christmas Family Fayre takes place on Sunday 29 November in the parish hall at St John's Wood after the 9:00am Mass. Children's tickets cost £5, payable on the door, and include a visit from Father Christmas, a book, crafts and games. Festive refreshments, raffle and a silent auction open to all.

Advent Giving Calendar. Next weekend is the beginning of Advent, a period of preparation for the coming or birth of Jesus Christ. However, 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 porches. 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. Thank you so much for your support.

Young Adults Advent Retreat Day with the Assumption Sisters takes place on Saturday 5 December, 10:00am–6:00pm, at Milleret House, 20 Kensington Square, W8 5HH. The day includes talks, prayer, Adoration, confessions, faith sharing, Mass and social time. Registration is £5. Please email rebecca@assumpta-eu.org.

Baptismal Preparation. The next course preparing parents for the baptism of their child - and prospective sponsors (godparents) - will be on Saturday, 12 December at 11:30am in the St John's Wood parish office. Please contact the parish office to book a place.

For those in both parishes applying to Catholic nursery, infant and junior schools, Canon Kevin will be available to sign the certificate of Catholic practice on Tuesday 15 December, and Tuesday 5 January. Please contact the parish office to arrange an appointment.